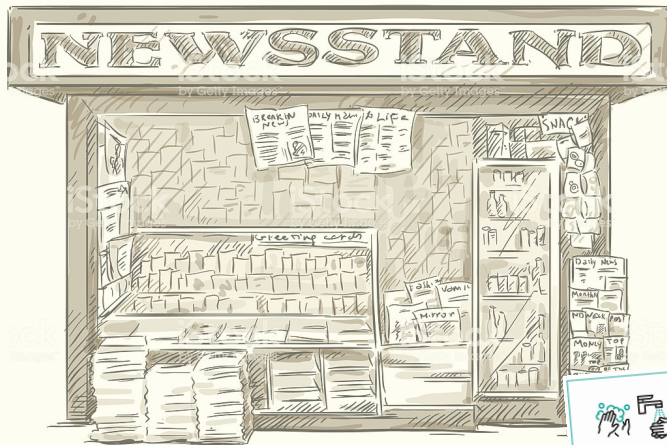




Dhoon Primary School



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

Executive Headteacher
Mr Maxim Kelly

Head of School
Mrs Sarah Shimmin

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- Dates for Your Diary**
- 30.4.2021 Red Nose Day at Dhoon School
 - 3.5.2021 May Day Bank Holiday
 - 10.5.2021 Webinar for Y6 Parents re Venture Centre Trip
 - 11.5.2021 RGS Transition Event for Y6 (details to follow)
 - w/c 17.5.2021 Y6 Venture Centre Trip all week
 - 31.5.2021 Bank Holiday
 - 4.6.2021 INSET Day for staff (no children in school)
 - w/c 7.6.2021 TT Week (school closed)



Please continue to practise good hygiene

COVID Mitigations

Although we are currently "restriction free" in the Isle of Man and we are not socially distancing in school, we have put in place several mitigation measures to help manage the risk. Some of these are temporary and will be reviewed as the situation in the Isle of Man settles and a clearer picture emerges of how we can live with the virus.

- Hand washing / sanitizing on a regular basis, and as a minimum, on entrance to the school building in the morning and afternoon, and before lunch.
- Increased ventilation - all rooms in use by people will have some windows open.
- Enhanced cleaning regime with higher-risk touchpoint (such as doorhandles) wiped down more regularly.
- Movement trackers recorded daily - teachers will be maintaining a record of which areas of the school building children have accessed each day, and for how long. We are also maintaining daily records of where classes may have mixed (such as in the dining room.) These records are simply there to help with contact tracing should we ever have a case emerge in the school.
- For now we are taking steps to limit the opportunity for large numbers of children to congregate in one indoor space, so assemblies are suspended. We are also limiting the opportunity for children from multiple classes to mix indoors, so our lunchtime and after school clubs are currently suspended. We will review this very regularly.

Message from Mr Kelly

Spring has sprung! The daffodils are out, the sky is blue and the sun is shining. The mornings are lighter and the days are stretching. This all helps to put a smile on people's faces and the atmosphere is brighter and more positive than it has been of late due to COVID19 and two lockdowns in 2021. I was so pleased to be able to welcome all of our children and families back to school earlier this week, and I hope that the rainbow archway showed the pupils how much we had missed them and how much we were celebrating their return to school. Lockdowns are tough, but I did want to take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to all of our families, mums, dads and carers. You have had the hardest job of all: managing your own work commitments alongside having to be home educators. I want to thank you personally for your support of the school during the lockdown, for your unwavering resilience and for encouraging your children to carry on with their school work and engage with the remote learning packages. I also want to take the opportunity to place on record my admiration and respect for all of our pupils. I have been genuinely blown away with their attitude and approach to remote learning. They have rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in. I sat in on so many of the live lessons, and from what I saw, the children were engaged and joining in with responses in the chat box and over the mic. The pupil survey we ran indicated that 98% of children were accessing the live lessons regularly, and the amount of work that we received for marking and feedback through Gmail was incredible. I have always been proud to be the headteacher at Dhoon School. Today, I am even prouder. Well done to all of you - you are a credit to our community and Island.

Max Kelly
Max Kelly

Red Nose Day 2021

Red Nose Day 2021 took place during lockdown and Dhoon School couldn't take part. We promised the children in an online High Five Assembly that we'd do our own Red Nose Day once we got back to school.

Therefore, next Friday (30th April) children are invited to come to school in non-uniform. If they'd like to take things one step further and match the official theme of this year's Red Nose Day and dress as a SuperHero, they can do so. We will provide a Red Nose to all children. To take part we are suggesting a donation of £2 be brought in on the day.

World Book Day 2021

WBD took place at the start of lockdown 3.0 so we couldn't give the children their £1 book token. Please find this attached to the newsletter. Ignore the expiry date - these will still be accepted in the Bridge Bookshop in Ramsey for the time being.

Lunchtimes

We will be trying to reduce the numbers of children gathering at any one time in the dining room (COVID mitigation), so when it is good weather we will be encouraging our packed lunch children to eat outside. The way we operate our school kitchen and order in our supplies means that we cannot allow children to chop and change between packed lunch and school dinner. We do require notice of at least one school week if there is to be a change for your child.

School Uniform

We appreciate children may have grown out of uniform during the lockdowns and you may be in a period of updating and replacing uniform pieces - we are happy to support parents and allow a transition time for uniforms to be refreshed. A gentle reminder that children should wear black school-style shoes. **Please name items.**

Parents' Evening

The COVID lockdowns have not stopped us from holding our Parents' Evenings as we were able to offer these as online appointments. The technology worked and appointments went ahead with the teachers. We'd like to thank you for embracing this approach. Just like a traditional Parents' Evening, some appointments over ran a little and some people had to wait a little for their turn to see the teacher, the only difference being that parents waited in a "virtual waiting room" rather than sat outside the classroom in the corridor! This was our first ever attempt at holding an event of this size online (we managed close to 250 appointments in total) and we are keen to learn from the experience. If you have any comments or feedback you'd like to give, please see Mr Kelly or Mrs Shimmin. We are already looking at ways to introduce an online booking system, but you may have other suggestions for us too.





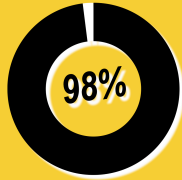
Remote Learning Surveys

Thank you to all of the parents and pupils who took the time to respond to our questionnaires over lockdown. We are committed to listening to feedback as this helps us refine and adapt what we do as a school. We are continually striving to improve and your views are important to us. The results from our surveys are presented below for your information.

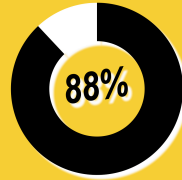
PARENT SURVEY RESULTS



99%
SATISFIED / VERY SATISFIED WITH THE WORK PROVIDED



98%
MY CHILD IS TAKING PART IN ONLINE LIVE LESSONS



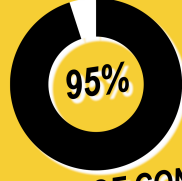
88%
MY CHILD RECEIVES FEEDBACK ON THEIR LEARNING EASILY AND REGULARLY



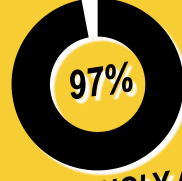
98%
THE SCHOOL HAVE ASSISTED WITH QUERIES



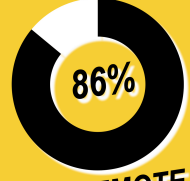
99%
THE SCHOOL HAVE MADE DIRECT CONTACT WITH OUR FAMILY



95%
THE LEVEL OF CONTACT FROM THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN "ABOUT RIGHT"

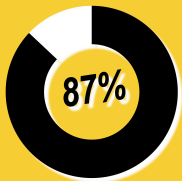


97%
AGREE / STRONGLY AGREE THAT SCHOOL HAS KEPT EVERYONE REGULARLY UPDATED

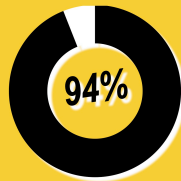


86%
THE REMOTE LEARNING PACKAGE IS "MORE THAN ADEQUATE"

PUPIL SURVEY RESULTS



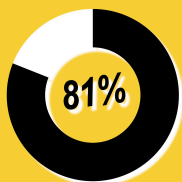
87%
I HAVE FELT SUPPORTED AND ABLE TO LEARN DURING MY REMOTE LEARNING



94%
I DIDN'T FEEL WORRIED (OR WAS ONLY A LITTLE BIT WORRIED) ABOUT MY REMOTE LEARNING



100%
I FELT ABLE TO CONTACT MY TEACHER WITH ANY WORRIES I MAY HAVE HAD



81%
I FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF WORK I HAVE DONE DURING LOCKDOWN



100%
I HAVE MISSED SEEING MY FRIENDS AND TEACHERS



100%
I AM EXCITED ABOUT GOING BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN LOCKDOWN ENDS