



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

November 2020



Port Erin, November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a busy half term as usual with our focus on learning and many events.

We have been undertaking our Eco theme – Our Island, Our World, with enthusiasm and have had visitors to school and attended trips linked to our learning. We have worked closely, building our community links, with Port Erin Commissioners who have been very involved, opening the Southern Amenity Site so that our pupils could visit and explore how we recycle and dispose of waste in the south of the Island. They kindly closed the site so that the pupils would be safe. The Western Amenity Site also visited with their van full of information about recycling etc.

We are now preparing for our Christmas productions and celebrations and the children are busy learning lines, songs and acting parts - thank you for all your help with this, as always!

Safety - Staff Car Park at the front of the main building (Office entrance)

During the last couple of weeks, we have had a few issues with parents parking in front of the building in the morning and after school. On Tuesday, our KS2 swimming day, staff who had arrived at school, and usually leave to go to the swimming pool before school starts, were unable to access their vehicles as somebody had blocked their cars in and left the vehicle. It is important that our staff are able to arrive and leave the car park, especially when they are responsible for supervising pupils off site. This risked the pupils at the pool being unsupervised. On another occasion a parent let their child out of the car in the car park and the child ran the length of the car park and was at risk of being hurt from moving vehicles. Please ensure our pupils stay safe by parking, dropping off and picking up outside of the staff car park. I appreciate your support to keep pupils safe.

Home/School Links

Following several conversations with parents regarding communication, I would like to remind you to ensure we have your up-to-date email address so that we can contact you with RPS news as well as in an emergency.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child please contact your child's class teacher as they know your child best. Class Teachers are responsible for all of the children in their class and will always be happy to help or to give advice. If you email or leave a message, someone will get back to you as soon as we can. Class teachers are available most afternoons after school and on Thursday mornings for a planned appointment. If you are unable to come to school, then a telephone appointment can be made.

All of the staff at Rushen Primary School work together as a team and the vast majority of decisions are as a result of our collaborative approach. Any teacher will be able to answer your questions as they were involved in the decision-making process.

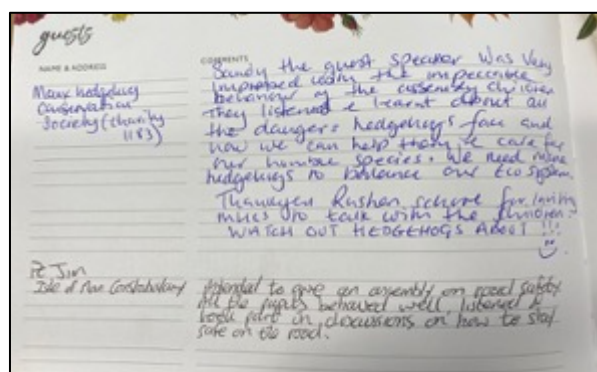
Our Newsletters form a history of our school, showcasing events, trips, visitors and learning in order to inform the school community of our achievements, ensure everybody knows 'what we do around here' and is able to work closely with us to ensure every pupil gets the best educational start in life and that they leave our school on the path

to success. Pupils will be independent learners who have developed learning skills through the Learning Muscles and 6Rs, know the basics and have developed personal and social skills such as the ability to develop positive relationships with others, collaborate, show respect and who can demonstrate resilience. Newsletters also let the reader know about dates etc.

We have had many visitors commenting on the calm and purposeful learning atmosphere in the school, which supports pupil achievement and progress, as well as commenting positively in our Visitors' Book. Here are some of the examples of recent comments:

'A very well-presented assembly with a variety of media used to engage the audience. The whole school audience were very attentive - one of the best behaved audiences I have seen. Keep up the good work pupils and staff.'

Retired Headteacher and Grandparent



Sandy, the guest speaker, was very impressed with the impeccable behaviour of the assembly children. They listened and learnt about all the dangers hedgehogs face...

Manx Hedgehog Society Guest Speaker

Attended to give an assembly on road safety. All the pupils behaved well, listened and took part in discussions on how to stay safe on the road.

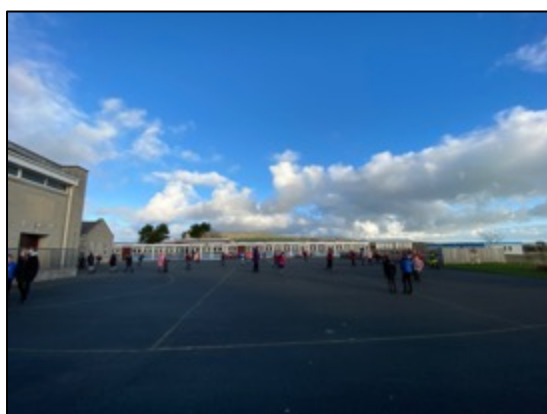
PC Jim (local Community Police Officer)

This reflects the excellent and committed work of school staff including lunchtime staff, support staff, teaching and supply staff, MSR coaches, all who have had professional training on the most up to date and research-based strategies for improving behaviour. Their hard work and commitment is paying dividends, as pupils make better progress as they strive to become independent learners who can manage their own behaviour.

Parent Governor

Also, see the information below regarding our elections to find a Parent Governor. We are searching for a Parent Governor to support the school. The information outlines the role of the Parent Governor which will explain the expectations of the position.

Ms Owens
Headteacher



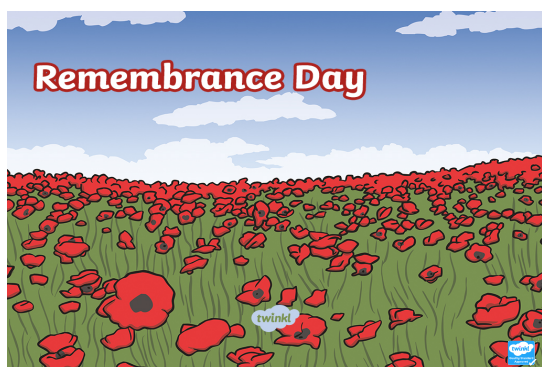
Charity Walk

The children and teachers decided that they would like to raise money to enable each class to sponsor an endangered animal and that any extra money would be raised for school fund, to allow us to purchase special resources and to support any families in need, for residential trips.

A successful day on November 9th, following some disappointing weather on our initial planned day. The children walked together in mixed classes, with older pupils supporting and building relationships with younger pupils and parents, family and carers joined us. We raised £524.03. What a lovely atmosphere! Thank you!



Remembrance Day



Rushen Primary School has a tradition that we follow every year on Remembrance Day. Weather permitting, the children stand in class circles and wait for the signal (maroons sound at the start and the end of the two minutes silence). We then stand in silence for the two minutes. The children did very well and were respectful, reflecting during the silence. Thank you for your support for The British Legion, school raised £261.58.



CHILDREN IN NEED

On Wednesday 18th November pupils came to school dressed in spots and/or stripes and made a donation in support of Children in Need. All proceeds have been sent off to the charity. Thank you! Unfortunately, Pudsey Bear was unavailable, even though we invited him, but said that hopefully, pending unexpected circumstances, that he would like to visit next year. We raised £237.15.



Sporting Competitions

Girls' Football Competition

On Friday 23rd October a group of 25 girls went to play in a fun football competition at the NSC Bowl. Each team played 3 matches. The girls had lots of fun and were a credit to school. For some, it was the first time they had played a full match.

At the end of the competition, they all said they had had great fun and were looking forward to the next time they played.

Mrs Griffiths



Badminton Festival – NSC

Our Badminton Team, led by Mrs Ollier, thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the festival with many children winning their games.



The children received their certificates in assembly.

Manx Hedgehog and Conservation Society (Charity 1183)

Gail from the Manx Hedgehog conservation society visited KS1. She told us about hedgehogs and how to help them. Here are some facts the children learnt.

Adult hedgehogs have 6000 - 9000 spikes but are really soft underneath.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and hibernate in winter.

Hedgehogs like to eat snails and slugs.

They also eat cat food so if you see a hedgehog you can leave cat food out for it.

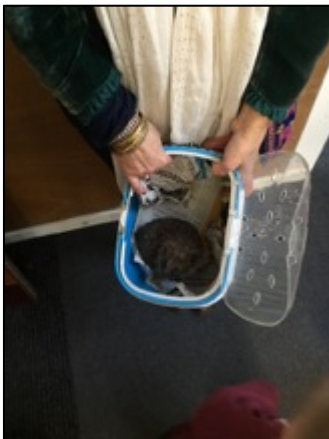
Baby hedgehogs are called Hoglets

Hedgehogs like to curl up in log piles and bonfires so you must check them.

Pick litter up to save the hedgehogs.

Gail also brought in a rescue Hedgehog for the children to see.

Thank you to all the families that brought in a donation of cat food. Gail was very pleased with our help.



Western Amenity Site Van visits KS2



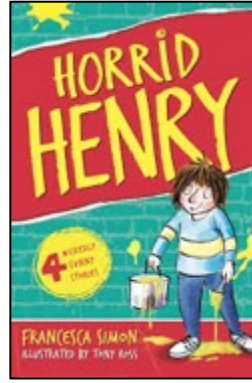
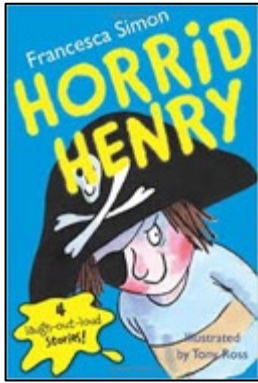
Southern Amenity Site Visit



Learning and Curriculum

Teachers have been working hard to plan interesting and exciting lessons that 'hook' the children in. We want the pupils of Rushen Primary School to be motivated and excited to learn. These carefully planned learning opportunities across the curriculum, ensure that pupils can learn to communicate, read, write, speak and listen and apply mathematical or scientific concepts to challenges, for example. At the same time, through a 'split screen thinking and learning' approach, pupils are taught to use Learning Muscles. These Learning Muscles develop life-long learning skills that can be applied to any learning, now and in the future, including in the world of work. Rushen Primary School staff are passionate about preparing our pupils for the future and ensuring that they are equipped and have every chance to succeed. See below for an example of a Literacy based challenge which demonstrates how we capture the imagination of our pupils.

Pupils in Cornaa Class were shocked when they arrived to their classroom. You can see their faces on the photos below!



They arrived to find the room in quite a state. Chairs were turned over and the Horrid Henry books were strewn across the floor. On the white board there was a message. It said 'Peter was here!!' and lots of scribbles.



The class had to tidy up the mess and work out who had actually done the damage. The children knew that it was unlikely to have been Peter because Peter would not have written his own name on the board and it appears that he likes school.



'We had to write a story about Horrid Henry and Perfect Peter. When we were writing the story, we changed the characters to our own characters and names. We had to make sure we used alliteration for the names.'

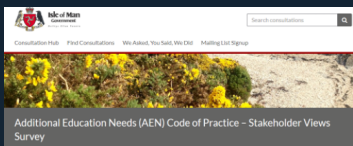
'I really enjoyed writing the story. It was easier because we followed the storyline and were able to change the characters. It helped us to write exciting and interesting stories.'

'I enjoyed thinking about which words to change and I used the same strategy as when I learned about The Lion and the Mouse.'

Have your say on the
**Additional Educational
Needs**
code of practice.


**AEN
STAKEHOLDER
SURVEY**

Go to consult.gov.im to contribute.
Closing date is Friday 11th December.



Isle of Man Government
Consultation Hub | Past Consultations | We Asked, You Said, We Did | Mailing List Signup

Additional Education Needs (AEN) Code of Practice - Stakeholder Views Survey



Please remember to complete the survey about Additional Educational Needs as the Department for Education, Sport and Culture consult as they draft the AEN Code of Practice for the Island.

Community Links

Southlands Visit

Niarbyl and Garwick classes have both recently visited Southlands this month on separate days. The children split into groups and then worked with residents to produce Christmas themed craft work. Much fun was had by all! Thank you, as always, to our Parent and family helpers.





Community Police Officer visit

PC Jim visited us in our whole school assembly to talk about Road Safety (see his comment above in the Visitors' Book).



Parent Governor Election

The Role of the Parent Governor

The role of School Governor on the Isle of Man is very different to other jurisdictions. On the Island, the role of a School Parent Governor is to support the Headteacher, who is responsible for leading the school, from the perspective of a parent:

Parent Governors... must bear in mind that they are not delegates for [the] electoral group and do not have to consult their electoral body [i.e. other parents]. Those governors are expected instead to have their own views as an individual. (DESC Guidance). That is, to put forward the views of an 'average parent' in matters raised at Governors' Meetings. Parent Governors contribute and comment on subjects which are of general interest to parents, rather than from a personal perspective.

It is not the role of the Parent Governor to receive complaints from other parents. Where parents may have concerns, they should contact their child's class teacher.

Often, the DESC provide induction courses and other helpful and informative courses linked to the role of Parent Governor. For example, in the case of the recruitment training, attendance on the course qualifies the Parent Governor to be part of the recruitment process, if required by the Headteacher.

There is a requirement to attend up to 6 Governors' Meetings a year and through these it is expected that the Parent Governor will gain a greater understanding about how the school is run. It is usual that the Parent Governor finds these meetings informative and interesting, as they are able to have an overview of what is happening across the school, rather than just the parts that affect their own child.

Parent Governors will follow the DESC policies regarding safeguarding, confidentiality and GDPR when considering the sharing of information relating to their role as a representative of the School's Governing Body.

Further details will follow shortly, explaining the election process.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

KS2 concert (Years 3 – 6)	Wednesday 9th December	2.00pm
KS2 concert (Years 3 – 6)	Thursday 10 th December	9.30am
KS1 concert (Reception to Year 2)	Thursday 10th December	2.00pm
KS1 concert (Reception to Year 2)	Friday 11th December	10.00am

Tickets for the Christmas Concerts will be given to pupils to bring home on Friday 4th December. If you have not already requested your tickets, please could you do so asap. Request slips have been emailed home or paper copies are available outside the school office.

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.

Friday 18th December, 2020 If pupils would like to, they may wear a Christmas jumper to school instead of their school sweatshirt on the last day of term. Pupils are also welcome to bring a Christmas cracker to school for lunchtime that day.