



Rushen Primary School

Learning and Growing

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Dear Parents and New Starters,

We are writing to say that we are very much looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Rushen Primary School and that we are so sorry that we are unable to go ahead with our planned visits and see you all in person right now.

Under normal circumstances you would be due to start your visits to primary school, visit the classrooms, meet the staff and play with children from other pre-school groups. We would all be excited about this important step. I'm sure that we'll now be even more excited when we do eventually get to meet and welcome you into school. We look forward to that time!

Meanwhile we aim to tell you as much as we can about beginning at Rushen Primary School. We would like to introduce you to the Early Years environment and staff. We hope that you will find all this information really useful and that both parents and children will enjoy sharing this together at home. We have thought about all the things we would show you and tell you about if we were able to meet you in person. We have collected and shared this information in photographs and booklets which I'm sure you will find helpful. We aim to support the transition to school as much as possible under the circumstances and trust that this information will help answer any questions you may have at the moment.

Our 'Transition to School' pack comprises of:

- a Parent Brochure
- a 'Welcome to EYFS at Rushen Primary School' booklet
- an 'All About Me' booklet
- a DESC 'Enjoying the Journey to School' guide and information sheet.

The Parent Brochure will tell you about:

- Our aims and ethos
- Early Years Teaching and Learning
- The Early Years Curriculum
- Whole school policy and values
- Practical aspects of routines, times, uniform, illness etc

The 'Welcome to EYFS at Rushen Primary School' booklet will help you to:

- Learn about the Early Years environment
- Find out about some learning activities
- Become aware of some routines

In the 'All About Me' booklet your child will be able to:

- Draw, paint, glue photographs, decorate and embellish!
- Tell us about their talents, interests and experiences
- Create a personalised book about themselves
- Bring it to school and proudly share it with new teachers and classmates!

The DESC 'Enjoying the Journey to School' guide and information sheet explains:

- That all children are on a learning journey and are at different points on that journey
- The various steps on their journey
- How to encourage children to become independent
- The importance of routines
- How to support children when making friends

How you can help at home:

- Share all the booklets and explain as much as possible to your child
- Discuss the photographs and try to answer any questions your child may have
- Support your child in completing the 'All About Me' booklet and keeping it safe
- Look through the 'Enjoying the Journey to School' guide and decide where your child is on their journey
- Celebrate what they have already achieved
- Look for ideas about what they could be practising next
- Support with toileting and handwashing
- Support with zips, buttons, shoes
- Use our Parent Brochure to encourage and support any counting or writing of the child's name
- Give lots of praise when they get things right
- Encourage learning from mistakes and being prepared to have a go!

When your child begins school you can also support the work we do by:

- labelling your child's clothes with their name
- putting some spare clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents
- choosing shoes that are easy for your child to get on and off – preferably no laces please!

We have aimed to share key information with you at this point and trust that it will prove supportive to parents and children alike. We hope you enjoy sharing these booklets, discussing school and completing any activities together. As and when appropriate we shall add further information regarding transition to school to our website. Again, we are sorry that we can't meet you in person just now, but we do very much look forward to the day that we can.

In the meantime, keep being imaginative and creative, share stories, keep talking and keep learning! Enjoy family time, as it says in the 'Enjoying the Journey to School' guide

'We want children to be happy and excited about starting school so having fun with your child and enjoying learning together is the most important thing that you can do.'

Take care. Keep safe.

Best Wishes

Mrs Shaw (EYFS/KS1 Leader)

Mrs Griffiths (Class Teacher)

Miss Quayle (Class Teacher)

Mrs Bott (Support Staff)

Mr Townend (Support Staff)