

Dear parents and carers of new starters,

We are writing to say that we are very much looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Rushen Primary School. As part of supporting your child's transition to school we would like to invite your child to visit the EYFS environment, meet the staff and their future classmates from other pre-school groups. A letter will be sent to you outlining the times and dates of your child's visits.

We would like to tell you as much as we can about learning in the Early Years at Rushen Primary School before your child joins us. As well as inviting you to visit with your child, you can find further information on our school website (New Starters' section). We have thought of all the things we would like to tell you about before your child begins school.

We hope that you will find all this information useful and enjoy discussing it at home with your child. We trust that it will help answer any questions you may have at this time. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any further questions.

Our 'Transition to School' pack in the 'New Starters' section of our school website contains:

- a Parent Brochure
- a 'Welcome to EYFS at Rushen Primary School' booklet
- an 'All About Me' booklet
- an '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
- Routines, times of the school day, 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 at the start of term to proudly share with teachers and classmates!

The '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 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 keep it safe until you bring it to school
- Look through the 'Enjoying the Journey to School' guide and celebrate what your child is already able to achieve
- Look for ideas about what they could be learning next
- Support with toileting and handwashing
- Support with zips, buttons, shoes
- Use our Parent Brochure to encourage and support any counting or writing of your child's name
- Praise all effort and interest
- 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 and hope you enjoy sharing these booklets, discussing school and completing activities together. As and when appropriate, we shall add further information regarding transition to school to our website.

In the meantime, keep being imaginative and creative, share stories, keep talking and keep learning! 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.'*

Best Wishes,

Mrs Shaw

EYFS and KS1 Lead