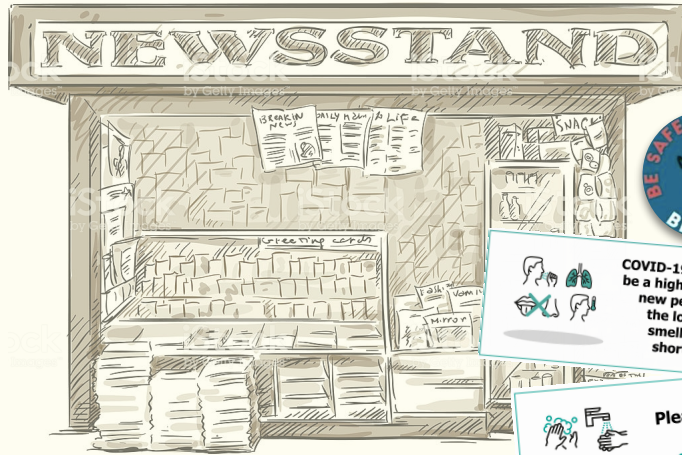




# Dhoon Primary School

'Curiosity, Independence, Determination, Creativity, Collaboration'



## NEWSLETTER OCT 2021

### Dates for Your Diary

- 06.10.2021 Harvest Festival (all welcome)
  - 07.10.2021 School photographs
  - 08.10.2021 Flu vaccinations for children
  - 11.10.2021 Pete Murray (author visit)
  - 11.10.2021 Parents' Evening (1)
  - 12.10.2021 Parents' Evening (2)
  - 14.10.2021 First Aid for Y6
  - 15.10.2021 Beetle Drive Evening
  - 22.10.2021 Hop Tu Naa Day (dress up)
  - 22.10.2021 Close for half-term at 3.30pm
  - 01.11.2021 School re-opens after half-term
  - 10.11.2021 RockKidz visit - details TBA
  - 26.11.2021 Dhoon School IQM Assessment
  - 03.12.2021 Dhoon School Christmas Fair
  - 12.12.2021 Dhoon Church Carol Service
  - 17.12.2021 Last day of term (close 3.30pm)
- This is not an exhaustive list**

**Executive Headteacher**  
Mr Maxim Kelly

**Head of School**  
Mrs Sarah Shimmin

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### Message from Mr Kelly

It has been a fantastic first month of the school year at Dhoon! I'm really pleased with how well all of our new children have settled into their classes and routines. Whenever I have walked around the classrooms to see what is going on, I have been struck at how engaged and happy the children are - their smiles tell their own stories. It has also been lovely to see our wonderful school community coming back together after all the recent C19 lockdowns and restrictions. Hopefully we can continue to build back - our mitigations remain in place to help keep us open for business and operating as safely as possible. If you'd like to see our mitigation plan and risk assessment, you'll find it on our website. In fact, I'd encourage you to head over to our website for a look: you will find loads of information including policies, correspondence and an updated calendar of events. Of course, we still have an active presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, so remember to give our socials a follow too! With best wishes as always, Mr Kelly.

### Parents' Evening

You should have received details about how to log-in to the Arbor Parent Portal - please get in touch with the school if you have not yet had this information. From 9am on Monday 4th October you will have access to our online booking system for the upcoming parents' evenings. Please log-in and choose the day and time that works for you - but be quick as they are offered on a *first come first served* basis. The system will only show you the slots that are available - they are blocked off once somebody books them! The booking system will close on Friday 8th October at 5pm. If you don't have online access you are welcome to ring the school on 861227 and ask Mrs Kelly to book you into one of our available slots.

As previously mentioned we are offering you a choice as to whether to attend an online session or a face-to-face meeting. The online meetings are on Monday 11th October and the face-to-face meetings are on Tuesday 12th October; again, it is all *first come-first served* in terms of your preferences. This is our first attempt at using an online booking service, so please bear with us. Any feedback about how it has gone, what worked well and what needs to be improved, is always welcome, and we look forward to receiving any comments to help us provide a really good service to you. The dates / times for the parents evening are:

- Monday 11th October (4pm - 7pm) - online meetings (the link will be shared on our website)
- Tuesday 12th October (4pm - 5.30pm) - face-to-face meetings in the school building.



### School Photographs

Andrew Barton will be visiting on the morning of Thursday 7th 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, Andrew will organise you and make sure that the photographs are taken in the groupings that you want. During the morning he will work his way through each class taking individual, sibling and class photos. Proofs / purchasing details will follow.

### Beetle Drive Evening

We are holding a Beetle Drive in the Hall on Friday 15th October at 6:30pm and would very much like you to join us for what promises to be a fun filled family event. Tickets will be available on the door and are priced at £2 for adults and £1 for children. We are very grateful to Mrs Cleator for her help in organising the evening and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. Donations for general raffle prizes will be gratefully received and these can be brought along on the night or sent in to the school office during the week.

From Wednesday 6th October tickets will be available for our Basket of Booze raffle. If you have a bottle of something to donate, please drop it off in the school office. Tickets will be £5 a go and we'll draw the winner at the Beetle Drive. This is always a lovely, informal, fun evening, and we hope to be able to repeat that success again! Thank you.

### Author Visit

Children's author Peter J Murray will be visiting Dhoon School on 11th October to work with each class to inspire their writing. Peter will be sharing his latest story, "Poppy Warrior" with the children during the day and will have copies of his book available to buy for anyone interested... details to follow.



On Wednesday 6th October Nigel Cretney from Dhoon Church will lead an assembly for the children to celebrate harvest time. Children are invited to bring a small item of non-perishable food which we will donate to the food bank. Parents / grandparents are welcome to join us for this short assembly from 10.15am.

If you've given Manx Care consent your child will receive a nasal flu vaccine on Friday 8th October. Manx Care will not vaccinate any child without parental consent.

You should have received your latest "Parents Information Sheet" which details what your children will be learning in school this term. Do get in touch if you've not received yours!



### Hop Tu Naa Day

On the last Friday of this half-term (22nd October) the children can come to school dressed up for Hop Tu Naa. We recognise the Manx tradition, not Halloween, and as such we don't encourage really scary or gory costumes. Witches, black cats & skeletons are much more suitable for school. There is no charge, it's just for fun, and we'll organise some Hop Tu Naa activities for the children too, including our KS2 Conker Championships!

