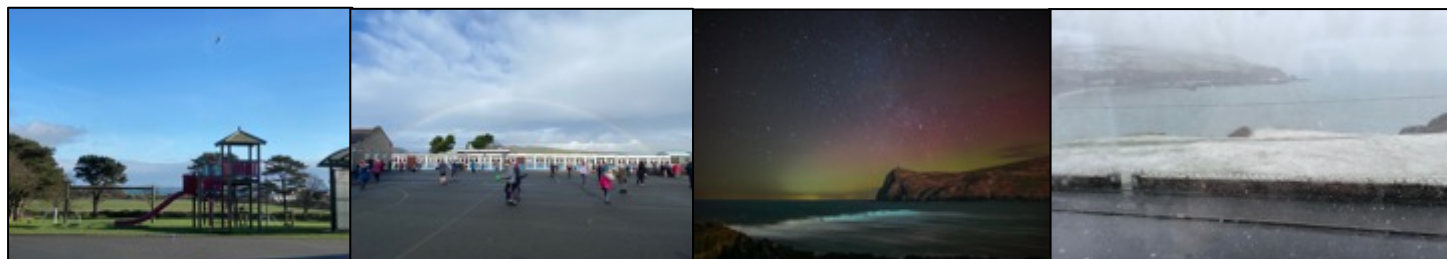
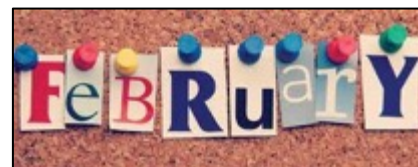




# Rushen Primary School Newsletter

## February 2022



Weather in the south of the Island in February – blue sky, rainbows, snow and the aurora borealis (apologies, I found this on Facebook and forgot to check who took it).

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome back!

I hope you have had a good break and managed to spend some family time together.

I would like to thank all parents, carers and families for your support, particularly last half term, as we tried to manage with an unprecedented number of staff absences. We still have some staff absent. The staff have really appreciated your support and kind words as they have not only planned for and taught their own classes but have also planned for other classes too, to ensure children's continuity of learning and so that the children could be taught in school, face to face.

We have an exciting month and the rest of the academic year ahead to look forward to. This Friday we will be celebrating World Book Day and we sent out the plan for that before the half term break. The main focus is on enjoying books. We encourage as many children as possible to dress up. Rushen Primary School has a long tradition of valuing books and motivating readers.

Other events planned include visits to our beach, visits from a theatre and a poet, a walk around our school to raise money for school fund, beach cleans, class assemblies, sports days and a Jubilee celebration, to name but a few - more details to follow closer to the time of each event.

Take care and thank you all for everything you do to support our wonderful school,  
Ms Owens  
Headteacher

### 6Rs

This half term's 6R focus is 'Resourcefulness':

- ✓ *I know how to get help when I need it.*
- ✓ *I can ask different questions.*
- ✓ *I can choose what I need to complete a task.*
- ✓ *I have lots of my own ideas.*
- ✓ *I try to solve problems independently before asking for help.*
- ✓ *I am willing to learn and try new things.*

## Uniform

- ✓ Please ensure that the children are wearing their black school shoes as many children are wearing trainers.
- ✓ Earrings should only be plain studs and not hoops or other designs as these can catch when children are playing or learning.
- ✓ Please label every piece of clothing with your child's name and check the uniform at home belongs to your child. There are quite a few lost items.

## Parents' Meetings

Please contact the school via the class teacher or an email to request an appointment to see your child's class teacher to discuss their learning and progress. Rather than have a formal Parent's Evening where each family only get a few minutes to speak to the teacher, we hope that being able to book your own termly meeting so that it can fit around your commitments and give you quality time to talk to the teacher, is more helpful and productive. The teacher may contact you to arrange a meeting.

Working closely together is crucial to support your child and the staff at Rushen Primary School are fully committed to this. Parents are also welcome to contact the class teacher at any time to discuss any issues.

## Notes

**Please ensure that all written communication to the school such as notes regarding absence, messages, requests and trip money, is placed in a sealed envelope and labelled with the child's full name, class, and the title of the contents.**

## School Improvement Update

Following on from my newsletter last year and the year before regarding school improvement, the staff have been continuing to reflect and review routines, practices and policies. School improvement happens in a continuous cycle where we identify areas for improvement, plan actions, implement and review to consider impact.

Our vision at Rushen Primary School is focused on building positive relationships, having high expectations of behaviour and learning, and of achieving high standards and good progress for every child. The staff are committed to the process and have worked hard to achieve improvement.

The staff have continued to work on school improvement throughout the pandemic and during our recent time of high staff absence. This has ensured that our vision continues to be embedded in everything we do. All staff have the opportunity to contribute to school leadership - '*everyone a leader*' and staff are encouraged and supported in this, making good use of individual interests, specialisms, knowledge and experience. We also encourage the children to take leadership roles through, for example, School Council, Buddies, volunteering to lead clubs (which we will reintroduce later this year), representing the school in a range of events, leadership opportunities and responsibilities in class and suggesting ideas for improvement in a range of areas including learning.

Our teachers continue to build positive relationships with the parents of the children in their class and other classes and use various methods of communication. Please support them in this role by arranging meetings when you have questions or concerns about your own child, or a quick and less formal 'chat' at the end of the school day. Our Middle Leadership Team and Senior Leaders are always on hand to support our teachers and other staff.

We continue to focus on improving behaviour for learning and the development of personal and social skills. A change in the way we manage behaviour has had a significant impact in our school, supporting the children with their learning and progress. We have focused on building positive relationships and have been using an approach based on restorative practice where the concept of 'conferencing' is the main focus. When an issue arises, we talk it through and when children are calm and ready, we undertake conferences. This allows each person to talk about how they felt, how they feel now, the impact of their actions on others and what they will do to make things right. Sometimes the children need help to reflect on what has happened and they have the opportunity to 'think and fix'. This moves away from the concept of punishment. We are focusing on learning at all times. When children are focused on their own learning and next steps, this reduces the need for rewards as a method of securing appropriate behaviour and instead rewards learning.

We continue to focus on developing a 'growth mindset culture'. We do this through our work on the 6Rs and Learning Muscles that the children use to support them with their learning, how to be a good learner and in their day-to-day learning. You could help at home by asking questions about the learning, such as "What did you learn today?" rather than "What did you do today?". This shift in emphasis is crucial in encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning and next steps which can be applied to any learning.

We are also currently working on implementing our reviewed curriculum and further developing our special and additional educational needs provision, our assessment and pupil progress arrangements, the integration into mainstream for pupils in our House Martin Class (Ace Base), distributed leadership for staff and pupils and as always, constantly improving teaching for learning.



## Events/Visitors

### EYFS

Our Early Years staff have been working with our pre-school feeder schools, in order to learn about the children who will be attending Rushen Primary School in September 2022. Our Early Years staff have been involved with getting to know the children by visiting them at their pre-school setting.

We have invited the parents and carers of our 2022 Reception starters to tour the school and to have an opportunity for a 'Question and Answer' session (with cakes/biscuits!).

We will be welcoming different groups of pre-school children and staff to stay and play with our current Reception pupils. These visits will take place during the summer term, when parents will also be invited. Each year this has had a positive impact on the transition process and children, parents and staff have found this an invaluable experience.

### Reayrt Vradra

On Thursday 27th January 2022, Stuart Owens (no relation!) from the 'Reayrt Vradra' glamping site, Port Erin, came to visit Puffin and Peregrine class. He came to talk to us about the new glamping site that will be built in Ballafession, Port Erin. We prepared questions for him to answer when he was here. He told us some interesting facts about it. It won't open until about February or March 2023. Over 10,000 plants and trees will be planted. The pods have 1 bedroom and the chalets have 2 bedrooms. For more information go to the Reayrt Vradra Glamping website.



## Young Engineers with Adrian Walters



On Monday 31st January 2022, Adrian came into our school to show us how to build a moveable Lego structure. He started off showing us the ones he has made with an electrical circuit. He wanted us to be independent when building our Lego structures. The Lego structure we were meant to build was the swinging boat you find at fairs and theme parks. Once we had built our structures, we took a photo and were timed on how long the boat could swing for. The longest time was Harry and Melody (King and Queen). Their structure swung for 70 seconds! Adrian also taught us a little bit about the three main types of engineering; mechanical, electrical and software. We thoroughly enjoyed this experience and know a lot more about fixed/moveable structures.

Quotes:

'I have learnt how to brace with Lego and make my structures sturdy and stable.'

'They don't call me the Lego master for no reason!'

'We learnt how to be engineers and build a fixed and moveable structure.'

'I put two cups either side to make my base stronger.'

'The thick, yellow bricks helped strengthen my anchor.'

'I learnt that I need to get better at building with Lego, I found it difficult to follow the instructions sometimes.'

'I learnt that braces can be different shapes and sizes.'

'I collaborated with my partner to build a Lego, moveable pirate ship.'



'I didn't realise you could build so many different moveable and fixed models.'  
'I learnt that we have been engineers all our life without realising.'  
'I learnt how we could use motors to make our structures moveable.'  
'We had to be resilient because our model kept falling apart.'



## Safer Internet Day

We were pleased to welcome our local ICT Advice and Support person to talk to us about keeping safe online. The children were reminded of some strategies to keep themselves safe, linked specifically to online gaming.



**World Book Day 2022**  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
**at Rushen Primary School!**

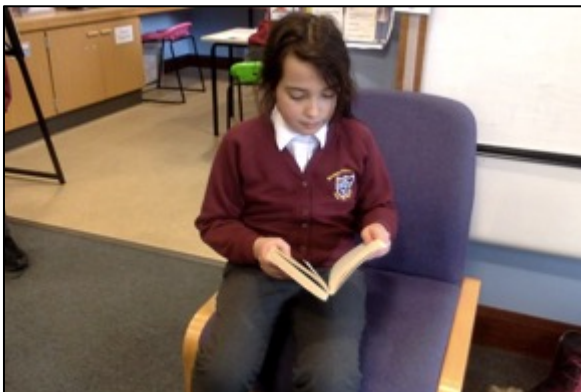
The children of Rushen Primary School will be celebrating World Book Day 2022 this year with a number of events:

- ★ Dress up as your favourite character from a book and bring the book, if you can
- ★ Assembly with parade
- ★ Reading Buddies – classes will meet up to read together
- ★ The whole school will become authors and contribute to writing a key stage book
- ★ Book related activities in class
- ★ COMPETITION – guess which teacher is hiding behind their favourite book?

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Children who do not wish to take part should wear their usual school uniform. A book voucher will be given to every pupil and may be spent in our local book shops.

**Reading at Rushen Primary School**  
**Shearwater Class**



“I am reading Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo. He is one of my favourite authors, as he makes you think you are actually in the book!”

“I am reading Big Nate Strikes Again by Lincoln Pierce, who wrote the Wimpy Kid books. I like reading as it makes me feel calm.”

“I am reading Life is Sweet by Cathy Cassidy, it has interesting adjectives and is all about sweets and chocolates which are my favourite things!”

“I am currently reading a Horrid Henry book. I like this series of books as they bring me joy.”

“I am reading Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. This book is a ‘Hufflepuff edition’ so it’s extra special”





## Comic Relief 2022 Friday 18th March



Pupils are invited to 'Dress in Red' and wear a red nose for a £1 donation to Comic Relief.

## Sporting Club Manx Youth Games 2022



The Sporting Club Manx Youth Games is the biggest multi-sport event for children on the Isle of Man which attracts over 1000 participants in 13 different sports. It is open to children in school Year 2 - 10. The programme offers young people the opportunity to try new sports or activities from January until the games, and encourages participants to continue with sport throughout the year. This year's games will be held on Saturday 7th May 2022.

## Buildings Update

The Section of the school roof that was being replaced is now complete. The roofers actually finished ahead of schedule. The roof looks fantastic, particularly from the road. We hope that the final section of the KS2 building roof will be replaced soon and I will let you know if/when we hear anything.

This is the completed centre section as an example.



### Active Travel

We have been very lucky to have been given a new scooter rack to go along with our current bike/scooter racks. This will allow 20 scooters to be parked (although we had to fix the structure close to the wall to allow access and so it may be fewer!)

Please encourage your child to walk, cycle or scooter to school to encourage healthy choices.

### Dinner Money

The cost of school dinners is £70.50 until the Easter holidays. **Dinner money is payable to the Isle of Man Government and must be paid for in advance via Parent Pay please.**

### Term Dates

School closes for the Easter Holiday  
School opens for the summer term

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 15.30  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 08.45