



# Dhoon Primary School

'Curiosity, Independence, Determination, Creativity, Collaboration'



**NEWSLETTER**  
**NOVEMBER 2020**

**Executive Headteacher**  
Mr Maxim Kelly

**Head of School**  
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## Dates for your diary...

- 06.11.20** School Council Bonfire Disco
  - 08.11.20** Maughold Church Remembrance Service
  - 11.11.20** Remembrance Assembly
  - 04.12.20** Christmas Fair
  - 11.12.20** Christmas Dinner Day  
Details below
  - 11.12.20** School Council Film Night  
Details below
  - 13.12.20** Dhoon Church Carol Service  
details to follow
  - 14.12.20** Christmas Concerts (PM / Eve)  
Details to follow
- Not an exhaustive list!**

## Message from Mr Kelly

I hope that you all had an enjoyable half term break and would like to welcome back all of our pupils and families for what we know will be a very busy and fun-filled half term at Dhoon. In the week before half-term we all had tremendous fun celebrating Hop Tu Naa, with many of the children coming to school on the final Friday wearing fantastically spooky costumes and we also enjoyed some great 'apple bobbing' and other traditional activities! As part of our celebrations we held our Annual Conker Tournament and we are pleased to announce that this year's Dhoon School Conker Champion is Sebastian Iveagh.

On Sunday, Lucy Ballard and Mr Kelly will represent the school at the Maughold Church Service. This will be followed with a Remembrance Assembly on Wednesday 11th November in the school for all of the pupils. We are trying something a bit different this year. Instead of inviting parents and the community into school for a formal service, we are holding a shorter Act of Remembrance just for the pupils and staff which will be led by Nigel Cretney from Dhoon School. After the Act of Remembrance, Nigel will work with Class 3 delivering a session which explores some of the key themes of Remembrance in greater depth. We hope this new way of marking Remembrance is a more age-appropriate experience for our pupils. **Dhoon School Remembers.**

And finally for now, there is a distinctly seasonal and festive tone to this newsletter, which can mean only one thing....Blink and it's Christmas! I've tried to include as many dates as possible for what is always an extra busy time of year. The usual Dhoon School traditions will also apply, with December being Christmas Jumper month, meaning that from Tuesday 1st, the children will be allowed to wear Christmas Jumpers to school for the remainder of the term. The usual school trousers, skirts and shoes still apply until the last week of term which will be a complete non-uniform week! As always, any questions or queries, then please do get in touch.

Mr Kelly, Executive Headteacher

## Christmas lunch

We will serve a Christmas Lunch on Friday 11th December to all children who usually have a school dinner. If your child doesn't usually have school dinner but would like a Christmas lunch, please send an email to the school by Tuesday 1st December. Payment of £2.35 can be made on ParentPay or by cash / cheque before the end of term.

## Christmas Concert

This half-term the staff and the children will be busy preparing for our annual Christmas Concert. I thought you'd appreciate knowing now the dates of our performances – we intend to hold an afternoon performance on **Monday 14th December (2pm)**, and an evening performance, again on **Monday 14th December (7pm)**. Like last year we will not be making the concerts ticketed events and we are confident that we can accommodate all guests who turn up at the door. However, we are continuing with our usual request that younger children, toddlers and babies are not brought to the evening performance. Further details will be sent out in due course, but at least everyone now has the date for their diaries!

## Christmas Film Night

To give working parents an extra opportunity to do a bit of last minute shopping / peace & quiet, Dhoon School Council is offering a special service on Friday 11th December. Films will be shown complete with snacks, and this will run from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. Further details about this will be sent in due course with information about how to sign your child up for this.

## Christmas Fair

The Dhoon School Annual Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 4th December straight after school. There will be the usual mix of fun and games - hope to see you there.

## School Website Revamp

The school has recently completed an overhaul of the official website. This has included cleaning up some of the navigation and organisational aspects as well as updating some of the key content. You will now find an online calendar on the homepage with all the key dates and additional information about the various events. We have a comprehensive section on COVID19 which includes all of our risk assessments and plans, and the new Remote Learning section details our contingency plans for education should anything COVID related come along again in the future. We've also left our home-learning offer from the original lockdown available as an archived resource. Check it out at **dhoon.sch.im**

## Daffodil Competition

Garff Commissioners will be planting Daffodil bulbs with all pupils on 19th November for this year's competition. Good luck!



## Remote Learning Contingency Plans

We live in uncertain times - the threat of COVID19 to our way of life and the way we educate children remains high. We have developed robust contingency plans to enable remote learning should we find ourselves in a position where we have to close our school, fully or partially, or if you find that you need to isolate your child due to COVID19.

We have produced two strands in our contingencies: "Plan A" which is how we intend to ensure that your child's education can continue uninterrupted if they have to self-isolate or isolate with their household. In this scenario, Dhoon School remains open and all the other pupils and teachers are still at school as normal: it is your child(ren) absenting themselves from the school.

**4 SCHEDULE**  
The link will also contain a suggested daily timetable, including reference to the learning activities provided, but also ideas for breaks, reading and exercise.

**3 ACCESS**  
The link will enable your child to access two week's worth of activities planned by their teacher and linked to core skills for their current class.

**2 LINK**  
Once it is confirmed that your child is self-isolating (although not as a result of non-essential travel) a link to an online learning package will be provided.

**1 NOTIFY**  
As soon as you are aware that your child has to self-isolate, contact the school and let us know.

**laxey.sch.im** ● **dhoon.sch.im**

**5 LEARNING**  
As soon as your child accesses the learning activities and suggested timetable from our link, they can begin taking part in their learning.

**6 CONTACT**  
Use your teacher's google email address to send through any questions, queries and/or examples of completed work

**7 FEEDBACK**  
Your child's teacher will be busy working with their class back in school, but will check their google email every couple of days to see how your child is getting on and to offer feedback.

**8 RETURN**  
Once your child's period of self-isolation is over they may return to school. Obviously they will have missed the day-to-day experience but their learning will not have stopped.

The other strand in our contingencies is "Plan B" which outlines how we intend to deliver education remotely in the event of a full school closure, or a partial closure where particular classes or year groups are asked not to attend.

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>As soon as school is closed, or becomes closed for a particular class or year group, live online Zoom lessons will begin for all pupils affected.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Live online lessons will be scheduled for all affected pupils every school day during a closure. Where there are multiple classes or year groups affected, the live lessons will take place over the course of the day one after another.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Teachers have already shared their Google email addresses with pupils &amp; families, and will monitor these during any school closure to deal with queries and to offer feedback on work which has been completed.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>A cycle of weekly phone-calls would begin immediately. Vulnerable families can expect phone contact in the first week of closure; SEN pupils in the second week; all parents/families in the third week; and all pupils in the fourth.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>In addition to the live online lessons, home-learning activities will be available on the school website. These activities will be specific for the class or year groups affected and will go live within 24 hours of any closure.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>A daily video message will be recorded by the teacher which will direct pupils towards identified activities on the home-learning grids. These messages will also include some helpful instruction / input to help your child complete the activities independently.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Our school website will remain updated with home-learning activities, a resource bank, letters and important documents. You can already find and download our emergency plan; COVID risk assessment; and our Zoom information pack.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>And you can expect the same special touches that we developed during the original lockdown closures such as an active social media presence, video messages from the Headteacher, online assemblies, wellbeing checks and frequent communication.</p>

At the end of last half-term we held a live webinar for our parents where we shared and explained all of our contingency plans. A re-watch of the webinar can be viewed on our website, together with high resolution versions of our planning documents at [dhoon.sch.im](https://dhoon.sch.im) > **Remote Learning** > **Remote Learning Contingency Plans 2020 - 2021**