



Ballaugh Bulletin



Nurturing Independent, Aspirational Learners. Supported by Strong Partnerships with Home and the Community

Dear Parents & Friends

It is a pleasure to welcome both familiar and new faces back to school for another academic year. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Summer break.

For those that are new to the school we are looking forward to the Mhelliagh on 13th October which is organised by the Friends of Ballaugh School (FoBS). All funds raised will be used to pay for trips and visitors to school. Last year the children went on several trips including the Venture Centre, Viking Village, Wildlife Park, Knockaloe Beg Farm and Milntown Gardens. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the fantastic Lempen Puppet Theatre Company.

FoBS also organise the children's Christmas party in December, Easter Egg Hunt and Summer Fayre. None of these events, or the additional resources that enrich your child's school experience, would be possible without the effort of both the Friends of Ballaugh School (FoBS) and our school staff. The next meeting will be in the school hall at 6pm on Tuesday 19th September. We are always looking to welcome new volunteers to help plan upcoming events.

If you have any questions or queries for your child's teacher, please know that we want to hear from you. For parents with children in Mrs Townend's class, there is usually a member of the R2 team available each morning before school starts. For parents with children in Key Stage 2 (years 3 to 6) please check the teachers' availability with Mrs Mylchreest, in the office.

If any parents would like to help out with swimming lessons on Wednesday mornings we would be extremely pleased to hear from you.

Thank you for taking time to read this and I look forward to catching up with you all soon.

G Cushnie



The 'Isle Listen to You' Benches

The benches have now arrived, they are a fantastic addition to the playground and the 'Isle Listen' green is very eye catching.

We would like to thank Adam Huxham and his company AH Contractors for kindly making the benches for us and Isle of Man Prison for doing such a good job of the painting, it is very much appreciated.



School Dinner Money

Please ensure all payments for lunches are made in advance. Please may I ask you check your ParentPay accounts regularly to ensure funds are available.

The cost for School meals this half term is £79.20 and for the full term £175.20.

Allergens & Anaphylaxis

Please be mindful about the information shared with you at the end of last term.



Name Labels

Please make sure all your Child's uniform, coats and belongings are clearly labelled including lunchboxes and drinks bottles.



Friends of Ballaugh School Mhelliah



The annual fundraiser kindly organised by FoBS will be taking place at
8pm on Friday 13th October at The Raven

Please join us for this fun evening where all the money raised will
be used for the benefit of the children at Ballaugh School to
help fund trips and visits.

If you would like to make a donation or provide an item to be auctioned on the night please
bring them to the school office prior to the evening or if you are involved with, or know any
local businesses that would be willing to donate an item or voucher it would be very much
appreciated.

School Calendar

Early Morning Sports	MSR	Clubs	Friday	Years 1 & 2	8.10am - 8.40am
Hockey Club			Friday	Years 3 & 4	3.30pm - 4.30pm

Swimming	Wednesdays	Class 3 & 4
PE	Fridays	Whole School
Mobile Library	Fridays (fortnightly)	Whole School

Dates for Diaries

Mobile Library	Friday 15th September 2023
Friends of Ballaugh School Meeting	Tuesday 19th September 2023 6pm
Reception Parents Information Meeting	Thursday 21st September 2023 3pm
School Council Macmillan Breakfast	Thursday 28th September 8-9am
Mobile Library	Friday 29th September 2023
School Photographs	Monday 2nd October 2023
Flu Immunisations	Thursday 5th October 2023
Hockey Competition (RGS)	Monday 9th October 2022
Stem Fest (Class 4)	Tuesday 10th October 2023
School Governors Meeting	Tuesday 10th October 2023
Skipping Workshops	Thursday 12th October 2023
Mhelliah	Friday 13th October 2023
Mobile Library	Friday 13th October 2023
Parent Consultations	16th, 17th & 19th October 2023
Class R2 Family Assembly	Tuesday 17th October 2023 9am
Half Term	Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2021

Please note : All school events are subject to cancellation if deemed necessary.

School Photos

This years photos will once again be taken by Steve Woodley on **Monday 2nd October**.

Non-school sibling photos will be from 8.30am.

Permission slips will be sent home today, if you do not wish your child to have an individual photo but would like them to appear on their class photo please complete the form as appropriate.



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

The school council are holding a MacMillan breakfast on Thursday 28th September.

All breakfasts must be pre-ordered, further information and an order form will be sent home next week.

2024 NEW STARTERS

If you, or anyone you know, has a child who will be school age, or younger, in September 2024 this is a reminder to register children with the school office as soon as possible.

Flu Immunisations

Manx Care will be coming to school on **Thursday 5th October at 10am** to administer the flu vaccine to those children with parental consent.

The deadline for the consent form is Friday 22nd September.

Please note if you have not completed the consent form your child will not receive the vaccine.

You will find a letter from Manx Care attached with further details about the vaccine and how to register your child, if you would like them to receive the vaccine.

if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the School Nursing Team on 693210.

Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Ballaugh School every other Friday, the first visit of the year will be this Friday 15th September. Every child will have the opportunity to visit the library.

Please can you remember to return any books that your child borrows promptly and also remind them that this is a privilege and the property of the library must be respected with books returned in the same condition in which they were borrowed

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could set on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

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CENSORED

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VO247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

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