



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

October 2020



Views from around our school catchment...

Half Term Holiday

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October inclusive – Enjoy the break and stay safe!

Dear Parents/Carers,

The 'Meet the Teacher' meetings took place earlier this half term and I am sure you found these informative, as well as a good opportunity to have any questions answered about your child's new class and their learning this academic year. It is also a pleasure for me to meet you all in person at the beginning of each year.

In order to follow up from the meetings with information that you can access easily and at any time, we have updated our school website with additional information under a new section, 'Learning at Rushen'.

Along with a brief introduction about 'what we do around here', you will also find:

- Class curriculum overviews for the autumn term
- Our 6Rs and Jigsaw (PSHE - Personal, Social, Health & Emotional) overview
- RPS Learning Muscles
- Information about academic assessment and moderation processes
- How to Help at Home information sheets for English (from EYFS through to Level 5)
- How to Help at Home information sheets for Mathematics (from R through to Year 6)

This link will take you to the 'Learning at Rushen' section of our school website:

<https://rushen.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/66/Learning%20at%20Rushen>

We have had a wonderfully busy and successful half term. The teachers have built on the five weeks of teaching and learning in July, when we returned after lockdown. They have continued a focus on 'find the gaps, fill the gaps', to ensure our pupils are on track with their learning. We have continued to do what we always do, which is to focus on quality teaching for learning in the classroom with high expectations of what the children can achieve and with interventions in and out of the classroom, 1:1 and in small groups taking place that will help to support pupils and get any back on track. We have been celebrating 'Everything Manx', building our community links and the children have taken part in a number of events, competitions and trips...with more to come! Thank you for all of your support and kind messages of thanks – I always pass these on to the whole school staff.

Take care,

Ms Owens, Headteacher

Letter on the website – Learning at Rushen:

Dear Parents/Carers

At Rushen Primary School we aim to develop children's learning dispositions (the 6Rs) to enable them to become effective learners. Each of these 6Rs has six statements which support each one. One of these is the focus for our 'Star of the Week' assembly each week.

To help develop these dispositions we encourage children to develop their 'Learning Muscles'; tools we use to become effective learners. All our children are encouraged to discuss them, understand them and make use of them when they are learning.

A list of the learning muscles and what they mean, together with the 6Rs and their statements, are provided, along with information about assessment and how you might be able to help at home.

Last year, we began a new strategy for teaching Mathematics, which has inspired our teachers and enthused the children. It is called Maths Mastery and later this year we will be inviting you into school to find out more about it. The 'How to Help at Home' sheets for Maths are now organised by year group and have a brief explanation about Maths Mastery included. Each sheet explains the end of year expectation for a particular year group. The main idea behind Maths Mastery is that children do not move up through the levels at different rates, they are encouraged to apply their understanding at 'greater depth'. All children are expected to achieve the end of year expectation.

The English 'How to Help at Home sheets' are as before and organised in levels.

For most children, moving from one level to the next is a two-year journey. During this time, they will become increasingly engaged in developing their understanding and skills and applying them to their everyday challenges.

The 6Rs and Learning Muscles, together with level guidance and end of year expectation information, are used to support a curriculum designed around children's interests, essential knowledge and skills. Every child has different needs within this framework. The challenges and activities provided for your child aim to ensure that they make progress and develop at a pace which takes into account their prior knowledge and understanding.

Ms Owens

Headteacher

Everyone a learner...

The children have been enjoying their learning through our whole school theme of [Our Island, Our World](#) this half term and have been learning across a number of curriculum areas to focus on their skills, knowledge and understanding. Lessons include an approach called 'split screen thinking', where the children are learning 'something' while at the same time identifying 'how' they will learn using the Learning Muscles and 6Rs. All our learning encourages independence, resilience and the attitude of a growth mindset. Children take some responsibility for their own learning and become learners who will be able to use the skills they are developing throughout their lives.

Everyone a leader...

We have been encouraging the children to develop their leadership skills in lessons as well as outside the classroom. In the classroom, classes have monitors, some have managers of resources and all children have responsibilities. Some of the children have volunteered or applied for extra responsibilities such as to be a librarian, prefect or school councillor. With the support of an adult volunteer, some children will be leading lunchtime clubs next half term.

Our Island, Our World – whole school theme with links to community and recognising the Island’s UNESCO Biosphere status.



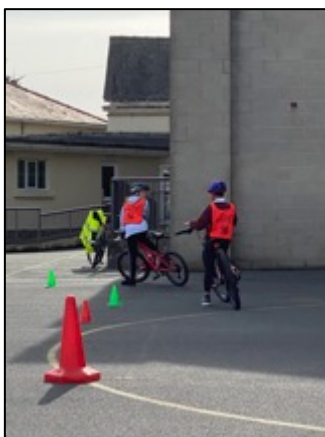
We have been linking our visits, trips, class assembly, lessons etc. to our whole school theme. The children and teachers have been ‘hooked in’ and inspired and the learning opportunities to develop our skills, knowledge and understanding have been carefully planned.

After half term, we plan to visit the Southern Amenity Site through our project with Port Erin Commissioners. They will close the site to enable the children to investigate how recycling and waste is sorted and organised. To complement this, the Western Amenity Site bus is visiting our school and the children will get an opportunity to learn more.

As I shared in the previous newsletter, the children have joined forces with businesses from Port Erin and members of the Rotary Club and Port Erin Commissioners to join Bill Dale from Beach Buddies to visit Port Erin Beach, which the school has adopted.

Cycling Training

Year 6 pupils took part in cycle training early this half term. Unfortunately, the weather affected our plans but the cycling team of trainers worked around it and the children thoroughly enjoyed the time and I could see their big smiles from my office!



Remembrance Day

Poppies and other remembrance items (wrist bands/stationery etc.) will be available to purchase in school and we hope you are able to support the poppy appeal again this year. The poppies and a donation box will be placed in the reception area outside the School Office after half term and we will arrange for the boxes to be sent to the classes.

School Trips

- ✓ We are planning for both Year 5 and Year 6 to go to the Venture Centre, Maughold, this school year, due to the situation with the pandemic.

Southlands

We continue with our links with Southlands and we have arranged visits during the Spring Term.

Fenella Class Trip to Fenella Beach



Evan: I learned that the snail in the rock pool is the most vicious predator because it drills down with its tongue and eats the limpets.

Mackenzie: I learned that crabs can grow their limbs back.

Seth: I learned that the reason why scorpion fish are called scorpion fish is because they have spikes on them.



Seb: I learned that the shells on Fenella Beach are actually really dangerous for the animals because they are filling up the rock pools. I want to rescue the rock pool animals!

Grace: I learned that some limpets can sting you.

Thomas: I learned that Peel Castle was an island and that Fenella Beach wasn't there until they built the road.



Fenella Class had a great time at Fenella Beach. We learned about the plants and animals that live there, how they are adapted to the beach and how humans can threaten their survival.

We also learned about the history of Fenella Beach and how it wasn't there before the road was built.

We would like to thank all parents and family who volunteer to accompany us on our trips and visits.

Charity and Fundraising

Charity Walk and School Fundraising

The children looked very colourful in their 'endangered animal outfits'! Unfortunately, the weather affected our Charity Walk afternoon and we had to postpone. We have rearranged the walk for the afternoon of Monday 9th November. We look forward to raising money to enable us to sponsor an endangered animal and to raise money for our school fund which is used to subsidise school trips, to buy extra resources e.g. outdoor equipment etc.

Thank you to those families who did make a donation on the day, we have kept that money to one side for now. If you didn't get a chance to send your donation but would like to, please send it in on the 9th November.

Lewaigue Class Assembly and Hop-Tu-Naa – well done Lewaigue Class!

At Rushen Primary School we love to celebrate 'Everything Manx' and what better way than to combine our Hop Tu Naa celebration with a class assembly!

Lewaigue were the first class of the year to do their assembly and they did so well. They grew in confidence throughout and also sang and danced brilliantly. Your parents, families and friends came to watch and they were so impressed! Many of the visitors also told me how impressed they were with the behaviour of all of the children who were watching. They listened carefully and respectfully, supporting the performers. We are very proud!



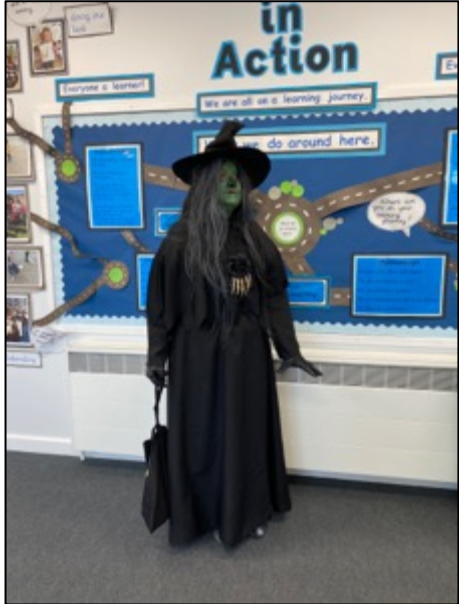


Manx Tradition...



Jinny the Witch (who was just a nice old lady who whooshed around with baskets of herrings on a broom/duster stick) visited our school and introduced our class assembly. We had several other visitors that day and very few staff and children! 😊





Manx, Sport and Recreation (MSR)/After School Clubs

Every Wednesday and Thursday this year, we have a coach from the MSR team in school. Adam and Callum are currently taking eight of our classes for PE. Every class will get a turn.

Hockey Club was offered to Year 3/4 pupils this half term and Ball Skills Club to Year 1/2, led by our MSR coaches. The children are thoroughly enjoying the clubs and they will continue after half term. A different sports club will start in Spring term – your child will bring a letter home with details if they are eligible.

Please collect children from the front door/main school entrance following an after-school club. Children will go home in PE kit. Please remember to return it to school the next day.

School Clubs

Badminton Y5/6 Monday lunchtime

Netball Club Y3 - 6 Monday 3.30pm-4.30pm

Girls' Football Y2 - 6 Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm

Choir Y2 - 6 Wednesday lunchtime

Hockey Club Yr 3 – 4 Wednesdays 3.30 - 4.25pm

Ball Skills Club Yr 1 – 2 Thursday 3.30pm – 4.25pm

Manx Dancing Yr 3 – 6 Thursday lunchtime

Craft Club Y1 - 2 Thursdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Ukulele Club Y2– 6 Friday lunchtime. (Bring your own Ukeleles).

Pupil Information, Consent Forms and GDPR

Please let us know if there are any changes to your child's pupil information or your consent (this refers to the form you completed previously). Please ensure that emergency numbers are up to date so that we are able to contact you.

School Meals

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture has asked us to remind parents that school meals must be paid for in advance. They have been checking accounts and are concerned at the number of families who currently owe dinner money. If your child's account is in debt, please could you credit the account over half term. Failure to repay amounts owed for school meals could result in the Isle of Man Government commencing debt recovery procedures.

School meals for the second half of term will cost £82.25 until the Christmas holiday. Alternatively, meals may be paid for weekly (£11.75 per week).

If you have not yet activated your Parent Pay account, please request an activation code from Mrs Awkal in the School Office.

School Sports Team Kit

We are running very low on kit and had to send children to a competition in mixed kit today. Please could any families who have team kit at home from previous events return it to school immediately after half term.

School Photographs

Our school photograph morning went very well. Even with so many pupils, we managed to finish in the morning session (in similar sized schools this can take most of the day). Thank you for your understanding in letting the secondary school pupils have their photos taken first (this meant they could still be on time for school), as well as allowing families with children with additional needs to go first. The children were all very

well behaved whilst waiting for their photographs to be taken and our photographer, Mr Morrison, commented on this. The siblings collected each other and checked each other's uniform and hair etc. They were lovely together! I would like to thank Mr Morrison again because he worked hard to prepare the photographs quickly.

Class photograph examples can be seen on the main corridor opposite the trophies, if you wish to have a look. Several photos were taken and the ones chosen were the best.

School Photo Re-sits for those who were absent on the day, or would like a re-sit for any reason, are available at Morrison Photos Studio, Tynwald Street, Douglas, on the following dates. No appointment is necessary. **Saturday 24th October, Monday 26th October, Saturday 7th November, Saturday 14th November 9.00 – 13.00 on all dates.**

Communication

So far this term there have been many opportunities to receive information about our school, what is happening and what is planned, which has been communicated in a variety of ways, for example via email, by letter, through our website and in person. These have included:

Newsletters

Learning at Rushen letter and information pack

Reading at Home leaflet

Letter-join website information

'Meet the teacher' meetings

Logins for the Safer Schools App

Thursday morning meetings – please contact your Class Teacher for an appointment if you wish to discuss your child's progress or well-being. The Class Teacher may contact you to arrange a meeting. Please see your child's teacher after school on days where teachers do not need to attend staff meetings.

Class Assemblies Parents/guardians are invited to attend their children's class assemblies, all of which will start at 9.00am in the Sports Hall.

Glen Wyllin	21 st Jan 2021
Fleshwick	28 th Jan 2021
Scarlett	4 th Feb 2021
Cornaa	11 th Mar 2021
Fenella	25 th Mar 2021
Perwick	20 th May 2021
Niarbyl	27 th May 2021
Gansey	24 th June 2021
Garwick	1 st July 2021

(these dates may be subject to change - we will let you know should a change of date be necessary)

Dates for Christmas Performances/Parties

KS2 concert (Years 3 – 6)	Wednesday 9 th December	2.00pm
KS2 concert (Years 3 – 6)	Thursday 10 th December	9.30am
KS1 concert (Reception to Year 2)	Thursday 10 th December	2.00pm
KS1 concert (Reception to Year 2)	Friday 11 th December	10.00am
Reception Christmas Party	Monday 14 th December	afternoon
Year 1 Christmas Party	Tuesday 15 th December	afternoon
Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Parties	Wednesday 16 th December	afternoon
Year 5 and 6 Christmas Disco	Wednesday 16 th December	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Year 2 Christmas Party	Thursday 17 th December	afternoon

Children may bring a set of party clothes to school on the day of their party, to change into.