



Rushen Primary School Newsletter May 2021



Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils,

We have had a fantastic half term. Parents, pupils and staff were so happy for the children to get back to school and the children were very excited to return. They have settled in remarkably well, considering the unsettled year so far. Teachers and staff have worked very hard to ensure that everything is ready and planned in detail for the learning and also for any events. This is necessary, more than ever, to ensure our pupils feel safe and know exactly what they need to do, ensuring expectations are clear. Teachers have been and are always available, to speak to parents (either at the end of the day or by requesting a meeting through email, telephone or voicemail) to discuss your child's progress and so that any issues, concerns or worries can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

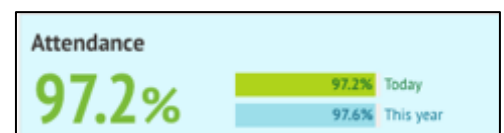
I wanted to share with you some lovely moments from the last few weeks. We have some new families who are moving into our catchment and they came to school to meet me and I showed them around the school. The appointments were on different days and at different times of the day. I explained about how unsettled the year had been and that we would see how everyone was. As we toured the school, we saw happy children, who were motivated and engaged, collaborating with each other and focussed on learning. The response from the visitors was very positive and they were very impressed with our school and our children. I am so proud of the children and the staff and also thank you for working with us in partnership. Positive relationships are at the core of 'what we do around here'. Our new lunchtime staff (some of whom are on 'Supply') have also given very positive feedback about our children's behaviour at lunchtime and say they can see the benefit of our whole school approach and how every member of staff uses the same language, expectations and demonstrates they care.

We have also been facing some challenges. When the children returned to school after spending a lot of time away from their peers, we noticed that they struggled with re-establishing friendships. They have been more physical than usual, much of which is not 'on purpose' but is all about them finding their feet again and learning to socialise with their friends and a large number of people. They have also struggled with concentration and have been very tired.

In addition, some of the issues we face have been brought into school from outside. This has included issues around the use of social media such as TikTok, whats app, snapchat etc. which I will write to KS2 parents about in more detail. Although many parents supervise their child/ren when using social media, it is not possible to always be there, in the moment. Some children struggle to understand the impact words can have on others, especially when recorded on social media. Please access the 'Safer Schools App' for support and advice regarding social media and online issues such as cyber bullying. We have sent details of this in previous emails.

Thank you as always for your continued support for our school and it is important, now more than ever, that we work together as genuine partners so that we can support our children and each other as a team.

Attendance is the best it has been for many years – well done everybody! Ms Owens, Headteacher



PLEASE STAY SAFE

Please would you remind your child that if they play on any school equipment after school that they stay safe. We have been informed that some older pupils have been playing unsafely and could hurt themselves, particularly climbing above the swing and pushing it so that it almost goes over. They have also not allowed younger children to play. We have mentioned this in classes and in assembly - thank you.



Our ex-pupil is on the left above!

REMINDER – Please access our information system called Arbor to check your consents and personal information, through the Parent Portal App

See the letter below that we sent out earlier this week

Dear Parents/Carers

We are introducing the Arbor App as the next step in streamlining school administration functions. Parent Portal will let you see some basic information about your child and update information such as your address. We plan to use it for school trip permissions, enabling you to give or decline consent using the app, as well as for signing up for clubs. Please note that we are not using the app to receive any payments for dinners as we will continue to use ParentPay for this purpose.

As and when we require parental consent for something new, we will ask you to provide consent through the Parent Portal as soon as possible so that your child can participate. When you log on to the Parent Portal for the first time, you will see we have requested consent for 'Times Tables Rockstars', please could you consent to this now. Further information is attached.

Please find attached a leaflet with more information about the Arbor App, which is available on the App Store and Google Play Store. You will only be able to use the app once we have sent you a "welcome email", which will contain a link for you to set your password. This email will be sent to the email address we currently have on the system for you. You should receive your welcome email today, the link will only be valid for 96 hours. If your link expires, please contact us to send you a new email. We recommend that you use a web browser such as Chrome to log on to Parent Portal for the first time, rather than the App.

If you have any questions, or need some help to use the app, please contact school.

School Olympic Sports Day 2021

Wednesday 2nd June 9.20am – 3.30pm

All children will be sorted into 10 mixed age teams to represent a country. An opening ceremony will take place on the playground about 9.15am where each team will parade behind their flag.

Fun, novelty team activities will take place during the morning and into the afternoon. Sprint races for year groups will take place at approximately 2.30pm.

Parents are welcome to attend and support during the day, however we ask that you leave the school premises during our lunchtime as the children will be resting, eating and relaxing to prepare for the afternoon session.

Children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit (shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms), school jumper, raincoat and make sure they have a water bottle. Sun hats must be worn and sun cream already applied.



School visit to Port Erin beach



Thursday 3rd June 1:15pm – 3.30pm

The whole school will be going down to our adopted beach in Port Erin for the afternoon. On arrival each class will take part in a brief whole school beach clean. Class groups will then undertake their own choice of activities within a designated area for the rest of the afternoon.

We really appreciate your support with this event. We will need as many adult helpers as possible so that all classes can go to the beach. Each class will leave school between 1.15pm and 1.30pm and remain on the beach for the duration of the afternoon. **COLLECTION AT 3.30pm will be from PORT ERIN BEACH.** No children will return to school at the end of the day (all after school clubs are cancelled). Only children in Years 5 and 6 will be allowed to walk home unsupervised from the beach.

We are hoping the weather will be kind for all our activities. Children are to come dressed in their PE kit (shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms), school jumper, raincoat, suitable footwear and make sure they have a water bottle. Sun hats must be worn and sun cream already applied.

Lunchtime Team

Lunchtime is the most unstructured time of the day and lasts a relatively long time. Our lunchtime team is led by Mrs Taggart (our behaviour and relationships support lead). Her role ensures consistency and that an adult always has an overview of behaviour and relationships throughout the day. Mrs Taggart liaises with staff and class teachers to support pupils and to undertake and support conferences with pupils to repair relationships, when they fall out. The lunchtime staff use the shared language of the school to support pupils. We welcome our newest recruit, Mrs McGavock and our long-term supply staff (not all of whom appear on the photograph). Our new members of the team have shared very positive feedback on our lunchtime arrangements and behaviour and relationship approach. Thank you for the vital job that you do and for being so positive, enthusiastic and committed.



Mini “Parish” Fun Walk

The Rotary Club of Douglas are staging a Mini “Parish” Fun Walk on 17th July 2021. The walk is around the “Parishes” at the Arboretum at St John’s and there will be four different walks for four age groups. The children must be between 4 and 11 years on 31st August 2021. This is a fun challenge for the children and an opportunity for them to raise money for a charity of their choice or to raise funds for their school. Sponsorship form attached. Individual children can enter or schools can enter one or more teams in the different age ranges.

Click on the link below for more information and the application form:

<https://my.raceresult.com/168338/>

Transition

New intake

Our Early Years staff have welcomed our new starters for September with a varied programme of transition. Following visits by our Early Years teachers and support staff to all local pre-school settings, we have been inviting new starters into school to get used to the classroom and outdoor environments and to meet the adults who may be teaching them. These sessions have been a success and the children and their parents and carers have thoroughly enjoyed themselves! We have also welcomed staff from a number of pre-school settings to join us and learn about our provision, building close partnerships.

Year 6 – Castle Rushen High School

A number of transition activities have continued this month with both schools working together to ensure that our Year 6 pupils are ready for Year 7. This year Castle Rushen have been in direct contact with parents regarding some of the planned events and the children will be also be attending whole days at the

school later this term.

Lollipop Swap – well done Sue Bowes, Crossing Patrol!



3FM Isle of Man
May 14 at 4:00 AM ·

WATCH: Yesterday, we teamed up once again with the Road Safety team and Holmes & Davidson Opticians to honour the Island's Lollipop Men

and Women!

Matt visited Sue Bowes, Lollipop Woman from Rushen Primary School to give her a well-deserved day off! Thank you for all of your hard work Sue!

Watch the interview video by clicking the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/3FMradio/videos/864488474151464/>



3FM interviewing our Crossing Patrol person, Sue Bowes

Community contribution

One of our pupils spotted an issue in Port Erin during lockdown and felt so strongly about it, he wrote to Port Erin Commissioners. Well done Leo!

Click the link to find out more...

<https://gef.im/2021/05/05/leos-sticking-it-to-irresponsible-dog-owners/>

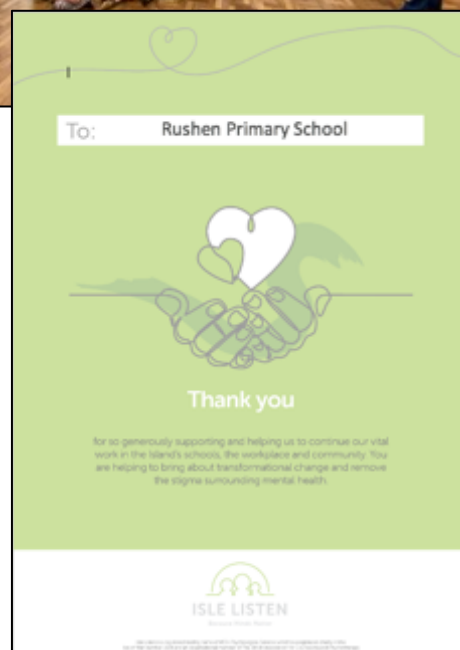


GREEN DAY

The children and staff of RPS dressed in green and made donations to recognise 'Green Day'. This was in support of the charitable initiative and Mental Health Awareness Week. People were asked to show their support by wearing something green on Friday 14 May to highlight the importance of mental health and the vital early intervention and prevention work Isle Listen does in schools, the workplace and community.

We raised £255.75

Well done and thank you to all...





Venture Centre

Here are a few photos from the past, from one of our Venture Centre trips. Our Y6 pupils are looking forward to going to the Venture Centre. Thank you to those staff and parents who have agreed to accompany the children and we appreciate the fact they are willing to volunteer and give up their time, as residential trips would not be able to take place without this commitment. Thank you to all staff and parent volunteers!



Tynwald and the House of Keys

Year 6 pupils will be visiting the House of Keys on Wednesday 30th June, 2021.

Dinner Money

For those paying half termly, school dinners for the next half term will cost £68.15 (£56.40 for Year 6 pupils who are going to the Venture Centre).

The majority of families are using 'ParentPay', our new secure cashless online payment, to pay for school dinners. We would encourage anyone not using Parent Pay to login using the user name and password previously provided. At the initial login you will be prompted to change the username and password to one of your choice. Once you have accessed your account you will be able to check your child's current school dinner balance and pay for school meals online. If you require a reminder of your login details, please email Mrs Awkal.

Free School Meals 2021/2022

If you believe your child/children will be entitled to free school meals from September for the next school year, please would you complete an online application using the following link: <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/education-sport-and-culture/policies-and-procedures-a-to-z/f/#accordion>

Alternatively, paper application forms are available from the School Office or at <https://www.gov.im/media/34660/4-free-school-travel-joint-form-use-210521.pdf>

Applications should be made as soon as possible please as meals will be charged from September unless your application has been processed and approved.

Headlice

We have received reports of several pupils who have contracted headlice. Please could all parents check their children's hair and treat as necessary. Headlice are becoming resistant to chemical treatments and regular use of a headlice comb and conditioner is the most effective treatment to combat this problem.

Term Dates

Monday 31 st May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 2 nd June	Sports Day
Thursday 3 rd June	Whole school to visit Port Erin beach
Friday 4 th June – Friday 11 th June	School closed for half term
Monday 5 th July	Tynwald Day – School closed
Friday 16 th July	Comic Relief (dress in red, donation £1)
Thursday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm
Friday 23 rd July	School closes 15.30pm - Summer Holiday