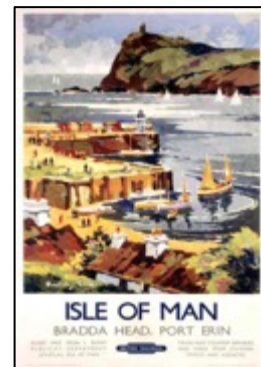




Rushen Primary School Newsletter



January 2021



January 2021 (before lockdown 2.0)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so pleased we will be back in school on Monday 1st February, as long as all goes well. Teachers will be ensuring that pupils are on track, focusing on finding any gaps and moving pupils' learning forward. When we return to school after a break or lockdown, we very quickly focus the children back to learning and being a learner. After the first lockdown the teachers were very successful at getting the pupils back on track immediately and the vast majority of pupils made very good progress during the last part of the summer term 2020.

During this lockdown teachers and school staff have been staffing the hub which provided a place for the children of essential workers. The children in the hub undertook the distance learning plans so that all pupils had access. Teachers have also been planning high quality distance learning plans, hosting 'chat' sessions and answering questions about learning as well as providing video sessions to those with internet access on Microsoft Teams, setting assignments and providing feedback, telephoning families and communicating with vulnerable pupils, staffing our special unit and also planning ahead in case of future lockdowns.

We hope that you have found our distance learning provision helpful. We have worked hard to tailor and adapt our provision to ensure that distance learning has supported pupils and families:

- Wednesday 6th January pm – school closure.
- Thursday 7th January – hub begins immediately.
- Thursday 7th January – activity menu for Thursday and Friday learning provided immediately.
- Monday 11th January – high quality Distance Learning Plans available – a five-day structured plan including English, Mathematics, Science and other learning opportunities, differentiated, ensuring progression and linked to the school's curriculum.

From Monday 11th January

- Microsoft Teams introduced to supplement the core distance learning provision, to allow pupils to indicate they are engaging in distance learning and to enable pupils to ask teachers questions about their learning. Each day teachers undertook a morning 'chat' and pupils gave a thumbs up and contributed to the discussion or asked a question about their learning. This was revised in the week beginning 25th

January as video sessions were underway and scheduled several times a week, with assignments uploaded twice a week and feedback provided.

- Teachers introduced the concept of 'sticky' questions to the class and spent some time discussing this on Teams ready for families to discuss over the weekend.
- Teachers led a session on teams, reviewing the 'sticky question'.
- Teachers began group video sessions designed to provide an opportunity to review learning.
- The 'sticky questions' and discussion sessions were also be hosted via a video session.

The distance learning plans in week 3 included increased links to online video lessons as well as encouraging pupils to watch the BBC offer, for example. These online video lessons to which teachers have included links, are recorded in a professional way by teachers and are able to be paused, rewind and watched again from websites like the Oak National Academy (DfE England virtual school) and White Rose Maths, for example. Each school on the Island has developed their own distance learning provision, meeting the DESC Guidance expectations. The specific offer is decided by the staff of the school. A concern raised by several parents has been the amount of screen time their children are experiencing and we must also consider this, moving forward.

I would like to thank all school staff and families for working so hard together during this lockdown.

Ms Owens, Headteacher

6Rs

This half term's 6R focus is 'Resilience' – rather apt under the current circumstances:

- ★ I keep going until I find the answer to a question.
- ★ I like to hear what people say about the things I have done.
- ★ I find other people's advice helpful and useful.
- ★ If I cannot work out how to do something one way, I'll try a different idea.
- ★ I am prepared to take risks.
- ★ I learn from my mistakes.

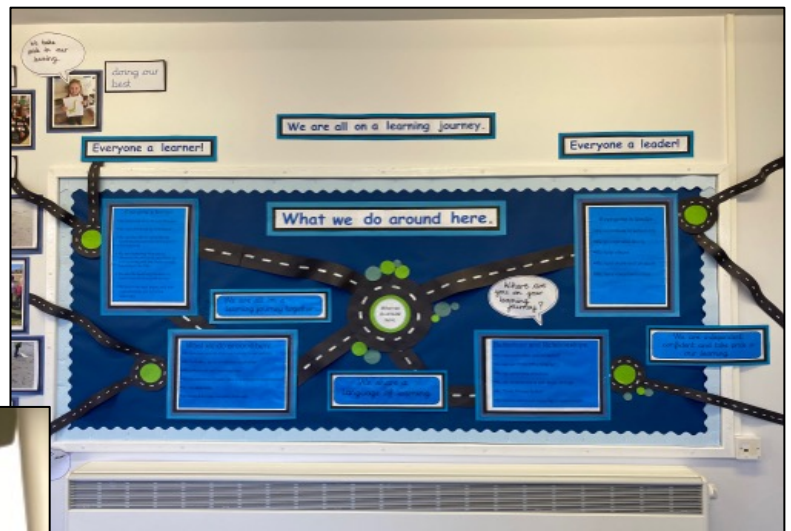
Year 6 Transition

Castle Rushen High School staff will be visiting our school to talk to pupils and parents about the arrangements for next year. You will be told all about the school and the staff and be able to ask any questions. As soon as we have the date, we will let you know.

Over the next two terms there will be many opportunities for the Y6 children to visit and experience some of the lessons as well as meet teachers. CRHS staff will also visit our school. The date for the open evening at CRHS for children and parents will be shared soon.

What we do around here...

We have spent the last few academic years working out 'what we do around here... at Rushen Primary School'. This is our vision and is based on what we (pupils, staff, Governors and the whole school community) believe is important to us. It is about what we aspire to and the sort of people we want to be, and it explains what we do to demonstrate this on a day to day basis. Mrs Shaw and the School Council have worked closely with children and teachers from all classes to produce a display to explain this in our entrance hall. I have included photos of the display below and if you happen to be in school, please have a look.



We have included photographs which show the children demonstrating 'What we do around here...'



Parents' Evening

Our Parents' Evening will be taking place this term – we will let you know the date soon. All parents will already have had the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher since September, either on a Thursday morning by appointment or by arrangement after school or on the telephone, for example, before the Parents' Evening. Many parents who have attended meetings already to discuss their child's progress, will not need to attend the Parents' Evening.

Manx Youth Games 2021

<https://msr.gov.im/sports-development-unit/manx-youth-games/>



The Manx Youth Games, supported by HSBC, is the biggest multi-sport event for children on the Isle of Man which attracts over 1000 participants in 15 different sports. The Manx Youth Games event itself is held in May each year but weekly training sessions also take place around the Island in preparation for the event from January.

TRAINING SESSIONS

This year the training sessions will commence on 8th February (pending any issues) and the event itself will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021. Training sessions in 15 different sports take place every week in all 5 regions of the Island (North, South, East South, East North, and West) so there are plenty of



opportunities for children to get involved in sport.

After all the hard work and effort put into the weekly training sessions, children come together on the day of the Manx Youth Games to put their new skills into action against teams from the other regions of the Island.

ON THE DAY

The day begins with an opening ceremony at the NSC with all participants marching onto the track in their brightly coloured t-shirts representing the team they are competing for: Orange – South.

The highlight of the opening ceremony is the group warm up which takes place to music in front of the packed grandstand. Children then move off to different venues to compete in their respective sports.

Each of the sports then finishes the day with a presentation of medals to all of the participants. MYG training booklets will be handed out at school as soon as they are available. If you have any questions or would like any more information please contact Gianni Epifani on **688556**.

Newsletters and school-home communication

Just a reminder that we have communicated with parents in a variety of ways this academic year.

Newsletters are sent home each month with comprehensive information, record of events etc. We will only send a Newsletter when we have enough information to include. This means the Newsletter could be sent any time during each month and this cuts down on unnecessary letters, although we will send supplementary letters home if required. Thank you again for the continued positive feedback regarding the Newsletters, which are a lovely record of what the children have learned and experienced. Parents are also provided with a class curriculum overview for the term, which some enjoy sharing with their children. There have been many opportunities to attend events at school, including performances, assemblies and parents'

meetings. Don't forget that Thursday mornings are available for parent appointments to see the class teacher. If you need to speak to the class teacher (who is the first contact) and are unable to meet after school, please telephone and leave a message and teachers will get back to you.

Dinner Money

Dinner money is payable to the Isle of Man Government and must be paid for in advance. Please would you check your Parent Pay account to ensure it is in credit.

Term Dates

Friday 19th March 2021

Red Nose Day/BBC Children In Need

School will close for half term at 3.30pm on Friday 12th February, 2021.

School will re-open at 8.45am on Monday 22th February, 2021.