



Ballaugh Primary School



Headteacher
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Friday 26th October 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone has a refreshing and enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th November after your Hop tu Naa celebrations. As the “winter vomiting bug” season starts to take hold, please remember that a child should not return to school until they have been clear of all symptoms (vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach cramps) for 48 hours. I completely understand the pressures that this can place on childcare arrangements but it is necessary to prevent a school-wide outbreak that would mean that the school would have to be shut to enable a “deep clean”. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Contacting You – When we return after the break we will be using the school’s information management system to send information directly to mobile phones. The first of the priority contact numbers that you shared with us earlier in the term will receive the information. In the event of a true emergency concerning your child we will of course make a phone call. This system will not allow a two-way conversation so any information that you have for the school about a child’s absence or planned appointment should still be sent in via the traditional ways (note to the office, email BallaughEnquiries@sch.im or a phone call). The text messages may be to ask you to contact the school about unexpected absences, to share school closure information or to inform you of unavoidable changes to school clubs. We will still use phone calls to pass on information about head bumps as I believe that this is still the best way to make sure that this information is received.

Supporting your Child’s Development – Thank you so much for attending parents’ evenings to find out more about how you can help us, and we can help you. Together we can all support, learning and help the children to be the best versions of themselves that they can be.

Dinners – Children have received the new winter meals menu that will be being served after the half term break. Please remember that 1 weeks’ notice is required to change your child/ren from or to school dinners. Dinners are payable in advance on Monday 5th November, the amount due for the half term is £78.75 (£11.25 p/w). Please make cheques payable to IOM Government.

Saying Goodbye to Miss Henderson – Today the children had their last PE session with Miss Henderson before she sets off on her travels. I hope that you will join us in wishing her all the very best for her world-travelling adventure. I am very pleased to tell you that her role will be taken over by Mr Stewart who will be running the same sessions, including the Friday early morning fun sports sessions for Years 1 and 2. Mr Stewart has spent the last two Fridays at school getting to know the children to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Police Visit – On Thursday 8th November the police will be visiting us to share safety messages with the children and to show them some of their equipment. I am also pleased that they will be taking some time with each class to share how they use what they learned at primary school in their day to day job. During the course of the year we will have other visitors that will be sharing how they use what they learned at primary school in their jobs too.

Class 4 Outdoor Learning – Next half-term (from Friday 9th November) it will be Class 4’s turn to work with the teachers from Ardwhallan Outdoor Education Centre. The children should come to school in suitable outdoor clothing for the forecast weather conditions. **Class 4 will not require PE kit on Fridays.** The instructors will inform the children of any additional changes / wet weather gear that they may need for some of the sessions. Class 3 will return to their normal timetable and can, if appropriate for the weather conditions, come to school in their PE kit.

Year 6 QEII Roadshow – An informal meeting is being held on Tuesday 13th November at Kirk Michael School at 6.00pm for parents and pupils interested in transferring to QEII in September 2019.

Using the Back Field - If the weather is good enough to be outdoors then the children have access to the back field at dinner times. Please discuss this with your children and if you would rather that they do not access the grassed area when it is wet / raining, please tell them. If you feel that they need alternative footwear for on the field please send some in.

Hollantide Fair - As has become the tradition, the school will provide the entertainment at the annual Hollantide Fair, in Ballaugh village hall, on Friday 9th November at 7pm. The origins of Hollantide Fair are linked to the farming history of the island. It was an important fair after the harvest when land and property was let or leased and rents fell due. The village remembers this time with craft stalls, bric a brac and refreshments. This year Class 4 are going to perform the opening scene from the musical Tin Hats and Telegrams about WW1 and Class 3 will present some performance poetry. Everyone is welcome to come and share in this unique village event. If you have any unwanted toys that the church could sell at their stall they can be left in school entrance by Thursday 8th November. The organisers will be extremely grateful for your support.

Countryside Ramble – Thank you to everyone that sponsored a child for the Children in Need Countryside Ramble. A special thank you also to the adults that joined us and the school staff for organising it. Please continue to send your sponsorship money in so that the final total can be sent off and shared with you as soon as possible. We will still be holding our traditional dress down day for Children in Need on Friday 16th November, as we have already fundraised for this no further donations will be necessary.

Remembrance Sunday – On Sunday 11th November pupil representatives will be laying our school wreath at the cenotaph in the grounds of the church after the short service and walk from the one at the bridge. I understand that many of the pupils will be representing other groups in the Village too and that they will be joining together to sing one of the songs that they have been learning in school.

Poppies – Poppies and other Royal British Legion fundraising items (snap bands, keyrings, wrist bands and bracelets) will continue to be “on sale” in school each day until Friday 9th November. Recommended donations are 50p for rubber wrist bands and reflector keyrings and £1 for friendship bracelets. Thank you to Class 4 for “selling” them to all of the children.

Quiet and calm sessions to visit Santa – As part of the annual Christmas Fayre in St Paul’s Hall, Ramsey on Saturday 24th of November, Autism Initiatives are holding private sessions to see Santa from 10 am until 12 pm so that children who find this a daunting experience can be in a quiet and calming environment enabling them to take the time they need to process the experience. To book a slot call please call Billie on 355425. The cost is £3 per child and includes a special gift. Siblings and family members are also welcome to see Santa at the same time. If longer than 10 minutes is required then please let the organisers know and they will do their best to accommodate your child’s needs.

CLUBS

Tag Rugby club has now finished. For any children interested in learning more, the rugby clubs in Peel and Ramsey would be very keen to hear from you. Contact details are available on their websites.

Drama Club	Mrs Bale	Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm	Years 5&6
Early Morning Sports	MSR	Friday	8.10-8.40am	Years 1&2

DATES FOR DIARIES

Back to School	Monday 5 th November
Class R2 trip to Milntown	Tuesday 6 th November
Police Visit	Thursday 8 th November
Hollantide Performance at the Parish Hall	Friday 9 th November @ 7 pm
Remembrance Sunday, wreath laying and song	Sunday 11 th November
QEII Roadshow	Tuesday 13 th November, 7pm
Children in Need – Dress Down Day	Friday 16 th November
Children’s Christmas Party and Santa visit	Thursday 20 th December 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

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