



Rushen Primary School Newsletter



February 2023



Not sure who the photographer is but what a beautiful photograph of Bradda Head taken earlier this week...

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

I would like to thank all parents, carers and families for your support, as always. We have been so pleased about the number of positive emails and comments about the school and I am also grateful for the parents who email us if there is an issue so that we can work together to resolve it. As I say to the children, this is a lovely school with fantastic pupils, staff and parents. 😊

We have an exciting month and the rest of the academic year ahead to look forward to:

- See below for information about class assemblies and 'stay and learn' sessions. Please let us know if you are intending to attend so that we can plan ahead.
- Other events include visits to our beach, visits from a poet, fund raising opportunities, beach cleans, sports day and a Coronation 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

Following the success of our class assemblies and stay and learn sessions last year, the school will continue to build on our positive relationships with parents. Please see the dates below for this year's class assemblies:

Class assemblies 2023

15 th March	Laxey Glen
29 th March	Ballaglass Glen
5 th April	Ballure Glen
6 th April	Glen Maye
3 rd May	Bishopscourt Glen
10 th May	Glen Mooar
17 th May	Dhoon Glen
24 th May	Tholt-y-Will Glen
21 st June	Glen Helen
28 th June	Elfin Glen

Class assemblies begin at 9am and the stay and learn sessions will continue until approximately 10.40am.

Comic Relief 2023 Friday 17th March

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



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 gets 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 also 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.

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.

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, Prefects, Buddies, volunteering to lead clubs (in the summer term), 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 Port Soderick Glen Class (Ace Base), distributed leadership for staff and pupils and as always, constantly improving teaching for learning.



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 2023. Our Early Years staff have been involved with getting to know the children by visiting them at their pre-school setting.

We invited the parents and carers of our 2023 Reception starters to tour the school and to have an opportunity for a ‘Question and Answer’ session (with cakes/biscuits!) and the opportunity to watch our school video.

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 Spring and Summer terms, 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.

Events/Visitors

Corn snake visit

On Wednesday 1st February Cinnamon the corn snake came to visit Ballaglass Glen Class. We all asked lots of questions and we found out the following:

- Cinnamon wraps itself round a human to steal their body heat to stop him from getting cold, and there was a hot water bottle in their bag to keep it warm. At home he has a hot lamp, hot mat and a warm swimming pool.
- There was a chess pattern on its belly, and the snake has the same organs as humans but they are spread along its body, inside ribs that run vertically.
- The snake was very calm when we touched it, we had to move really slowly when we touched it.
- It tried to steal Ms Payne’s glasses.
- It stretched its neck out, to read the learning muscles and to smell the air.
- It eats a mouse really fast by dislocating its jaw. Cinnamon needs to eat every 10 days, and only eats dead animals.

We learnt a lot and we send a big thank you to Miss Payne.
By Ellie, Joseph and Rhys.



Sporting Club Manx Youth Games 2023

SPORTING CLUB MANX YOUTH GAMES



<https://msr.gov.im/sdu/sporting-club-manx-youth-games/>

**This year the Sporting Club Manx Youth Games will be held on
Saturday 13th May 2023**

Sporting Club Manx Youth Games 2023

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

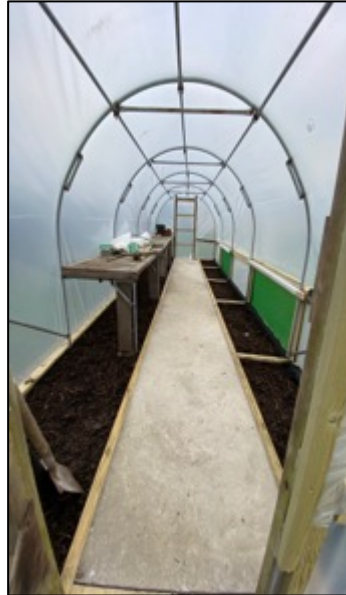
programme offers young people the opportunity to try new sports or activities from January until the games, and encourages participants to continue with sport throughout the year.

Buildings Update

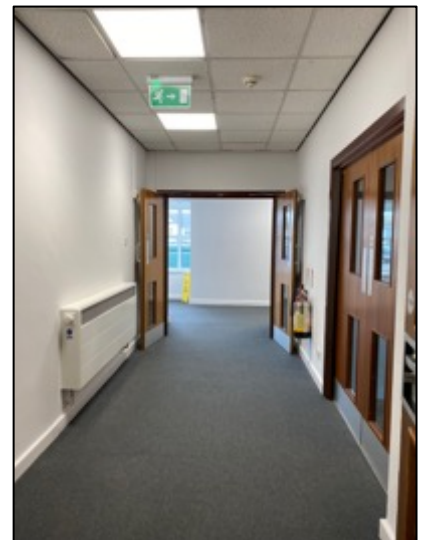
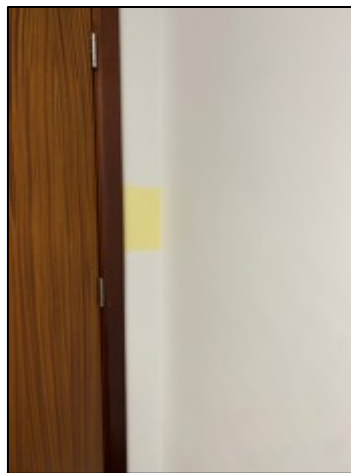
We have been pushing on with our updates to the building and site and further developing our outdoor provision. We prioritise learning spaces and making sure the environment supports well-being.

The Polytunnel

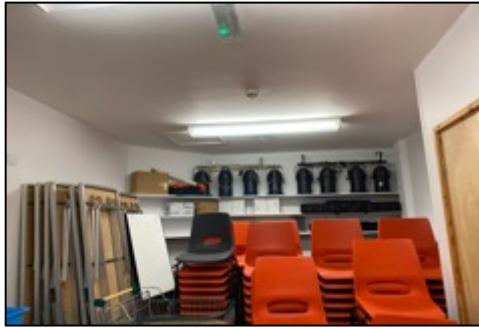
We are planning to grow some plants and herbs in our polytunnel.



Following the replacement of the base of the stage we are doing more remedial work to the stage on the playground (see below). This will consist of new sides and front and a wider step up.



We kept a little rectangle of the original yellow paint!



We have repainted several areas including the room at the back of the hall, the corridor leading to the hall, the changing room corridor, an office and the Year 2 classrooms (rooms 3 and 4) and Glen Mooar's room (room 9).



The 'quiet area' has been upgraded and the mud covered. The rotten wooden flower boxes have been removed and a lollipop fence installed. The raised step will allow us to provide activities for the children to access.

Competitions

Miss Merriman took a team to take part in the Tag Rugby event. The children enjoyed every minute of the games:

- "I loved meeting other children from other schools."
- "I loved how I got to mix with the Year 2s and that I was able to show them how to play."
- "I enjoyed scoring a try."
- "I enjoyed being part of a team."
- "I hope I get to do it again".

Well done for representing RPS so well! We are proud of you...



Mental Health Awareness Week and 'Walk and Talk'

Rushen Primary School spent a week focusing on mental health awareness. The children talked about well-being in classes and undertook activities. The week culminated in a family walk and talk event where we walked around our school site and spent time talking, building on relationships, being outside in the fresh air and some children and families focussed on exercise. What a lovely afternoon was had by all...thank you to all the family members who came to walk with us.



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.*

Term Dates

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

Thursday 6th April 2023 15.30
Monday 24th April 2023 08.45