



Rushen Primary School Newsletter



December 2021



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Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the final newsletter of the first term. Even with the current challenges, C19 cases and mitigations, it has been another wonderful term with our focus on learning, events and performances. Thank you to the whole school community.

The class Christmas assemblies were a resounding success. Thank you for so many positive comments, emails, feedback and congratulations, which have been passed on to the children and staff, who have worked tirelessly to make the celebrations and performances the best they could be in the current circumstances. Although we would have liked to carry on the Rushen Primary School tradition of large productions, it was unfortunately not possible this year. I would like to thank the audiences who were so generous with their applause and recognition of the children and of the teachers' efforts, and for your support with learning lines, props and costumes etc., thank you! The parties have been enjoyed by the children and the Y5/6 Disco was a lot of fun - see below for further details! Again, thank you to families for donating generously to contribute to party food and treats.

We are pleased that another section of the KS2 building roof will be replaced next half term. Please refer to the letter emailed to parents with the plans, which can be found at the end of this newsletter.

I hope that you all have a lovely family Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in January, ready for our next term.

Take care

Ms Owens, Headteacher

Active Travel Competition

Please see below a competition that your child may wish to take part in. The deadline for entries has been extended to January 4th 2022.

Places that are good for the planet and for people

Christmas scooter giveaway! Healthy Streets design competition

We would like you to imagine what your local area could look like to make it **safer and friendlier** for people to walk, scoot and cycle...



Ten indicators have been suggested for ways to improve the way streets are designed and managed, to make them better for people, the economy and the environment.

Another idea for making it easier for us to walk, scoot or cycle to places, is to make sure we can get everything we need within a 10-minute return walk. This is known as a 20-minute neighbourhood.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oYvbrDVjcY>

Your challenge is to create a **vision of a healthy street** or a **20-minute neighbourhood**. You can choose whatever materials you would like to present your ideas, and you can focus on a small area or a larger area. Think about what is in your local area and the places you travel – what changes can you imagine?

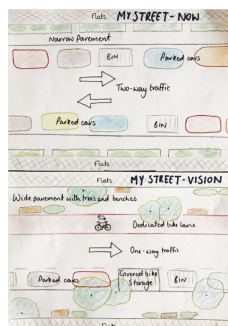
The prize for the winning street or neighbourhood vision will be a voucher (to the value of £150) for a **brand new scooter** from Eurocycles!

Deadline for entries: 13th December

Options for submitting your entry:

1. Email to breeshey.harkin@gov.im
2. Leave at school reception (check with your school first!)
3. Drop into the DOI reception at Sea Terminal, Douglas

See competition guide for more examples from Sustrans



Eurocycles

Police Treat

Many years ago, primary schools were offered a treat organised by the Police in the run up to Christmas. The children would watch a film and receive a selection box. A couple of Police Officers wanted to revive the tradition and set about arranging a treat for the Island's Year 6 pupils. We were keen to take part and the event went ahead. See below a picture of the pupils with their red 'Police Treat' bag!

The children wrote this account:

We took the bus to Ballakermeen High School with Victoria Road School and it took about 30 minutes to get there. Inside was a projector screen and two policemen. Then the policemen started throwing oranges around. Then the movie started. It was called 'Rise of the Guardians' and it included Santa, the Tooth Fairy, Jack Frost and the Sandman. After that, we got given a goodie bag with Christmas treats inside and then we got the bus back to our school with Victoria Road School and then had our packed lunches at school.



Christmas Assemblies

All of our Christmas assemblies were very well attended. Thank you so much to all parents, carers and family members. The children did so well! They helped to plan the performances, learned their lines and dances and contributed to costumes. We got lots of lovely feedback about how well the children had done and thanks to the staff for all their hard work – what a lovely school community we have! Thank you for working with us to ensure that C19 mitigations were respected in order to keep everyone safe.

Shearwater and Sandpiper Classes 6.12.21





Merlin and Kittiwake Classes 7.12.21



Guillemot and Swift Classes 8.12.21



Curlew and Harrier Classes 9.12.21





Puffin and Peregrine Classes 10.12.21



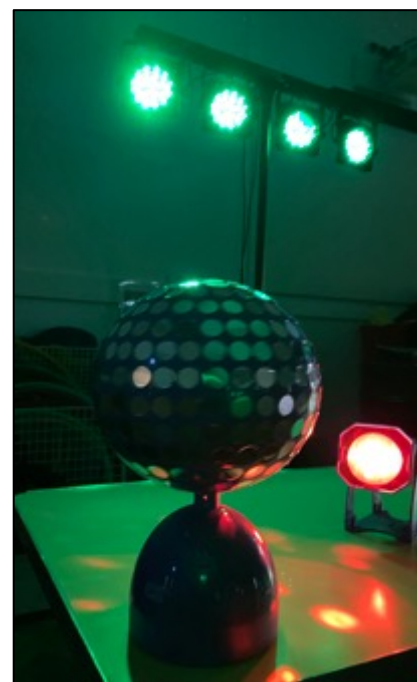
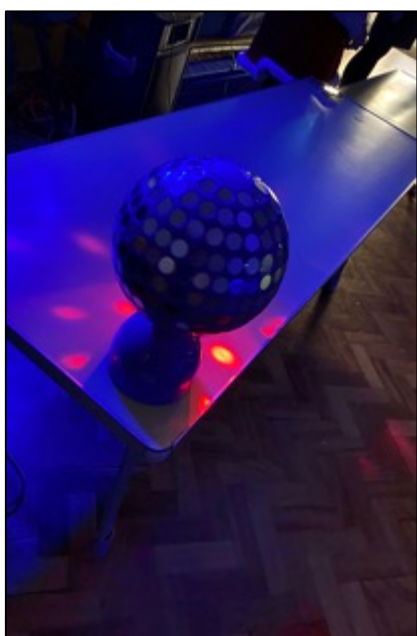
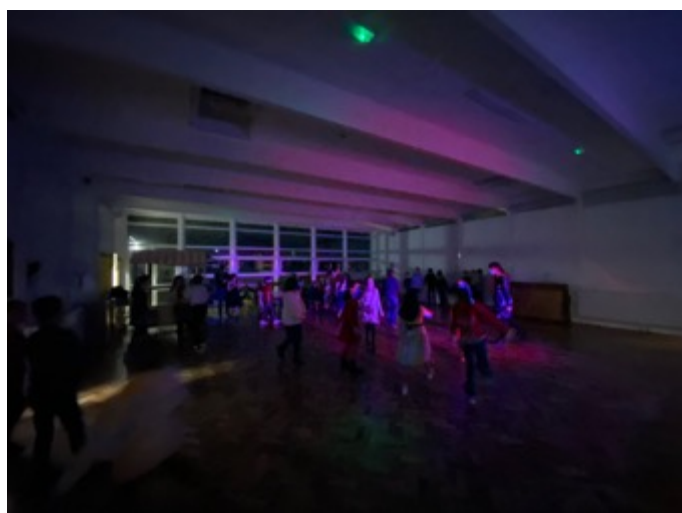
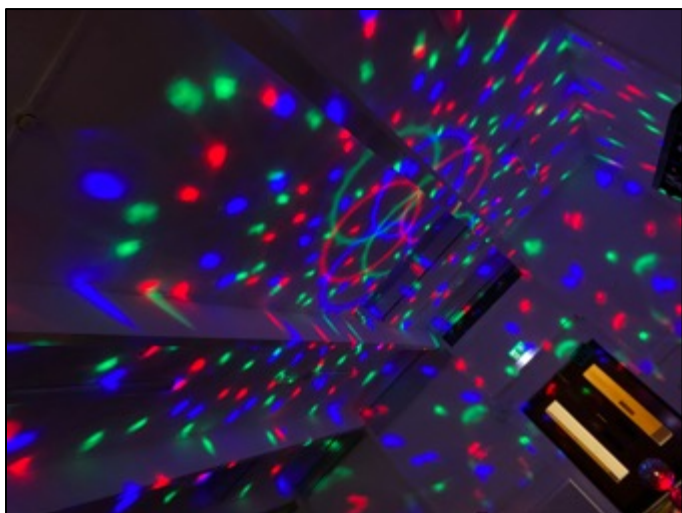


Christmas Parties 2021

The children thoroughly enjoyed their parties, which were held this week. We organised these in year groups so that the children could take part and enjoy their time together. They danced, played games and ate snacks!

Disco

The Year 5/6 Disco was a resounding success! The children were very well behaved and enjoyed the evening immensely. They danced and ate plenty of food! Thank you to Miss 'DJ' Smiley who stepped in to spin some tunes. Thank you to the teachers who volunteered their time to make it happen and to parents who did drop offs and prompt pick-ups! It is much appreciated.



Christmas Activities

A great deal of patience and resilience was involved when learning how to / or improve sewing techniques. Everyone was very proud of the results.



Merlin and Kittiwake's woodland animal sewing in felt

Puffin Christmas

We made Christmas tree decorations out of felt using a blanket stitch, after previously learning the running stitch. We had a lot of fun doing it and they all came out amazing!



Sandpiper and Shearwater Learning

Sandpiper and Shearwater organised a mini art exhibition where they showcased and discussed the art work they have been producing as part of their 'Amazing Artists' topic. The children talked about the artists they have learnt about, what they enjoyed and the pieces they are most proud of.

“It has been really good. People really like my art work.”

“Sharing was fun, to see what others have been doing on the same theme.”

“I enjoyed getting to look at other people’s designs.”

“It is hard to describe, it is really good to see how others interpret art work.”

“It has been really fun, I would like to do it again, even though it was a bit stressful to get ready and talk about my learning.”

“I like how we created the pictures and could then put as our calendar. “



Guillemot Class

Guillemot Class Christmas crafts

We made Christmas decorations out of lolly pop sticks. We recycled them to save them from going in the bin. We thought carefully about colours and design before making our festive decorations. We worked hard and used our keeping going muscle. We all loved making them!

We also made a calendar from a design that looks like we are floating through the sky, being carried by balloons. There were lots of steps to make it and we had to use our planning and absorbing muscles. We blended colours to make the sky, we layered materials for the skyline and balloons, and we had to pose for our picture. We enjoyed making them, even though some bits were kind of hard. We will enjoy looking at them all year.



For our Christmas card design this year we made a Christmas tree for the front of the card. We used crayons and water colour paints for the tree design. Making the tree was quite tricky because we had to cut strips of paper and weave them together, before cutting our final tree shape from our woven strips. We used our keeping going muscle and the weaving got easier as we went on. We've never made a woven tree before and we really liked doing it. We hope our families will like them too!



School Dinners

School Dinners will cost £79.90 for the first half of next term, or £150.40 for the whole of Spring term. Please pay for school meals in advance, using our online system 'ParentPay'.

*School closes at 3.30pm on Friday 17th December 2021 for the Christmas Holiday.
School re-opens on Tuesday 4th January 2022.*

**All the staff at Rushen Primary School wish you a very
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**



See below for the letter about the proposed roof works.



Rushen Primary School

Learning and Growing



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17.12.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know that a large section of the school roof will be replaced during next half term (January and February), weather and situation permitting. This is to ensure that the nesting birds which delayed the previous plans, are not present. If you recall, the centre section could go ahead because there were no birds nesting there, as the roof is different to the roof on either end of the building.

The Phase B section (see the photograph below) of the KS2 building will be re-roofed. This will mean that a site office, scaffolding, building equipment and materials will be on the school site. The work area will be fenced off. It is hopeful that less space will be taken up this time, as some materials may be stored near the entrance to the school site on Church Road and in the staff car park near the school office.

It is important that nobody accesses the fenced off areas or the site office and that safety is our top priority.

The plans mean that access past the KS2 classrooms around the outside of the school will not be possible and that some classes will not be able to use the doors out onto the front field, except in the event of an emergency evacuation.

While the scaffolding is up, the following arrangements will be in place:

- Shearwater Class will be able to use their outside doors and children can be collected as usual
- Sandpiper Class will leave by the KS2 door onto the main playground at the end of the school day
- Swift Class will leave by the KS2 door onto the main playground at the end of the school day
- Guillemot Class will leave by the KS2 door onto the main playground at the end of the school day

Bicycles and scooters should be placed at the opposite end of the school building to where they are stored now, around the corner from Room 13, Peregrine Class door. Bicycles and scooters should be placed neatly and carefully to avoid blocking the path. Please remember, bicycles/scooters must not be ridden in the carparks or playground.



Please walk on the public footpath/pavement outside the school boundary that borders the front field, to the entrance past the lower car park on Castletown Road.

- The field is muddy at the moment so please ensure pupils use the public footpath outside of the school boundary
- ALL FIRE EXIT DOORS FROM THE CLASSROOMS AFFECTED WILL BE ABLE TO BE USED IN AN EMERGENCY

On the school week beginning Tuesday 4th January (first day back after the Christmas break), equipment and materials will be delivered to school and put in place and scaffolding will be installed. As you can see from the plans, a section of the lower car park will be used and full access will be required during the day between the hours of 9am and 3pm and then from 3.45pm until close of the day (the work may continue into the evening when required). Parents will still be able to use the remaining space in the car park for drop offs in the morning and after school. We thank you for your patience.

Sections of the staff car park at the front of the building will also be used and the disabled parking bays may also be out of use. If you are a disabled badge holder please park elsewhere in the car park.

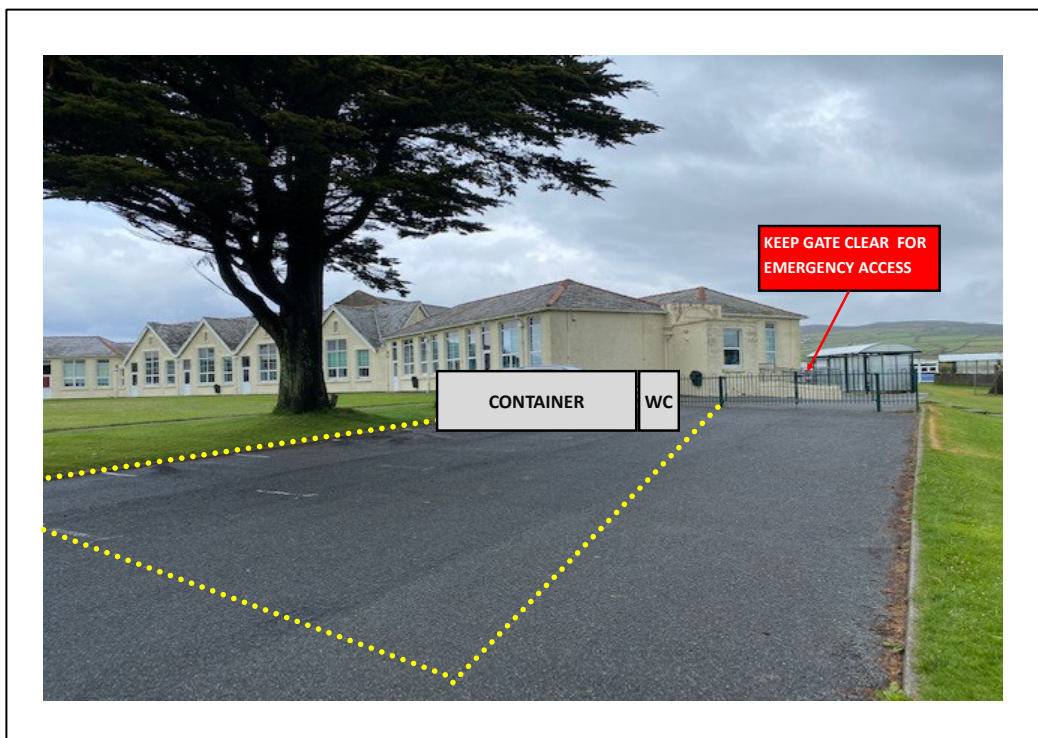
The work will continue for the half term although weather may cause delays. All building work is subject to change.

Please see photographs of the plans from the roofing contractor, at the end of this letter.

I thank you in advance for your support and encourage you to speak to your child about safety on site when building work is underway. We will also talk about this with the children. Please be aware if your child accesses the school site in the evenings or at weekends unsupervised, that you have spoken to them about keeping safe.

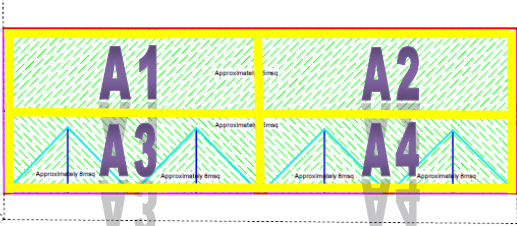
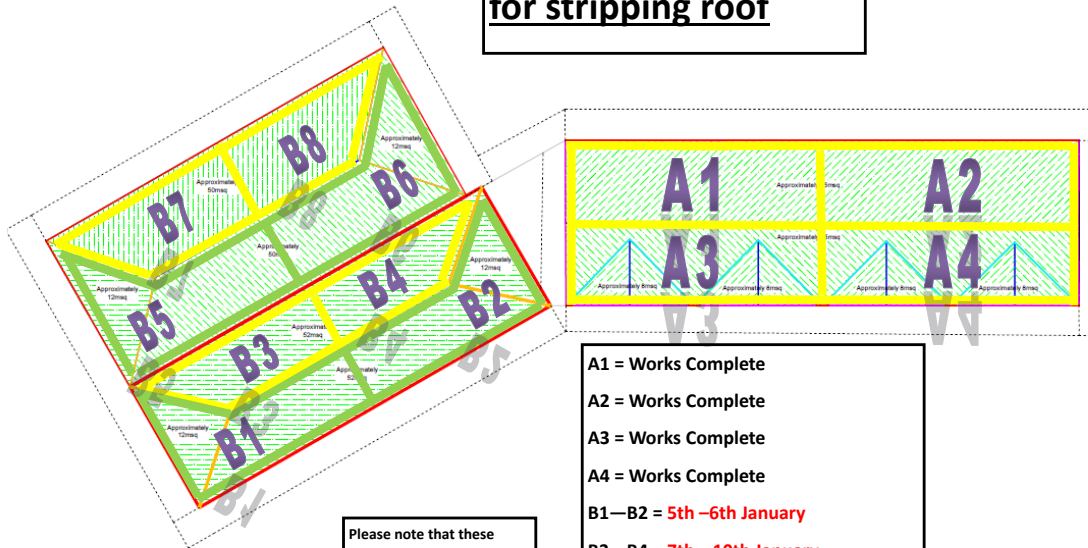
Yours sincerely,

Ms Owens, Headteacher





**Phase Plan with Dates
for stripping roof**



Please note that these dates could change due to poor weather conditions on site

- A1 = Works Complete
- A2 = Works Complete
- A3 = Works Complete
- A4 = Works Complete
- B1—B2 = 5th—6th January
- B3—B4 = 7th—10th January
- B5—B6 = 11th—12th January
- B7—B8 = 13th—14th January

