



Rushen Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year 2021-22! Learning and Growing at Rushen Primary School

Welcome to our returning families and to all of our new families.

The children and staff have made an excellent start to the new term. Everybody has been keen to return to school and get back to learning. We have been very impressed with how the children have settled back into our routines and 'what we do around here', and how they are striving to meet the expectations. For some children, it has taken longer for them to settle after the summer break, and we are impressed at how the children have been supporting each other. Rushen Primary School is all about positive relationships, and we have a strong focus on being a learner and developing learning skills for life, through our use of learning muscles.

The 'Meet the Teacher' meetings were a success and I would like to thank those parents I spoke to for their positive feedback about our school. We value home/school links and our relationships with parents and carers.

I have included a section below about our current COVID 19 arrangements. The message from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture is business as usual, with adaptations when necessary. We continue to monitor the virus in our community and ensure we are vigilant about how we respond in school.

This Newsletter aims to ensure good communication about events, information about the school and as a record of the school's history. We look forward to a good school year and the staff look forward to speaking to you all, as the year progresses.

Take care,

Ms Owens
Headteacher

Class Names

To fit in with our focus on 'Everything Manx', we have decided to call the classes after birds that can be found in the Isle of Man. Here is a reminder of the class names and teachers.

Class Name	Year Group	Teacher
Harrier	R/1	Miss Quayle
Curlew	R/1	Mrs McMeiken

Merlin	1/2	Miss Irving
Kittiwake	1/2	Mrs Shaw
Swift	3	Mrs Griffiths
Guillemot	3/4	Miss Dixon
Sandpiper	3/4	Mr Moultrie / Mrs Bousfield
Shearwater	4/5	Mrs Higgins / Mrs Stewart
Peregrine	5/6	Mrs Dunajewski
Puffin	5/6	Miss Smiley
Housemartin	Ace Base/SPC	Mrs Hermann
	Whole school PPA	Mrs Daniel

COVID 19 arrangements 2021

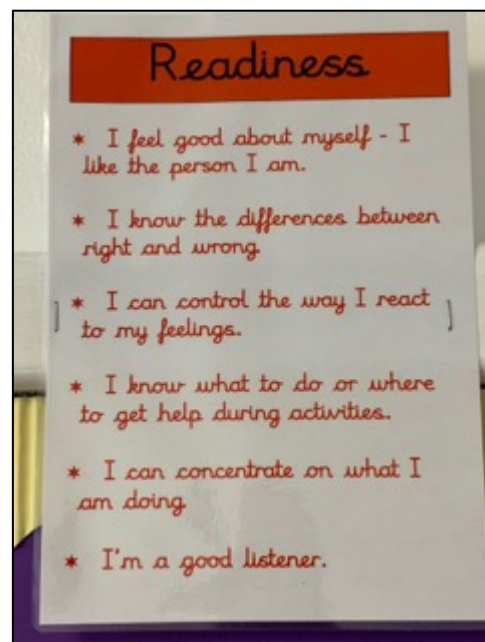
Our current arrangements in school include the following, but could change depending on the situation in the community and in response to guidelines from the DESC and the IOM Government:

- ✓ 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 (close to 15 minutes) and we are 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.
- ✓ We have received our first Carbon Dioxide monitor and we intend to involve the children in monitoring the air quality in classrooms. It will be placed in one classroom initially and be moved around. We may receive more units.



Readiness... This is the first of our 6Rs and something we ask you to focus on with your child, talking about how they can be ready for school and for learning. Please encourage independence and involve your child in their own preparations.

- ✓ Children should be in school every day. They should arrive on time for the school day at 8:45am (8.51am will be marked as late in the Register) and be collected promptly at 3:30pm. Children who arrive early **must** be supervised by parents/carers. Teachers have commitments before and after school so are not available to provide supervision at these times. Children should be made aware of their own end of school pick up arrangements before they leave for school. If there is an emergency and parents are going to be late, please contact school in advance in order to share alternative arrangements.
- ✓ **Coats** – it is essential that all children bring a suitable coat (named) with a hood, to school every day. The children will be going out in all weathers.



- ✓ **Uniform** – children should wear a maroon sweatshirt/cardigan, white polo shirt, black/grey skirt or trousers, black school shoes (NOT trainers). Each item must be named. No jewellery, except a watch and stud earrings (no hoops etc.), is allowed. Long hair should always be tied up with a simple hair band (no large bows or bands). Children must not wear make-up or nail varnish to school. Please ensure skirts are not too short/wear shorts underneath, as the children sit on benches and will be moving about in their uniform during learning activities - this will also be outside. PE kit – white or maroon t-shirt and black shorts/pumps/trainers.
- ✓ **Water Bottle** – children should bring a water bottle and these must contain only water.
- ✓ Please ensure that **PE kit** is named and that it stays in school every day to afford flexibility for our timetable. All earrings must be removed or covered with tape from home for PE lessons.
- ✓ **School dinners** **must** be paid for in advance.

Thank you for all of your support with these arrangements ☺

Buildings and works updates

I would like to thank the 'Works' department and the roofing and painting companies for their hard work. They all worked closely with the Headteacher on-site to ensure the projects went well. The school has benefitted from the upgrades outlined below as we continue to invest in our school building and site. It looks very smart, please come and have a look.

1. **Roof replacement** - the central section of the old building has been replaced and is looking very smart. The second third of the flat roof on the newer building (KS1/EYFS) has also been replaced. The two sections of the old building and the final section of the newer building roofs, are planned to be replaced soon. The old building currently has nesting birds and that is why the original plan to replace two sections was delayed, the section that was replaced did not house any birds nests due to the design of that section. Birds nest between March and October.



2. **Painting of the old building** – The scaffolding helped the painters paint the central section and then they carried on to paint other sections of the old building, avoiding any birds' nests. They continued around the end of the building and onto the playground side.



3. **The stage** – the stage floor was rotten and broken and so has been replaced.



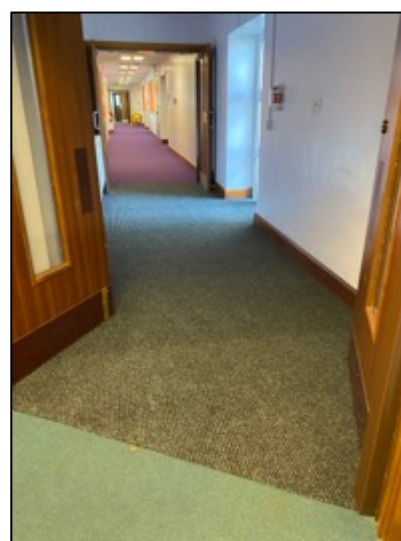
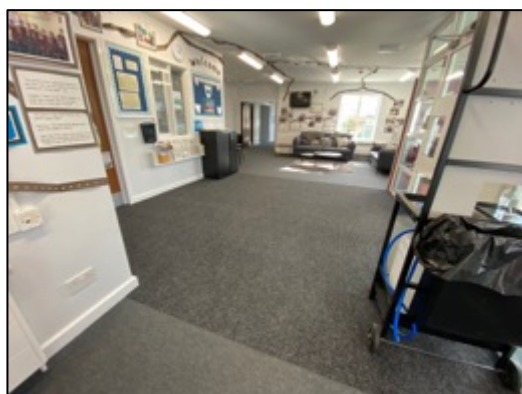
4. The school railings have been replaced adjacent to the zebra crossing - the old ones were rusty and damaged.



5. The small hall – the damage to the walls from leaking water has been repaired and the walls have been made good, plastered and the whole hall, painted. The defective skylight has also been replaced.



6. Two areas of the school have had new grey carpet laid. This has been laid in the Entrance Hall and in the corridor in KS2, near the exit door. It is hard wearing and will save the new carpet near it from getting wet and dirty.



7. The EYFS outdoor mud kitchen/outdoor play area is very close to completion. Photos to follow in the next newsletter.

Attendance

Attendance is important and we should celebrate that the children's attendance last term was very good.

Absence in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. It is the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's policy that parents request an authorised absence by writing to the Headteacher, Ms Owens.

Please let the school know about any absences due to illness by 9am on the first day of absence. It is the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's policy to closely monitor attendance.

Communicating with school

Please contact the class teacher in the first instance with any questions or concerns. If your child has a medical/dental appointment, a written note should be given to your child's teacher. Please be aware that Mrs Awkal has many administrative and financial tasks and responsibilities and is our only member of office staff. Please leave a voicemail if the line is busy or unable to be answered and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

It is crucial that you update your contact information when something changes, using the Arbor Parent Portal. We *MUST* be able to contact you in an emergency.

'Meet the Teacher' meetings

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. It was lovely to see you there. The meetings were informative and gave parents a chance to meet the teacher and hear about 'what we do around here' at RPS and the teacher's expectations for how the class will learn together. I would like to thank all of the parents I spoke to for their positive feedback about the school and how happy their children are here.

Curriculum and Assessment Information

Curriculum and assessment information, along with many resources to support you and your child at home can be found on the school website:

<https://rushen.sch.im/>

The 'Learning at Rushen' tab:

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

Meet the Teacher Timetable 2021 Monday 20 – Thursday 23 September 2021			
	5:00pm – 5:30pm	5:30pm – 6:00pm	6:00pm – 6:30pm
Monday	SWIFT	PUFFIN	
	MERLIN		
Tuesday	KITTIWAKE	GUILLEMOT	PEREGRINE
Wednesday	HOUSEMARTIN	SHEARWATER	HARRIER
Thursday	SANDPIPER	CURLEW	

Curriculum

Manx – all children in Key Stage 2 will be learning Manx this year and Years 3-6 will be learning to swim. Further curriculum information can be found on the curriculum overviews and the level/age related expectations information on the 'Learning at Rushen' tab on the school website (links above).

Events

The Fell Running competition has been delayed until the Spring term in order to have time to plan the event effectively as it has been very popular and the numbers involved have increased significantly. We will let you know once a date has been set.

Learning/Visitors

Puffin Class - Victorian school morning

Jo Callister who works on History/Geography and Manx projects in schools, came to school and taught us about what life was like on the Isle of Man in school during the Victorian times. The children gave feedback:

I liked writing with the quills and ink.

Did you know if you were older than 7 you would have to work on the farm?

Did you know if you were a lady in the Victorian times, you could not be married and be a teacher?

I enjoyed trying on the Victorian clothes.

I was surprised at how easy it was to write with the quill pens.

Did you know in school the boys learnt the important stuff and the girls learnt how to sew?



Sitting in rows and dressing up...



Kittiwake Class

'Kittiwake Class have been retelling a well-known story with actions and then creating our own story maps to sequence events.

We have also been talking about and comparing characters (especially wolves!!!) in different stories. After collecting adjectives ideas to describe an imaginary wolf, we then practised learning to sketch one. This was challenging, but we broke it down into simpler steps and were really proud of the results!'



Reminders

Parking/dropping off

Parking for parents is provided in the rear school car park off Shore Road. Parking is **not permitted** in the school car parks on Church Road - these are for staff use ONLY – or in Southlands car park. The only exception to this is for children arriving for our Specialist Provision Centre (previously known as our Special Unit and recently renamed by the DESC) or disabled children or visitors. The Police have asked that the Zebra Crossing is used to cross the road, or please use the crossing staffed by our crossing patrol, Sue Bowes, particularly if you park anywhere along Church Road. Please help to teach our children about road safety. In Years 1 - 6, the children should enter the school from the playground entrances. Please drop them at the lower car park or walk around the building into the playground. Curlew Class, Harrier Class, Kittiwake Class and Housemartin Class (Ace Base), will enter through their classroom doors.

School Dinners

We encourage all children to have a school dinner. We have wonderful kitchen staff who cook fresh and healthy options. Pupils may choose daily from a healthy hot meal menu and a salad bar. We believe that this is good value for money when compared to buying ingredients for a packed lunch. **Please ensure school dinners are paid for in advance using Parent Pay.** Should your child decide to swap from school dinners to packed lunches or vice versa, please give the class teacher one week's notice in advance (in a written note), so that we can alert the kitchen and arrange for meal charges to be stopped for your child. School dinners this term cost £77.55 until half term, £159.80 until the end of term or £11.75 per 5 day week. **If you have not yet paid for school dinners, please do so immediately.**

Medical

Inhalers (named) must be left in school every day. Children will take these with them if they go out of school for any reason. Please ensure that your child has anything they need for a medical reason in school, including up to date Epi Pens and other medications such as Piriton (or alternative medication prescribed by a doctor), for those that have been diagnosed with an allergy. Other medication must be administered by parents at home.

Asthma forms have been sent home with all pupils who have an inhaler in school. It is vital that this information is kept up to date and we would be grateful if you could complete and return the form to school immediately if you have not already done so. If your child has an inhaler in school and has not given you a form, please speak to Mrs Awkal. Please ensure that any updates are communicated to school immediately.

Any children with medical needs have their own poster with their photograph on it. The specific arrangements for each child are listed and displayed in staff areas, around the school, so staff can be familiar with the children and their needs.

Please update the Class Teacher/Administrator if there are any medical updates as soon as possible.

All school staff have attended the required First Aid in School one day training, provided by St John Ambulance, at the beginning of this term.

Friday 15th October - School Photograph Day

Please ensure your child is smartly dressed in full school uniform. All pupils will be photographed individually and with their school age siblings during the day. If you wish your preschoolers and secondary school children to be photographed with their Rushen Primary School siblings, please take your children directly to the Sports Hall at 8.20am. Any families with Secondary School pupils will be photographed first, so that they can get to school as early as possible. Any families whose child has additional needs will also be prioritised. This year, we shall try a number system when you arrive, and see if it works better, so that people feel the system is fair. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in our efforts to ensure that the photos are taken quickly and the process runs smoothly. 😊

Clubs

The following clubs are underway:

Mondays	12.00	Ukelele	KS2
Mondays	12.30	Ukelele	KS1
Tuesdays	3.30 – 4.25pm	Girls Football	KS2
Wednesdays	3.30 – 4.25pm	MSR Hockey Club	Yrs 3 & 4
Thursdays	3.30 – 4.25pm	MSR Multi-Sports Club	Yr 2 (until 14th Oct)
Thursdays	3.30 – 4.25pm	MSR Multi-Sports Club	Yr 1 (from 21st Oct)

THE SCHOOL YEAR:

Autumn Term 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October 2021

Ends: Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2022

Half Term: Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022

Ends: Friday 8 April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Starts: Monday 25 April 2022

Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022

In Service Day (school closed to pupils): Wednesday 1 June 2022

Bank Holidays: Thursday 2 June 2022 and Friday 3 June 2022 (Platinum Jubilee)

Half Term (TT): Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2022

Tynwald Day: Friday 5 July 2022

Ends: Friday 22 July 2022

Flu Immunisations (for those who have given consent) Thursday 14 October 2021

School Photograph Day Friday 15 October 2021

Hop Tu Naa (please see attached) Friday 22 October 2021