



# JANUARY

## Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

### Classroom & Home Reminders:

- **Swimming** continues until the end January on a Friday morning. The bus leaves at 09.15, please ensure your children arrive at school promptly for registration.
- **PE** kit is required each Wednesday, Mr Smith from MSR delivers PE sessions for all classes.
- The Wednesday after school club this half term is **Tag Rugby** and is open to those Reception to Year 4. Year 5 & 6 are invited to come and help with training.
- This term Class 4 will have **Manx lessons** each Thursday with Mr Harrison.
- The **Mobile Library** will be visiting every other Wednesday. In order to borrow a new book children must return their old one.
- Winter Clothing: January often brings our coldest weather. Please ensure your child comes to school prepared for outdoor playtime with warm coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves. Please make sure all items are clearly named.
- Hydration: Even when it's cold, staying hydrated is important for focus and health. Please continue to send a named water bottle daily.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.





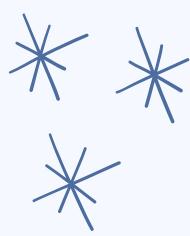
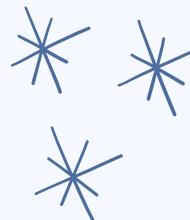
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### SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> January - Young Engineers - Class 3 & 4
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & 19th January - Isle Listen - Class 3 & 4
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Manx Dancing Workshops - all classes (trainers needed)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Mobile Library
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Young Engineers - Class R2
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January - School Validation (more details to follow)
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Maths Olympiad - Year 6
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Police Visit - all classes
- w/c Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - R2 Parent Teacher consultations (details to follow)
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - FoBS AGM 6pm
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February - R2 Pudding Lane Fire on back field
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Children's Mental Health Week
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - R2 police visit - Uniform & Police Car
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - MSCPA Animal Day - dress down
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Last day of Half Term
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - School re-opens



#### September Intake

If you know of any children within our catchment (friends or neighbours) that are due to start school in September, but have not yet registered, please can you encourage their parents to contact Mrs Mylchreest as soon as possible.





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### Class R2 News

We would like to welcome Mrs Cormode to the KS1 team as she takes over from Mrs Leece. Mrs Cormode is already a familiar face to the children as she has been doing some cover in the class.

This half term Class R2 will be learning about the Great Fire of London. Mrs Townend has invited Kirk Michael Fire Brigade to come to school with their fire engine to extinguish our own Great Fire and talk about fire safety.

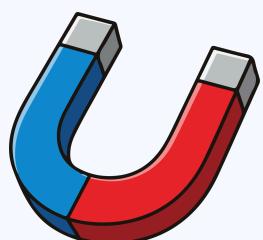


The topic will conclude with a family assembly where we will share our learning and take you with us, back 350 years, to the Great Fire.

The parent plan with specific dates and curriculum coverage will be shared, as always, in the first week of the new topic

### Class 3 News

The topic Class 3 will be focusing on this half term, with Mrs Ayres and Mrs Ryzak, is Anglo-Saxons. They will also be learning about Forces in their science lessons.



We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Whyley as the new Class 3 teacher and Deputy Head at the beginning of February. Mrs Whyley will spend some time with the class to get to know everyone before she starts and also managed to come along to the Carol Service. We hope you can give her your usual warm Ballaugh welcome.

Welcome



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### Class 4 News

Miss Barker will be choosing a team of 4 children to represent the school at the Western Maths Olympiad which is being held at QE11 on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January. This is always a tough competition against the other Western Primary Schools. Good Luck Team Ballaugh!

The topics Class 4 will be focusing on this half term will be Aztecs and South America. In Design Technology the class will be making a stop motion film.



We are very lucky to be able to have a full day visit from our friends at the police. The school education officer will spend time with each class and will cover topics such as meet the police, staying safe, being a good citizen, dealing with bullies and critical thinking. They will also be bringing their police car and uniforms for R2 to have a look at.

### Manx Dancing

We are pleased to welcome back Manx Dancing Teacher Gráinne Joughin, who will be working with all the classes again to build on the skills learned in their last sessions.



Please can you arrange for your children to bring in their trainers or pumps for the workshop on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.



### Young Engineers

We have arranged sessions with Young Engineers again this term. They will be working with all Classes in January.



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### Celebrating Mrs Leece: 22 Years of Dedication at Ballaugh School

Interview conducted by Georgie and Connor

Last term, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Leece, our much-loved teaching assistant, who retired just before the Christmas holidays. Mrs Leece has dedicated an incredible 40 years to working in schools, with 22 of those years spent at Ballaugh.

Most recently, Mrs Leece worked in R2, but her kindness and support reached every corner of the school. When asked what she enjoyed most about her role, she shared, "I just love spending time with children and watching them grow." Over the years, she has created countless happy memories at Ballaugh, making it impossible to pick just one favourite.

Mrs Leece hopes to be remembered for being "kind and patient", qualities that everyone in our school community will agree she has shown in abundance. Among the many school trips and events, she enjoyed, the Wildlife Park's "Colour Me Wild" trip stands out as a particular highlight.

Looking ahead, Mrs Leece is excited for holidays and, happily for us, plans to return occasionally for supply work. When asked to sum up her time at Ballaugh in three words, she chose: "Teamwork, friendship, enjoyment."

On behalf of all the pupils, staff, and families at Ballaugh School, we thank Mrs Leece for her years of dedication, warmth, and care. We wish her a wonderful retirement and look forward to seeing her back in school from time to time.



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### Adventurology - Class 4

Last half term, we started Adventurology with a brilliant afternoon in Ballaugh plantation. We learned how to use a compass and practised following directions through the woods. We also built dens, which meant we had to use lots of teamwork and resilience. We really enjoyed exploring together!



The following week, we went down south for coastal walking and rock climbing. It was windy and the climbing wall was very high, so we had to use a lot of courage. We all supported each other and cheered everyone on. It was a fantastic experience, and we felt proud of what we achieved together!



In the final week, we climbed South Barrule and Snaefell. The weather was awful and really tested our resilience, courage and determination. At lots of points we wanted to give up, but we are proud of ourselves for carrying on. We also really enjoyed our hot chocolate break! Thank you, Adventurology, for giving us such amazing experiences.

