



Ballaugh Primary School



Headteacher
Dr G Cushnie

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Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Firstly, let me formally welcome everyone back to school for the start of this academic year. It has been lovely to see the returning and new faces throughout the school. I am also very pleased to welcome Miss McHugh who will not only be the Class 3 teacher but will also assume responsibility for the school when I am "off-site". As I mentioned in the final Newsletter of the last academic year we will be sharing what we do or any new educational developments that we implement with you so that our learning partnerships become even stronger for the benefit of your child(ren). These can be found on our Blog Page which will be up and running as soon as possible.

Contacting School with Time-Sensitive Information – If you have information that you need to share with the school, which needs to be acted on by the end of the school day, or following day, please phone the school (897311) and leave a voicemail if necessary. The reason for this is that e-mails are only received when Mrs Boyde is in the office and due to the volume of emails that the school account receives, we can not guarantee that it will be dealt with on the same day which could lead to confusion, or worse, if it is assumed that we have received the information. Alternatively, a written note to the teacher or office ensures that the information is received by the member of staff that has the "duty of care" for your child or children. Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this safeguarding matter.

Norovirus – I completely understand the childcare pressures that the 48 Hour Rule can impose on families but we must insist that any child that has exhibited any, or all, of the norovirus symptoms must not return to class until 48 hours have elapsed since they have last shown any symptoms. This will reduce the likelihood of a whole school outbreak and the associated disruption that it would cause.

Allergies – Please ensure that all food that is sent in to school (snack, packed lunches or birthday buns) does not contain any nuts, nut oils, nut pastes or kiwi fruit. For example peanut butter and nutella. I ask this to reduce the risk of any child in our care suffering an allergic reaction.

School Uniform – Please clearly name all of your children's clothing, lunchboxes, PE kit and bags so that if anything does get lost it can be quickly returned. We also have lots of school uniform that has been kindly donated once it has been outgrown. Please come to the office if you think you may be able to make use of this.

Supporting your Child's Learning – We are organising sessions to support you in supporting your child's learning. The sessions for Class R2 are detailed below and other dates will be shared once they have been confirmed.

Parents Evenings – The dates for parents' evenings are detailed below. We will endeavour to provide afternoon and evening times to enable as many parents as possible to attend.

Games and PE – Games sessions will remain on Friday mornings and will be outdoors when the weather allows. Class 4 should come to school in their games kit, bringing their uniform to change in to afterwards. The Friday morning Fun Sports sessions for Years 1 and 2 started this morning at 8.10 am and will be on every Friday morning. The children in Reception class will be invited to join later in the year.

Outdoor Learning Sessions – Please note that the Ardwhallan session times have changed to a **Friday afternoon**. The first class to attend will be Class 3 (years 3 and 4). Children in Class 3 should come to school in the clothes that they will be wearing for the sessions and the forecast weather conditions, bringing their games kit with them. This half-term the sessions will be linked to their topic of Manx Celts and Vikings. Wk1- Assault course getting to

know everyone, Wk2- problem solving, Wk3 - exploring the woods, Wk4- Rafts, Wk5 Bush craft, Wk 6 review the activities (what has been learned and what could be improved).

Swimming – Swimming is only for Key Stage 2 children (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). It starts again on Wednesday 12th September. If your child has not been involved with school swimming lessons before then please have a look at the DESC rules for swimwear, jewellery, hair length and verruca etc on the school website (“about our school” > “policies” > “Swimming Policy and Guidelines 2018”)

Music – Guitar lessons will resume next Friday (14th) at the usual time for those that wish to continue. There will be an opportunity for Year 5 pupils to sign up very soon. The next violin lesson for existing students will be on Thursday 13th September. We are not sure if violin lessons will always be on a Thursday but will let you know as soon as it has been confirmed with us.

Friends of Ballaugh School – I would like to introduce any new parents to FoBS. The Friends of Ballaugh School work tirelessly to raise funds, organise events and provide resources that are in addition to what is provided by our department. The funds that are raised at events that are supported by you go towards funding the travel for all school trips, helping us to provide the outdoor learning activities with Ardwhallan O.E.C. and to provide additional playground and classroom resources. The next meeting will be Thursday 27th September at 7 pm in the school hall, everyone is encouraged to attend. On behalf of the school I would like to thank FoBs for their continued support and hope that everyone that is attending enjoys this weekend’s Oompah event.

Horticultural Show – Each year we have the pleasure of being invited to enter the Ballaugh Horticultural Show. All children in school enter writing and art exhibits which were prepared at the end of last term. The show is on Saturday 22nd September.

Mhelliah – The annual fundraising Mhelliah, kindly organised by FoBS, will take place in “The Raven” at 7 pm on Friday 5th October. The children in school write to local businesses to gather auction items. If you know of a business that would like to be approached then please let us know. We will be sending out our letters by Friday 21st September. It is always a fun evening / night and we hope that you will be able to join us there.

Playtime Back Field – This year we are giving the children the opportunity to choose to use the back field on any lunchtime that we are having our play outside. This is to give them opportunities to “risk assess” their own behaviour / actions in a safe and controlled environment. In the past we have not given the children the choice of using the grassed area when is wet or when it is raining lightly. Please have a conversation with your child about whether you wish them to use the “field” when it is wet. They can bring in alternative footwear that can be changed in to during the dinner play session.

Clubs – We are still in the process of organising some of the clubs for this term. As soon as we have assigned slots and age groups we will let the children know. I can tell you that a Tag Rugby Club will be on offer to all children in Years 2 and 3. This club is aligned with MSR’s Primary School Sports Programme with a competition at the NSC in October.

Dates

Supporting Reading for Reception Children	Tuesday 11th September, 3 pm in School Hall
Supporting Your Child’s Learning in Yrs 1 and 2	Tuesday 18th September, 8.30 am or 3 pm
Ballaugh Horticultural Show	Saturday 22nd September
New Reception Newspaper Photograph	Monday 24th September
FoBS Meeting	Thursday 27th September - School Hall 7 pm
Friends of Ballaugh School Mhelliah	Friday 5th October @ The Raven 7 pm
Parents’ Evenings Class R2	Wednesday 17th October (afternoon)
Parents’ Evenings (Whole School)	Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th October
School Photographs	Tuesday 23rd October (morning)
Half-term break	Monday 29 th October – Friday 2nd November inclusive

Yours sincerely
Dr G Cushnie