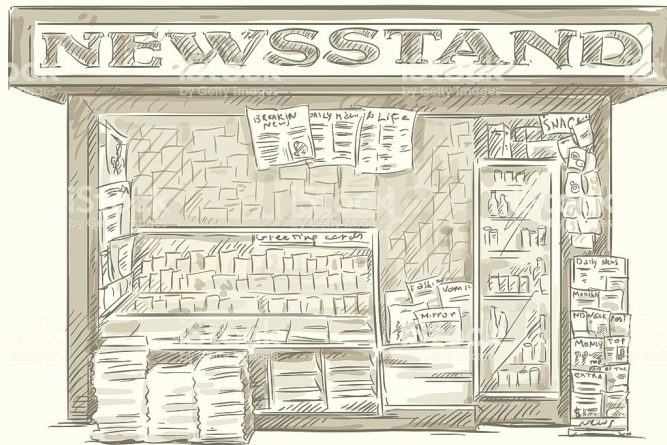




Dhoon Primary School

'Curiosity, Independence, Determination, Creativity, Collaboration'



NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2020

Executive Headteacher
Mr Maxim Kelly

Head of School
Mrs Sarah Shimmin

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Dates for your diary...

- 16.10.20** Family Ceilidh and Mhelliagh
Details below
- 19.10.20** Formal parents evening
- 20.10.20** Formal parents evening
- 20.10.20** Flu Vaccination Programme
- 22.10.20** Harvest Assembly
Details below
- 23.10.20** Hop Tu Naa Day / Cake Bake
- 6.11.20** Bonfire School Disco
details to follow
- 11.11.20** Remembrance Assembly
Details to follow

Not an exhaustive list!

Message from Mr Kelly

September and the start of October have given us all a great start to the school year. The new children who have joined us over the summer are now, by and large, settled into our routines, and I hope that the new faces amongst the parents feel as I do, that they are now an established part of our school. As I explain to prospective parents on tour, I do like to think of our school as being a huge extended family. Like all families there will be times when things don't go smoothly, but what we will do, is try to sort things out. We cannot, however, solve problems that we know nothing about so please don't wait until parents' evening to come in and talk to us. We are always ready to listen and want parents to be fully involved in the education of their children. Your first point of call should always be your child's teacher if you wish to share or know something. As ever, if you would like to get in touch or raise a query with me, please feel free to come over when I'm out on the playground, or telephone to make an appointment if you require a more formal meeting.

Mr Kelly, Executive Headteacher

Family Ceilidh and Harvest Box Raffle

It has been a tradition of the school to hold an event in October. This year we are doing so again, and are aiming to bring as many Dhoon families together as we can for an evening of community spirit and lots of fun. We are holding a ceilidh in the school hall from 6.30pm on Friday 16th October with a small harvest raffle thrown in for good measure. There will be refreshments available throughout the evening. If you haven't been to a ceilidh before you won't know what you're missing! And if you are a new family to the school, this is an ideal way to get to know everyone and be part of the Dhoon Family. Entrance is £5 for the entire family - if you'd like to come, pop a fiver in an envelope and send it to the school office in advance of the 16th October!

School Council

The new School Council have hit the ground running and have already started to work up a proposed set of dates for various activities that they'd like to run:
Hop Tu Naa cake bake - 25.10.2020
"Bonfire" school disco - 6.11.2020
Christmas fair - 4.12.2020
Movie night - 11.12.2020
School council are also running Toasty Thursdays each week for 20p!

Hop Tu Naa / Conker Day

Friday 23rd October is the last day of this half-term. As part of our exploration of Manx Hop Tu Naa traditions, children are allowed, and encouraged, to come to school dressed up in Hop Tu Naa costumes (i.e. nothing too over-the-top or too scary!). This is a day that the children always look forward to - further details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter!

Harvest Assembly

Nigel Cretney from Dhoon Church will be leading a special "Harvest Celebration" in the school hall on Thursday 22nd October at 10.30am. All of our pupils will be attending - we'd like to extend the invite to parents, grandparents, friends and families too. We'll have seats out in the hall and if you'd like to come along, the doors by the sports hall will be open from around 10.15am. The assembly will last around 30 minutes. There's no need to let school know whether or not you'll be joining us. We hope to see you if you are able to make it. The School would very much like to support the Harvest Foodbank Appeal. Please see the attached flyer, and if you can help, send a little "something" in with your child on the day of the Harvest assembly.



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.

Appointment sheets will remain available in the Main Entrance Area until Friday 16th October. 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.

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. *(We only use photographs of children if we have parental consent.)*

BookTrust Free Gift

Children in Reception class will be bringing home a special gift. The BookTrust provide a free book to all new starters in school to encourage parents and children to read together as often as possible. We hope you enjoy the story!

Hop Tu Naa / Conker Day - extra information

In recent years we've noticed that some of the children's costumes are becoming less and less traditional. Ours is intended as a Manx Hop Tu Naa celebration, not Halloween or an American style Trick or Treat occasion. We have sent home some additional information about the Manx Hop Tu Naa which may be of interest and help in this regard. If children don't have costumes / outfits or don't wish to dress up, then they can opt for non-uniform clothes instead. This is entirely for fun, and we are not asking for donations to dress up. We will hold some traditional Hop Tu Naa activities in the hall in the afternoon, and we will award prizes for the best costumes.

We will also hold our annual conker competition on the Friday. A limited number of conkers will be available in school, but children are encouraged to bring their own in. Conker competitions will take place in classrooms, with the winners of each class taking part in the main contest in front of the whole school. It is free to take part and is just a bit of fun for the end of the first half of term. Children in Reception and Y1 are going to watch the conker competition rather than participate.

Finally, the School Council have requested a cake/bake sale on the day too - so please look out for the flyer that the children have made to explain this.