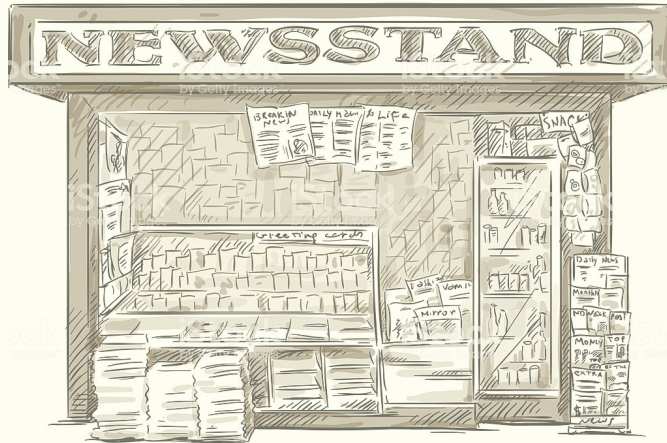




Dhoon Primary School

'Curiosity, Independence, Determination, Creativity, Collaboration'



Executive Headteacher
Mr Maxim Kelly

Head of School
Mrs Sarah Shimmin

01624 861227
dhoonenquiries@sch.im

NEWSLETTER
SEPT 2020

Dates for your diary...

- 25.9.20 Parent info sheets issued
 - 26.9.20 Fell running championships
 - 28.9.20 Y5 cycling proficiency starts
 - 29.9.20 IQM Assessment for the school
 - 1.10.20 School photographs
 - 16.10.20 Family Ceilidh and Mhelliagh
Details to follow
 - 19.10.20 Formal parents evening
 - 20.10.20 Formal parents evening
 - 23.10.20 Hop Tu Naa Day
Details to follow
- Not an exhaustive list!**

Welcome back pupils and parents

I hope that everyone – staff, pupils and parents – have had a fabulous summer break and are feeling refreshed and energized for the school year ahead. It certainly promises to be an exciting and positive one, building on the successes of last year (despite the disruptions!) It has been lovely to welcome new pupils and new families into the Dhoon School community. Our Reception children have settled in extremely well, and our new pupils in other year groups have made a very positive start. A warm welcome is extended to all of you who are new.

As ever, if you have any matters which you wish to raise with the school or discuss, please feel free to make an appointment to see me or Mrs Shimmin and we will be very happy to meet with you. I wish everyone associated with the school all the very best for the forthcoming school year!

Mr Kelly, Executive Headteacher

School Photographs

Andrew Barton Photography will be visiting school on the morning of Thursday 1st October, to take our school photographs. Andrew will be in the school hall from 8.30am for any parents who wish to have their children photographed with younger siblings not presently attending Dhoon School. If you make your own way into the hall with your children, Andrew will organize you and make sure that the photographs are taken in the groupings that you would like. During the morning, Andrew will then work his way through each class taking individual, sibling and class photos. Proofs and purchasing details will follow.

Social Media

Dhoon School can be found on social media – we have a Facebook Page and Twitter feed. Please remember to “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter to ensure that you are kept up to date with photographs, snippets of information, reminders and useful dates.

School car park

A reminder for everyone and an important message for parents new to our school concerns car parking. I will have to ask that parents do not make use of the staff car park. There are very real safety reasons for this and I really appreciate your co-operation. (Please let grandparents and other relatives know about these arrangements, especially those who are called upon to help with drop off/pick up duties.)

Parental consent and medical information form

Please look out for the annual Parental Consent and Medical Information Form which will be sent home this time next week. We'd really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this form and return it to the school office. There is also a data collection sheet which shows all of the information we currently hold in relation to addresses and emergency contact details. I urge you to check this, and mark any amendments clearly so that we have the most up-to-date information you can provide. We would like all sheets returned and signed (though there is no “official” place to sign, there is plenty of blank space at the end of the page to put a signature and date) – even those where no amendments have been necessary. Please return these to the office as soon as you can.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.
No one is left out, and everyone is equal.

Formal Parents' Evening and Interim Written Reports

As promised in a communication towards the end of last term, I have asked the teachers to prepare an interim written report which will be shared at a formal parents' evening in the first term. These arrangements have been made in recognition of the disruption caused due to the COVID19 pandemic last academic year.

The dates for these formal parents' evenings are as follows:

- Monday 19th October (4pm – 7pm).
- Tuesday 20th October (4pm – 5.30pm).

Monday 19th October (4pm – 7pm)

As I'm sure you can appreciate, after all afternoon in the classroom, the teachers will require a short break and an opportunity to prepare for the Parents' Evening; as such, once the children have been dismissed at the end of the school day, the doors for the school will be closed, re-opening for the Parents' Evening at 4pm. Doors will be locked again from 6.50pm onwards.

Tuesday 20th October (4pm - 5.30pm)

There will be a shorter parents' evening on Tuesday to meet with any parents who were unable to attend on the Monday. Again, once the children have been dismissed at the end of the school day, the doors for the school will be closed, re-opening for the Parents' Evening at 4pm. Doors will be locked again from 5.20pm onwards.

From this coming Monday (21st September) up until Friday 16th October, there will be appointment sheets on display in the Main Entrance Area. Parents will be able to sign up to an appointment with the teachers they would like to see. Please can school request that the appointment sheet is filled in by parents and not their children. Any parents who have not made an appointment by Friday 16th October will be contacted by telephone and offered free slots. Obviously if you do not sign up for an appointment for a time of your choosing, the slots offered to you by telephone may not be as convenient to you. Our expectation is that every child will be represented by a parent at one of the two evenings, and we encourage you to sign up for an appointment as soon as possible.

Isle of Man Junior Fell Running Championships 2020

This is being held at Knockaloe Beg Farm, Kirk Patrick, on Saturday 26th September from 12noon. Races are for primary school children in Years 2 through to and including Year 6. If you would like to enter please complete the form and return it school as soon as you can and we will collate these and send in the entries. However, please note that this is not a school event and our involvement with it does not extend beyond compiling the entries. Dhoon will not be staffing the races as it is a Manx Fell Runners Event, with parents responsible for the supervision of their children on the day.

Reception Photographs

Isle of Man Newspapers produces a supplement every year with pictures of the new Reception classes across all the schools in the Isle of Man. The photographer is visiting Dhoon School on the morning of Tuesday 29th September, and the supplement will be published and available to buy in shops within the next couple of weeks.

Homework

Homework is due to commence across the school towards the end of September. Homework is always set by school on the same day across all classes and our approach is consistent so that everyone – pupils and parents alike – are aware of expectations. The timetable, subject pattern and expectations for homework are contained in our "Home-learning Policy." We will redistribute copies of our homework policy to children and parents with the first homework to remind everyone of how the homework system works.

Lunch/milk/snack

Information regarding school dinners has been posted to the Facebook Page. Due to continuing low demand, we do not provide milk through the school, though we do encourage pupils to bring a water bottle with them to school each day along with a healthy snack to eat at morning breaktime.