



# Rushen Primary School Newsletter

Be safe  
Be smart  
Be kind

October 2021



## Half Term Holiday

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October inclusive – Enjoy the break and stay safe!**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The 'Meet the Teacher' meetings took place earlier this half term and I am sure you found these informative, as well as a good opportunity to have any questions answered about your child's new class and their learning this academic year. It is also a pleasure for me to meet you in person at the beginning of each year. In order to follow up from the meetings with information that you can access easily and at any time, please go to our school website and the tab, 'Learning at Rushen'.

Along with a brief introduction about 'what we do around here', you will also find:

- Class curriculum overviews for the autumn term
- Our 6Rs and Jigsaw (PSHE - Personal, Social, Health & Emotional) overview
- RPS Learning Muscles
- Information about academic assessment and moderation process
- How to Help at Home information sheet for English (from EYFS through to Level 5)
- How to Help at Home information sheet for Mathematics (from R through to Year 6)

This link will take you to the 'Learning at Rushen' section of our school website:

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

We have had a wonderfully busy and successful half term. We have continued to do what we always do, which is to focus on quality teaching for learning in the classroom with high expectations of what the children can achieve and with interventions in and out of the classroom, 1:1 and in small groups, that will help to support pupils' learning.

School photo day went very well and the photographers were extremely impressed with the children's attitude and behaviour. The flu vaccinations also went well and the Manx Care team were excellent. Both visitors wrote in our Visitors' Book and I shall read the positive comments to the children and staff. Thank you for all of your support and kind messages of thanks whether in person or by email, these are gratefully received and I always pass these on to the whole school staff.

Due to the current levels of Covid 19 in the community and our school mitigations, we are reviewing how we will present our Christmas performances this year. We will be in touch soon to let you know the arrangements. Thank you for your patience.

Take care as always, Ms Owens, Headteacher

## Everyone a learner...

The children have been enjoying their learning across a number of curriculum areas to focus on their skills, knowledge and understanding. Lessons include an approach called 'split screen thinking', where the children are learning 'something' while at the same time identifying 'how' they will learn using the Learning Muscles and 6Rs. All our learning encourages independence, resilience and the attitude of a growth mindset. Children take some responsibility for their own learning and become learners who will be able to use the skills they are developing throughout their lives.

## Everyone a leader...

We have been encouraging the children to develop their leadership skills in lessons as well as outside the classroom. In the classroom, classes have monitors, some have managers of resources and all children have responsibilities. Some of the children have volunteered or applied for extra responsibilities such as to be a librarian, prefect or school councillor.

## School Photographs

Our school photograph morning went very well. Thank you for your understanding in letting the secondary school pupils have their photos taken first (this meant they could still be on time for school), as well as allowing families with children with additional needs to go first. The children were all very well behaved while waiting for their photographs to be taken and our photographer, Mr Morrison, commented on this. The siblings collected each other and checked each other's uniform and hair etc. They were lovely together!

I would like to thank Mr Morrison again because he worked hard to prepare the photographs quickly. Class photograph examples can be seen on the main corridor to the left of the main entrance, if you wish to have a look/order a class photograph (using the number on the photo and the form in your pack).

As you can imagine, it is hard to get the children to smile properly and to pose. If you require a re-sit for those who were absent on the day, or would like a re-sit for any reason, they are available at Morrison Photos Studio, Tynwald Street, Douglas, on the following dates. No appointment is necessary. **Saturday 23rd October, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. 9.30 – 13.30 on all dates.**

## Remembrance Day

Poppies and other remembrance items (wrist bands/stationery etc.) will hopefully be available to purchase in school and we hope you are able to support the poppy appeal again this year. The poppies and a donation box will be placed in the reception area, when we receive them, outside the School Office after half term and we will arrange for the boxes to be sent to the classes so that children can make a donation.

## School Trips

Year 5 will go to the Venture Centre, Maughold this year. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their trip. If any Year 5s want to know what it is like, please speak to Year 6 pupils.

## Venture Centre Y6

Our Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Venture Centre. They developed their independence and resilience, they collaborated and solved problems and had new experiences. It was the ideal experience to put into practice their growth mindset, their 6Rs and their Learning Muscles. We are very proud of them.

Comments from our Year 6s:

- I really enjoyed gorge-walking; it was really fun sliding down all the rocks. I also liked the coastal walk.
- I enjoyed abseiling, sailing and gorge walking.
- I enjoyed the gorge walking and wide game – it was a giant game of hide and seek in the woods.

- Sailing was really good and lots of us capsized. We all used our resilience to get back up. On the high ropes we supported each other when we were nervous.
- The Venture Centre was fun and exciting. I enjoyed gorge walking, rifle shooting, the high ropes and orienteering the most.
- The food was amazing!
- I liked the free fall abseiling off the tree.
- I enjoyed the kayaking and canoeing.
- I liked the wide game although I'm sad our group didn't win.
- I liked kayaking and the assault course.
- The staff were really nice!





## Southlands

We will continue with our links with Southlands as and when the Covid arrangements in care homes allow.

## Charity and Fundraising

Thank you to Mrs Kerr, our school Parent Governor, who has so far raised £1250 for school. I would like to thank her and to say well done for completing the London Marathon. I would also like to thank any families who have contributed. If you would like to make a donation and haven't had a chance yet, please either contact Mrs Kerr or the School Office. We haven't raised money for school fund in the last few years, but have focused on local and national charities. This year we will try to undertake some fundraising for school fund in the community.

## School Council

This half term, KS2 found out about the MHK elections. We looked at the information about the candidates and watched some of their video clips online, before the vote. We talked about 'democracy' and what this means in our country. This week we have been running our own elections, listening to the candidates for school council and voting for the two pupils that will represent their class. The school council were announced today in assembly.

## Manx Tradition...



Please click the link to see the Culture Vannin website where there are lots of things to watch and read about Hop Tu Na.

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hop-tu-naa-468995/>

Jinny the witch (who was just a nice old lady who whooshed around with baskets of herrings on a broom/duster stick) visited our school and introduced our class assembly. We had several other visitors that day and very few staff and children! 😊











## Learning at Rushen

### Merlin Class

Merlin class had a fantastic afternoon collaborating to build habitats for the local animals on our school field. They were resourceful when finding suitable materials to create their home. Special features included, a bridge, flag, feeding area and tunnel as the children used their imaginations and made links to their previous knowledge learnt in our science theme.





## Peregrine Class

Peregrine class have been looking at Victorian Artefacts and trying to work out what they were and what they were used for:



"This must have been a key for a dungeon."



"This is an iron but it is different to the irons we use as there is no cable."



"I think a teacher would have worn a skirt like this."



"I think this was used for milk or water."



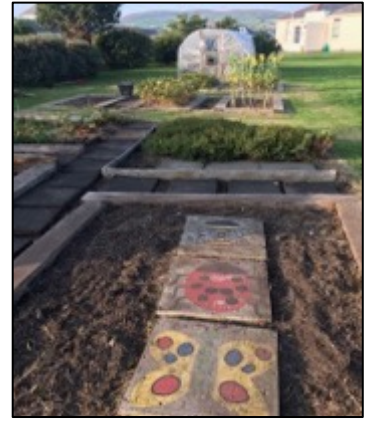
"These must be handcuffs; they are very heavy."

## School Garden

During the summer, our Friends of Rushen School (parents and children) and our Chair of Governors, Chris Bateson, helped to tidy up our school garden. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to thank them all for their hard work as it was a real challenge to sort out. We are looking for any parents/grandparents/family members who are keen gardeners, to help us. We would like to develop this area further and hopefully grow some more vegetables and fruit and possibly grow some plants inside the polytunnel. We will need to be prepared for the spring. Please contact the School Office if you are a keen gardener with knowledge and experience and would like to help.







## Manx, Sport and Recreation (MSR)/After School Clubs

Every Wednesday and Thursday this year, we have a coach from the MSR team in school. Miss Wignall is currently taking our classes for PE.

Hockey Club was offered to our Year 3/4 pupils and multi-sports to our Year 2 pupils this half term, led by our MSR coach. The children thoroughly enjoyed the clubs. After half term Year 1 pupils will do multi-sports and our Y5s can join a badminton club. Please sign up on Arbor Parent Portal.

Please collect children from the front door/main school entrance following an after-school club. Children will go home in PE kit. Please remember to return it to school the next day.

## Pupil Information

Please ensure that emergency numbers, consents etc. are up to date on the Arbor Parent Portal and that you amend these when necessary so that we are able to contact you.

## School Meals

For those who pay half termly, school meals will cost £82.25 from half term until the Christmas holiday. This amount should be paid by the first Monday after half term, 1st November. There are a high proportion of families who are in arrears with dinner money – please would you credit your child's ParentPay account with any outstanding dinner money immediately. Meals should be paid for in advance via ParentPay.

We currently have several pupils in school who are severely allergic to nuts. All our school dinners are nut free, however, we would ask that you do not include nuts or nut-based products in packed lunches for any pupil, this includes Nutella, for example. For those who are severely allergic, anaphylaxis may be triggered by being in close proximity to nuts/nut products. Thank you for your support.

## Communication

So far this term there have been many opportunities to receive information about our school, what is happening and what is planned, which has been communicated in a variety of ways, for example via email, by SMS, through our website and in person. These have included:

Newsletters

Learning at Rushen information

Reading at Home information

Letter-join website information

'Meet the teacher' meetings

Thursday morning meetings – please contact your Class Teacher for an appointment if you wish to discuss your child's progress or well-being. The Class Teacher may contact you to arrange a meeting. Please see your teacher after school on days where teachers do not need to attend staff meetings.

## Class Assemblies

Due to the current levels of Covid 19 in the community, we are planning to delay our class assemblies until the spring term.

## DIARY DATE



We will be fundraising for BBC Children in Need on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Please come to school dressed in Spots/Stripes/Pudsey clothing for a donation of £1.00 (or more!).