



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

November 2021



Port Erin, November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a good half term so far, where we have been focussed on learning and continuing to get back on track, and looking forward to our Christmas activities and events. We are now preparing for our Christmas assemblies and celebrations and the children are busy learning lines, songs etc.

Please see below some more detail about C19 mitigations and the current situation:

COVID Mitigations

- The school asks visitors/parents and carers to enter the building only if absolutely necessary and to wash/sanitise hands on entry, complete the visitor book for contact tracing purposes and wear a face covering at all times.
- Please speak to our Administrator on the telephone or leave a voicemail message for all other enquiries. We will reply to your message or contact you as soon as possible. This may not be immediately, depending on staffing or the situation at the time. Our Administrator has many responsibilities including managing financial procedures, undertaking a range of responsibilities for the DESC, liaising with staff across the school, as well as answering the telephone and opening the front door.
- Masks will be made available for Y5/6 pupils and they will be able to wear them in the classroom and in the corridor, if they wish. The letter from the DESC said that 'face coverings are encouraged for Y5/6'.
- We will continue with all of our usual mitigations including hand washing, ventilating classrooms and spaces and sitting in class groups at lunchtime.

Staffing

- We have been experiencing high levels of staff absence this half term and this has been extremely difficult to manage, as there is only a limited number of 'Supply' cover teachers/support staff available. Please be patient when leaving a message for a class teacher or emailing school. We will acknowledge emails and then respond as soon as possible.

Christmas Performances

- We hope to go ahead with our Christmas assemblies as planned, but we will monitor the situation. We have high pupil absence at the moment and that means that classes may struggle to practise and to do the performance. We will let you know about the feasibility closer to the performance time but we are hoping that all will go well. Please check your child's school bag for tickets this week – two tickets will be sent home with pupils in the next couple of days.

Take care, Ms Owens, Headteacher

Safety

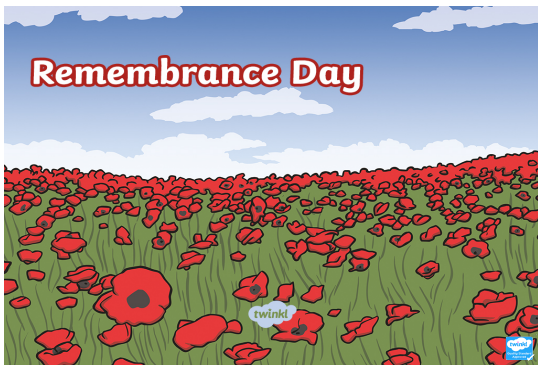
Road Safety

We have received several telephone calls from concerned parents and the public about pupils being unsafe on the road when they are scootering/cycling to school. One pupil, who we have been unable to identify, swerved in front of a car and was almost involved in a serious accident. We encourage the children to walk, scoot or ride to school but we need to ensure they are safe. We will continue to remind the children in school, as we usually do.

Car Park at the front of the main building (Office entrance)

During the last couple of weeks, some parents have been parking in front of the building in the morning and after school. On Tuesday, our KS2 swimming day, staff who had already arrived at school, needed to leave as usual to go to the swimming pool before school starts. They were unable to access their vehicles as somebody had blocked their cars and left the vehicle. It is important that our staff are able to arrive and leave the car park, especially when they are responsible for supervising pupils off site. This risked the pupils at the pool being unsupervised. On another occasion a parent let their child out of the car in the car park and the child ran the length of the car park and was at risk of being hurt from moving vehicles. Please ensure our pupils stay safe by parking, dropping off and picking up outside of the staff car park. I appreciate your support to keep pupils safe.

Remembrance Day



Rushen Primary School has a tradition that we follow every year on Remembrance Day. Weather permitting, the children stand in class circles and wait for the signal (maroons sound at the start and the end of the two minutes silence). We then stand in silence for the two minutes. The children did very well and were respectful, reflecting during the silence.



On Sunday 14th November we attended the Remembrance Parade to represent Rushen Primary School in Port Erin at Kirk Christ Church. When we arrived at the church we got to listen and learn about the effects of the war and how the tradition of the poppies began. We sang some hymns and the Manx and British national anthems. Then people were called out to lay their wreaths near the back of the church. We felt really thankful for the soldiers and people who protected us during wars, through the two minutes silence, because they 'sacrificed their today for our tomorrow'.

Quinn, Sophie and Holly, Year 6



CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 12th November pupils came to school dressed in spots and/or stripes and made a donation in support of Children in Need. All proceeds have been sent off to the charity.

Thank you! We raised £238.34.



West Midlands Theatre Group Visit

A theatre group visited Rushen Primary School on 22.11.21. They performed 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to all of the children in two performances, one for KS1 and one for KS2, in the Big Hall (the children sat far apart to ensure Covid mitigations were in place).

The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance. There was a particularly hilarious part where Daisy the cow was dancing and all of the children were laughing.

The theatre group asked the children to participate by shouting 'behind you', 'howdy Jack' and 'oh yes, we are'.

The children would recommend the theatre group to other schools... thank you for visiting us!

Samuel, Eesha and Alex.



Manx Radio

Our School councillors were in action for the first time as a group on Wednesday 17th November. They had been invited by Manx Radio to use descriptive language to help with a new competition called 'Small Talk' being launched in January. Nicola and Ben from the Breakfast Show were really impressed with the level of language used by the children to describe a picture of an object, place or person without actually saying what the picture was, whilst speaking into the microphone clearly. Listen out for their Christmas message as well as the new competition next year.

The children said:

"I really enjoyed speaking into the microphone."

"It was exciting meeting people from Manx Radio."

"It was hard thinking of different things to say about the picture."



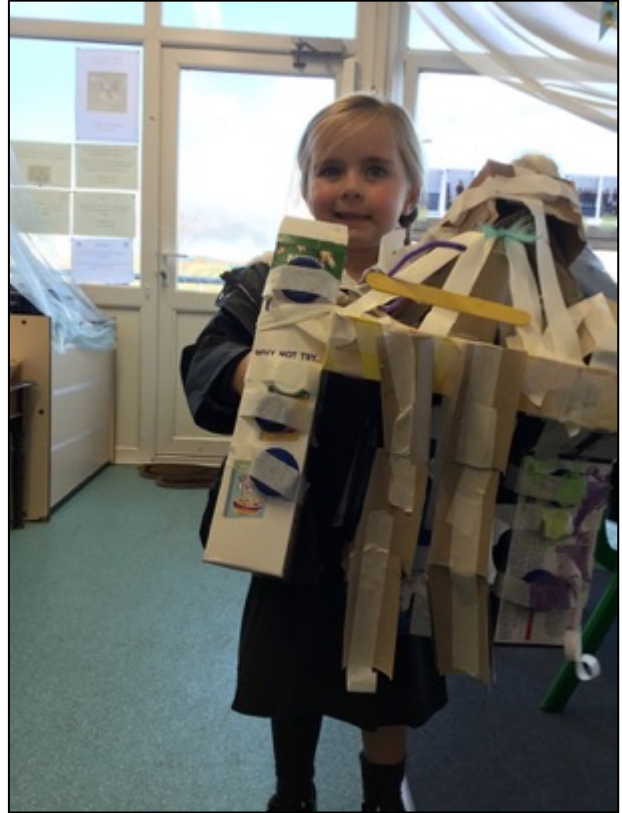


Learning

EYFS – Curlew and Harrier Classes

As part of their Marvellous Me theme, Curlew and Harrier classes have been investigating and building different types of homes out of different resources. They used their 'Collaborating' and 'Keeping going' Learning Muscles when working in groups, pairs and individually.





Swift and Guillemot Classes



The children in Swift and Guillemot are enjoying learning about note length to create rhythmic patterns. Using correct terminology, including crotchets, quavers and rests, children are composing rhythmic patterns which they are able to play on chime bars. They have stretched collaborating muscles by working with partners and then performing their compositions.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Concerts

Two tickets per family will be given to pupils to bring home this week.

Monday 6th December **Sandpiper & Shearwater**

Tuesday 7th December **Kittiwake & Merlin**

Wednesday 8th December **Guillemot & Swift**

Thursday 9th December **Curlew & Harrier**

Friday 10th December **Peregrine & Puffin**

*Please arrive at 8.50am for a 9am start.

Christmas Parties

Children may bring a set of party clothes to school on the day of their party, to change into.

Monday 13 th December	Curlew and Harrier (afternoon)
Tuesday 14 th December	Merlin & Kittiwake (afternoon)
Wednesday 15 th December	Sandpiper and Shearwater Year 4 (afternoon)
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Disco 5 – 6.30pm
Thursday 16 th December	Swift & Guillemot (afternoon)

Friday 17th December, 2021 If pupils would like to, they may wear a Christmas jumper to school instead of their school sweatshirt on the last day of term. Pupils are also welcome to bring a Christmas cracker to school for lunchtime that day.