



Rushen Primary School

Newsletter June 2021



DON'T FORGET – COMIC RELIEF DAY - 16th JULY
Dress in red, optional red nose and donation



Port Erin Beach, June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very busy June... children are working hard to get back on track with their learning and teachers have been busy with assessments and report writing.

Our well-being week was a great success. The children enjoyed their mindfulness and art sessions, activities in class, as well as our events. We enjoyed a fantastic sports day in the sunshine with music and flags. Thank you for the huge amount of positive feedback and recognition of how hard the staff worked to organise the day. The children had so much fun and the Olympic theme gave us a positive focus. The races at the end of the day were really special with more parents attending than we have seen for a long time - what a wonderful atmosphere as we cheered every pupil on! I hope those parents I managed to see, enjoyed their Mr Freezes!

Our beach visit also went very well, again with fantastic weather. The children were so well behaved and many members of the public commented positively.

This half term, Y6 visited the Venture Centre and Y5 and 6 participated in the Cycling Proficiency training. A team also took part in the Millennium Football competition.

Thank you, on behalf of the whole school community, to all of our parent volunteers and staff, without whom trips and events could not go ahead.

COVID Update:

You will be aware of recent Covid-19 cases in the community, initially associated with a Douglas school. In response to this breaking news earlier this week and as a precaution, we decided to cancel the transition session for new starters. We felt that a number of adults mixing with the other children, would present some risk. The relaxing of the borders and the impact on the number of cases is also something we are monitoring. We have decided to monitor this during the next two - four weeks to see what happens. The next sessions for new starters will go ahead, at this time, pending any changes to the situation.

Our current arrangements in school include the following, but could change depending on the situation in the community and in response to guidelines from the DESC and the IOM Government:

- ✓ Washing hands regularly and maintaining good hygiene
- ✓ Catch it, bin it, kill it
- ✓ Ventilation - windows open
- ✓ Visitors use sanitiser/wash hands as they enter the building and sign in the Visitors' Book.
- ✓ If pupils or staff experience symptoms during the school day, we have a room available, where they can wait to be collected
- ✓ Assemblies take place in Key Stages, classes sit in rows with a gap between and they last 20 minutes. The classes arrive and leave one by one
- ✓ At lunchtime children are encouraged to eat their lunch in a reasonable time and we will be implementing a class seating plan in the dining room to keep classes together
- ✓ Keep your child at home if they experience symptoms that could be Covid-19

Isle of Man Government

Symptoms include:

- a temperature of more than 37.8C (100F)
- OR, a new and persistent cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- OR, anosmia – this is the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked
- OR, a new shortness of breath

If you develop any symptoms, please remember to isolate immediately along with your household and complete the Isle of Man COVID-19 Screening Assessment:

Our arrangements are under constant review and we will respond to any changes as we move forward.

Following the cycle training, a member of the public contacted us to say that a child had almost crashed into their car. Please ensure your child is safe if they choose to ride on the road.

Thank you once again, for your continued support for our school.

Ms Owens

Headteacher

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. New starter sessions were cancelled this week, as a precaution, but we hope to go ahead with the others that have been planned before the end of term.

CRHS

- Our Year 6 pupils are looking forward to visiting Castle Rushen High School on Thursday and Friday, this week. We will tell you more about this in our July Newsletter.
- Yesterday, Y6 pupils visited the 'pop-up uniform shop' in the dining room, where they could try on and purchase their CRHS uniform ready for September (a little bird told me that Miss W had a blazer on and told Y6 that she would be attending CRHS in September 😊).



Buildings and works updates

We have several building upgrades and projects happening presently and during the next 6 months.

1. Roof replacement rolling programme

- ✓ Two thirds of the main, old building roofs are to be replaced.
- ✓ Currently, the centre section of the Key Stage 2 roof is being replaced and the other section will be replaced, hopefully in October (pending any changes to the plan). One reason the replacement is staggered is due to the protection of any birds nesting in the roofs. The birds' nest from May to October.

*The central section has been checked and does not have any birds nesting as the edge of the roof has a different design with no spaces at the edge. Unfortunately, due to the issue with the birds and some revisions to the arrangements regarding dates, school was informed just before the work started, of the final arrangements. We waited for confirmation before informing parents. The project has been managed well to limit impact and kept to the lower car park and I would like to thank you for your support and patience regarding this during the works.

I would also like to thank the roofers who have worked quickly and efficiently, and the project manager, who has worked closely with the school to minimise disruption.

- ✓ The roof above the dining room and kitchen in the Key Stage 1 end of the building, was replaced last year and the next third of the roof replacement is planned for October.





2. EYFS Outdoor area

- ✓ Phase one of the upgrade was completed and included a new fence and an extended area to enable EYFS to have a grassed area and more outdoor space. The new fence ensures that balls don't roll beneath it!
- ✓ The first phase of a mud kitchen, sandpit area and mud play area

Phase 2 includes the completion of the mud kitchen etc. There have been delays to this project due to the school waiting for the finance to be approved. The after effects of lockdown have also presented a challenge, as many approved contractors took on projects for their business, leaving them less time to complete our project. There have also been issues with the Government Approved Contract list. We have now secured the finance and will be moving forward with the project very soon.

3. The stage on the playground

The stage on the main playground, recently painted by Mr Corlett, now requires remedial work due to the weather affecting the wood. We will endeavour to replace the rotten wood as soon as possible. In the meantime, Mr Corlett has cordoned the area off and we ask that everybody stays off it until it is repaired.

4. The outdoor climbing equipment

The outdoor climbing equipment is to be repaired and upgraded and some flooring replaced. We have struggled to find appropriately qualified, insured and government approved companies to carry out the repairs, particularly during Covid-19, which is why it has taken so long. We are hoping to receive a number of quotes moving forward. This has been a disappointing situation and the school has been liaising with the health and safety team for advice.

5. Carpets

We continue with our indoor upgrades and plan to replace some carpet which gets heavy footfall, in the corridor and in the reception area, with some hard-wearing floor coverings. We already have some of this flooring near exit doors and outside the dining room.

6. Window blinds

Window blinds will be fitted in Room 4 and in rooms 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

School Olympic Sports Day 2021

Wednesday 2nd June 9.20am – 3.30pm

All children were sorted into 10 mixed age teams to represent a country. An opening ceremony took place on the playground where each team paraded behind their flag.

Fun, novelty team activities took place during the morning and into the afternoon and sprint races for year groups, took place as the final event.

Large numbers of parents attended to support their children and many enjoyed relaxing in the sun, on the grass.







School visit to Port Erin beach

The whole school went down to the beach for the afternoon. They started by doing a Beach Buddies litter pick, followed by fun activities. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers, without them the whole school could not have gone together. A fantastic afternoon of fun was had by all!





Venture Centre

The Y6 children thoroughly enjoyed their Venture Centre trip last week. Some children were reflecting on their experience:

'The assault course had a high wall where we had to get our whole team over, taller team members helped the shorter team members - it was really fun and it was one of my favourites!'

'I enjoyed the tunnels, you had to get to the other end, it was slippery and wet!'

'I liked Operation Phoenix and it was fun working as a team. We had to do lots of activities to gather points and the group with the most points won.'

'My favourite was 'Predator'- one person was a seeker and then the others had to hide in the bushes and trees on a really long field. I was the seeker and unfortunately, we all got wet!'

'We laughed when Miss Smiley fell over – she got right back up again, so it was ok to laugh.'

'The food was delicious and there was a lot of it! We had a 2-course meal for breakfast and 3 courses for dinner! We ate cowboy sandwiches (make it yourself, cook it as a sandwich on the embers of a fire in the Glen and then eat it!). We included apple, potato, onion, bacon, beans. Other food included sausages, baked potato, chicken curry, croissants, toast, cereal, porridge and cooked breakfast...'

'The midgies were the worst! 😊'

'Everyone had to help each get wet clothes off after the wet activities!'

The children from Year 6 would like to thank the teachers and parents who volunteered to accompany them to the Venture Centre – Miss Smiley, Mrs Higgins, Miss Short, Miss Irving, Mr Woodford, Mr Cale and Mrs Corrie.







Millennium Football Competition

The boys who attended the Millennium tournament last Saturday, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Mr Curphey volunteered to act as coach on the day and parents accompanied their child. Mr Curphey said that the team were a credit to the school and showed great attitude, effort and team spirit throughout. The team managed to qualify for the quarter finals as one of the top two sides in their group but just narrowly lost out to Ballacottier School.



Cycling Proficiency Training

Y5 and Y6 pupils undertook cycling proficiency training during the first two weeks of this half term. This was well attended with pupils enjoying the sessions and very positive feedback about the children's behaviour and attitude was received from the cycling training team. Well done!



Don't forget the "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/>

Dinner Money

Please could everybody ensure their child's Parent Pay account is in credit. School meals should be paid for in advance, at present there are several families who owe dinner money.

Free School Meals September 2021. If you believe your child will be entitled to receive free meals from September 2021, complete an application online at <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/education-sport-and-culture/policies-and-procedures-a-to-z/f/free-school-meals/>

Application forms to be submitted by Friday 23 July 2021 to ensure meals and travel cards are in place for the first day of term.

Term Dates

Monday 5 July	Tynwald Day – School closed
Friday 16 July	Comic Relief Day
Thursday 22 July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm
Friday 23 July	School closes 15.30pm - Summer Holiday