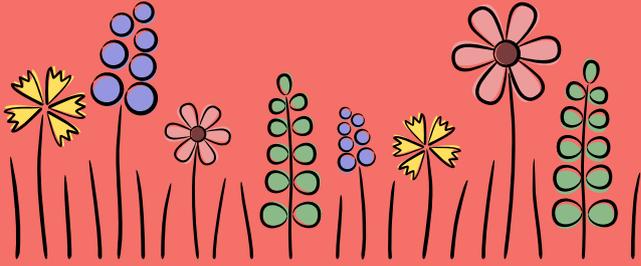


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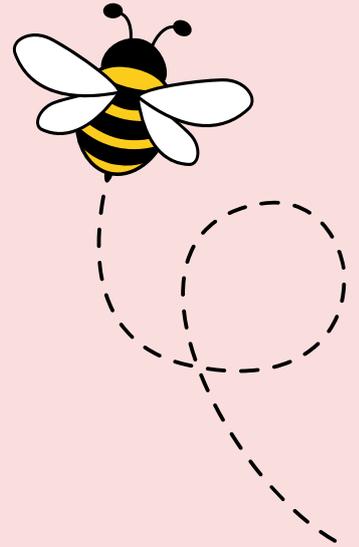


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Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe how quickly this school year is flying by. As we step into spring, we have lots going on in school and several trips to look forward to.



Classroom & Home Reminders:

- PE sessions with Mr Smith from MSR continue on a Wednesday afternoon for all classes
- Class 3 and 4 will also have PE sessions on a Friday morning, now swimming has finished, so please ensure your child has their PE kit.
- The Wednesday after school club is now athletics, from 3.30 to 4-30 pm, open to Year 3, 4,5 and 6.
- Mr Harrison continues to teach Manx in Class 4 each Thursday

As always, please feel free to get in touch with any questions.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th March - Class 3 & 4 Parent teacher consultations

Monday 9th March - Isle Listen to Class 3 and 4

Monday 9th March - R2 Tour of Ballaugh Village with local historian Ian Radcliffe

Wednesday 11th March - Minister for Education visit

Thursday 12th March - Year 6 to Stemfest

Friday 13th March - Fun Science workshops for all classes

Monday 16th March - Isle Listen to Class 3 and 4

Wednesday 18th March - Primary Schools Cross Country Competition

Friday 20th March - R2 afternoon trip to Ballaugh Beach

Thursday 2nd April - last day of Spring Term, break for Easter

Monday 20th April - School re-opens, start of Summer Term

Tuesday 28th April - New Intake Parent Information Evening

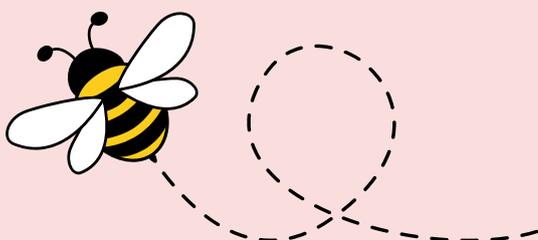
Thursday 7th May - Year 6 CSI Day at QE11

Monday 11th May - Isle Listen Class 3

Tuesday 19th May - School Governors Meeting

Wednesday 20th May - Western Swimming Gala

Thursday 21st May - Last Day - break up for TT half Term



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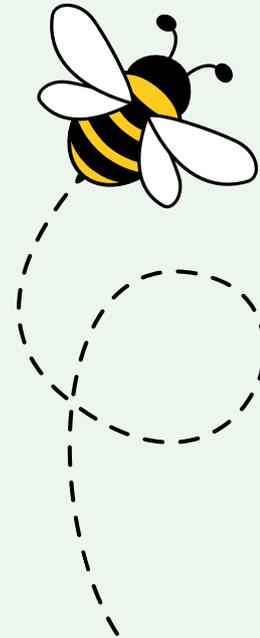
ONE BOOK, MANY HEARTS

Last half term the School Council linked their love of reading with the importance of supporting our wellbeing. Every Tuesday afternoon we will have an assembly called 'One Book, Many Hearts'. The assembly will either be a book that is shared with everyone or a quiet opportunity for the children to share a book with a friend.

It is hoped that these assemblies will continue to show the importance of reading and sharing stories with others and also ways in which we can also support our own wellbeing, and that of others. Emotional literacy is just as important as reading throughout our lives.

We would like to encourage you to take the time to read with your children at home, maybe share a book that you enjoyed as a child, or a book you always wanted to read but never got the opportunity.

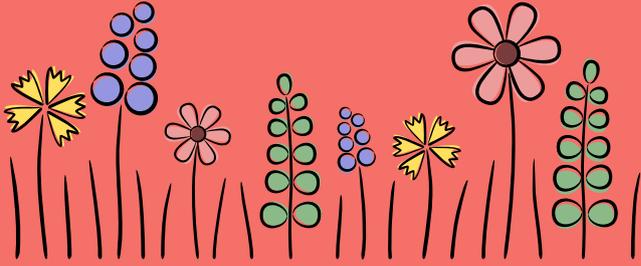
Each classroom has books that children may borrow to read at home and there is also the school council Lucky Book Club in the school foyer containing a range of books which children are encouraged to take and enjoy. Children may also drop off books they have already read so others may also enjoy them.



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POLICE VISIT

Our school enjoyed a special visit from the local police who talked to each class about different topics such as being a good citizen, staying safe, dealing with bullies and how to stay safe online. The officers shared helpful advice and answered questions.

The highlight for many was getting to see the police van up close and even climbing inside! Thank you to our local police for an informative and memorable experience.



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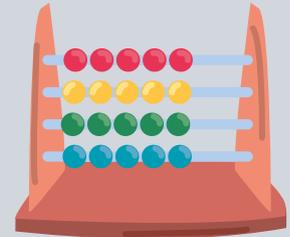
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CLASS 4 NEWS

The Western Maths Olympiad

Written by Hugh Cain



For the Maths Olympiad, we went to QE2. The people on the team were Violet, Breesha, Connor, Zane and me. We went there to do a maths competition against all the primary schools on our side of the Isle of Man.

We had to do lots of different maths questions in four different rounds. At the start, I was excited, even though maths is not my favourite. The team worked together well.

At the end I was happy because we didn't come last. I don't know how many points we got in total, but out of all the schools we were sixth out of ten.



TOPICS THIS HALF TERM

We are learning about lots of different exciting things this half term. Some of the the topics for each class are as follows:

Class R2

I-spy Ballaugh

R2 have already visited some of the children's homes this half term and have a tour of the village planned with a local historian.

CLASS 3

Madagascar is the Geography topic for Class 3 this half term and they are looking at Health and movement in Science.

CLASS 4

In history the class are looking at the Tudors. Forces is thier focus for science and in Geography they are concentrating on the UK and Maps

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THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON - CLASS R2

Class R2 enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London last half term. They all did a fantastic job making fire hooks at home which were used to pull down homes to create fire breaks. This is how the Great Fire was eventually put out.

The class also created their own pudding lane with a range of buildings constructed at home with help from parents.

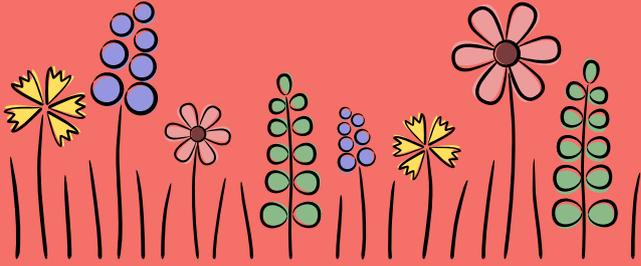
Pudding lane was then laid out on the backfield and the wonderful firefighters from Kirk Michael Fire station came with their engine to talk about fire safety and to set Pudding Lane on fire. The children took turns with the fire hoses to help extinguish the fire. The class learned about personal fire safety in school and at home.



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THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON



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Mars Trip

Written by Connor Clothier

We went to the Peel Cathedral via bus to see an art installation which was the floating Mars structure. When we got there, we were amazed by the huge Mars replica in front of us. For a while we walked around looking at it.

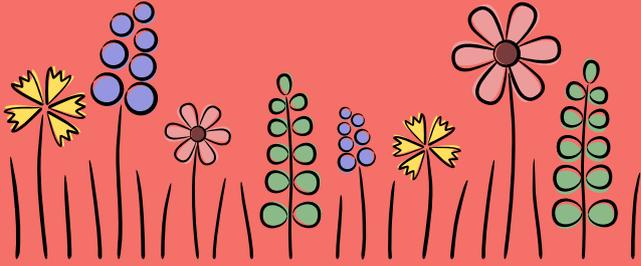
After that we watched a video about the Mars Rover Opportunity. Opportunity lasted for nearly 15 years when it was only meant to last for 3 months. On Mars there are four major volcanoes. One of them is bigger than Mount Everest! The last thing we did was walking around learning about important scientists such as Isaac Newton and Nicolaus Copernicus.



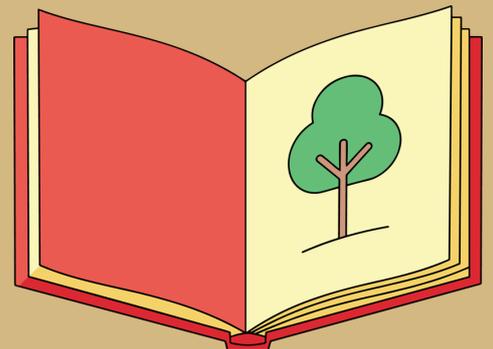
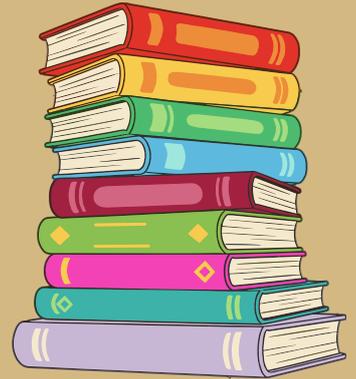
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WORLD BOOK DAY





FRIENDS OF BALLAUGH SCHOOL ❁



COFFEE MORNING

❁ Saturday 21st March ❁

10:30am – 12:30am

≧ Ballaugh Church Hall ≦

Come along for coffee,
cake and a catch-up!



❁ All welcome ❁

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Isle of Man Orienteering Klubb
'Come & Try'
Orienteering Activity
at
Archallagan Forest
In support of the IOM World Scout Jamboree Unit

Change of Venue due to Tree Harvesting at Conrheny Wood

British Orienteering

Saturday 7th March 2026
3 Course Levels to choose from: Short, Medium & Long.
Individual START times from 9:30am - 10:30am.
Registration from 9:30am - 10:20am.

Start & Finish from the Southern Car Park, on the Eairy Kelly road.
Short course suitable for beginners, families & children.
Suitable footwear and clothing must be worn for weather and underfoot conditions.
Compass to assist with navigation is optional.
Children must be under the supervision of an adult.
Participants must return to the finish by 12:30pm even if they do not complete their course.

Cost - Adult: £4.00 Youth under 18yrs: £1.50 Family: £8.00(max) (Cash Only Payment)
Activity suitable for beginners, families, children, adults, individuals & groups
Individual challenge or family friendly fun, your choice to walk or run.

www.orienteering.im @IoMOrienteering

Isle of Man Orienteering Klubb is a not for profit organisation and event fees and funds are used in the development of orienteering opportunities across the Isle of Man.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

PEGI 7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE PLAY RISKS**
Roblox allows users to interact with other players across the world. It can put younger players into an environment with mature content which is not appropriate for their age group. For example, some role-play games are used for sexual abuse and rape role play, which could expose young users to inappropriate messages and the police force.
- ANONYMOUS PLAYERS**
The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Whilst the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or third-party apps, and it may be difficult to know who is behind a username in this vast online world.
- MATURE CONTENT**
Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox. Due to the number of games available, this is particularly true for smaller games and experiences. Some games and experiences offer adult content and experiences on the platform which are not appropriate for children and young people.
- RISK OF ADDICTION**
Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players engaged for much longer. Like most games, they focus on progressively, with content becoming more difficult as players progress, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to continue online for long periods of time.
- IN-GAME SPENDING**
The majority of games within Roblox have in-game currencies, usually through in-game purchases or microtransactions. Purchases can range from virtual items to real-world money. Some games offer a lot of virtual goods, which can encourage young players to spend real money on in-game items.
- SCAMS**
Many of the games on Roblox feature cartoonish items, items, or characters. These items, which are worth a lot of real money on certain games, can be sold for real money. Some games offer a lot of virtual goods, which can encourage young players to spend real money on in-game items.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- MONITOR THE CONTENT**
While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or young person plays. It's important to check the game's content, and to get a good idea of their content.
- PLAY TOGETHER**
Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how moderation works, group whether the game could lead to positive behaviour, or even observe how interactions between players work, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for your children.
- TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS**
Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach young users how to report and block other players. Knowing the games within their reach will make it easier to report inappropriate content. You can set age ratings for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.
- TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS**
Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only make more of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert
 Don't overlook a colleague (journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years, he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMESPHERE.

WakeUp Wednesday | **The National College**

@wake_up_weds | **www.thenationalcollege** | **@wake.up.wednesday** | **@wake.up.weds**

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.04.2025

Autism & Social Communication Service

Support Group for Parents, Caregivers and Families

It's Coffee Time

Pop in for a chat, hot drink and piece of cake, all welcome.

March Drop in Dates

- Tuesday 3rd March | Kelvin Dawson's Community Centre (Peel Football Club) 1pm-2:00pm
- Wednesday 18th March | Jurby Community Centre 9.30am - 12:00pm
- Thursday 19th March | Centre 21 (upstairs - lift available) 1.00pm - 2.30pm
- Tuesday 24th March | Victoria Road School 1pm - 2.30pm



Jenny Cawte
 Autism & Social Communication Liaison Officer
 asc@sch.im

Isle of Man Government

Autism & Social Communication Service

Phone Surgery

March 2026

- Thursday 5th March 9.30am - 11.30am
- Tuesday 17th March 9.30am - 11.30am

I invite you to join me for a conversation, **no prior appointment necessary**. Each session will last a maximum of 15 minutes and is intended for parents and caregivers of autistic children or those with social communication challenges. If you have any concerns or topics you would like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me.

Jenny Cawte
 Autism & Social Communication Liaison Officer
 07624 298781

Isle of Man Government