

Dhoon School News

July 2026



150 Summers at Dhoon School!

As we reach the end of our summer term, it is humbling to reflect on the fact that we are also coming to the end of the 150th year at Dhoon School!

That is quite a landmark in our history, and one which I am pleased to say has been marked with another busy, successful year.

Our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience, whether in the classroom, through sport, music, creative arts, educational visits or community events.



Their achievements are a testament not only to their hard work, and that of the team at the school, but also to our proud, longstanding tradition of exceptional support, enthusiasm and collaboration from our school community, something which we never take for granted and for which we are all so grateful - thank you.

You can read about some of the things that have been happening in school to celebrate our anniversary, as well as see some of our usual wide range of activities and learning.

On behalf of everyone at Dhoon School, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I wish all our pupils, families, staff and friends of the school a happy, restful and safe summer holiday.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for the next chapter in Dhoon's story.

CURIOSITY

INDEPENDENCE

CREATIVITY

DETERMINATION

COLLABORATION

Celebrating our 150th Anniversary!

We have thoroughly enjoyed making the most of our 150th anniversary this term! From a Victorian Dress Down Day to theme weeks and tea parties, it has been lots of fun looking into the past and seeing how school might have looked for those who attended all those years ago.

Each class has delved into our history, looking at Victorian life in our school and beyond. Here is just a selection of some of the excellent learning and celebration we have enjoyed!

To mark the 150th year of Dhoon School, **we held a small celebration in the school hall on Friday afternoon (10th July)**, where there was a display of artefacts, a presentation of our special celebration video, as well as refreshments, and we were delighted to be joined by pupils past and present, as well as Captain of the Parish Mrs Christian and the Minister for Education Mrs Caine.



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Choir Performs at Manx Music Festival



Our fabulous choir performed recently at the Manx Music Festival, singing alongside choirs from many other Isle of Man schools. It was a special event and a special performance from our singers - who, in a very strong field, impressed the judges enough to secure first prize!

Enormous congratulations to the choir, and thanks as ever to Mrs. Shimmin for her hard work in training and inspiring our children to ever greater heights!

Year 6 and the Crucial Crew!

Our Year 6 pupils recently attended the annual Crucial Crew event, joining children from schools across the Island for a day of practical learning and important life lessons as they get ready to move into the next stage of their education.

Through a range of interactive workshops led by emergency services and specialist organisations, pupils developed their understanding of personal safety, wellbeing and the responsibilities that come with growing independence.



As they prepare for the exciting transition to secondary school, the children represented Dhoon School superbly, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm and a keen willingness to learn - in fact, just the kind of things that will help them go on to great success in their new classes!

Millennium Football Tournament



On a sunny Saturday morning last month it was the Millennium Football Tournament, and our team put in a performance to be proud of! As usual, the competition was fierce and the atmosphere electric! Our fantastic footballers showed not only some serious soccer skills, but also the kind of qualities that exemplify the children of Dhoon School.

In each match the squad showed great determination and teamwork, playing to the final whistle and giving their all, supporting each other and never letting their heads drop, even when the going got tough. Win, lose or draw, they proved to be a terrific team - very well done to all of the players and, of course, Coach Kennaugh!

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Dhoon School Governors

Just a little update on our list of school governors, following our recent parent governor election. The full list of our school governors is;

Education Council Member	Andres Centellas (Chair)
Co-opted Community Governor	Mark Harvey
Parent Governor	Kezia Sproule-Caine
Teacher Governor	Ellen Gower-Jackson

LifePath Day for Year 5



Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a memorable and enriching day at 'LifePath', taking part in a variety of interactive activities that brought local history and heritage to life.

Through drama, storytelling and hands-on workshops, the children explored the lives and experiences of people from the past, reflecting on the choices they made and the values that guided them. 'LifePath' is designed to encourage pupils to think about their own journeys through life while developing their understanding of history, community and personal responsibility.

The children approached every activity wholeheartedly, asking thoughtful questions and fully immersing themselves in the experience. The day provided a great opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, deepen historical understanding and reflect on the importance of kindness, perseverance and supporting your community.

School Reports Issued

School reports have been sent home for you this week - they look a bit different this year, but I do hope that you find them informative and helpful.

Just a reminder that there are two copies in each envelope. I would be very grateful if one could be signed and returned to the school, so we can add it to our records in the school office.

Dhoon School



Curiosity

Independence

Determination

Creativity

Collaboration

Happiness

Thriving as confident, creative and independent learners.

We provide a calm, caring environment where children feel safe, valued and ready to learn. A rich curriculum, including the arts and PSHE, is designed to support wellbeing, positive relationships and the enjoyment of learning.



Ambition

Aiming high and taking pride in our learning.

Our carefully sequenced curriculum helps children build knowledge and skills over time while developing a clear understanding of their own progress and next steps. Through challenge, reflection and high expectations, pupils learn to take ownership of their learning and aspire to achieve their personal best.

Belonging

Connected to our community, our island, & the wider world.

We ensure our class topics make links to our Manx context, to help children understand their place in the local community and beyond. Through learning about our Manx heritage, local environment and wider world, pupils develop a sense of identity, responsibility and connection.



OUR FULL CURRICULUM IS AVAILABLE TO SEE ON OUR WEBSITE: [DHOON.SCH.IM](https://dhoon.sch.im)

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Our Whole School Day Out - Dhoon Arboretum

As part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations, the whole school will be taking a special trip to Dhoon Arboretum next Thursday (16th July). This promises to be a wonderful way for pupils, staff and friends of the school to come together and celebrate this significant milestone in our history.

A highlight of the day will be the planting of a commemorative tree, kindly led by our friends from the Commissioners, creating a lasting legacy that will mark our 150th year for generations to come. Just as Dhoon School has grown and flourished over the past century and a half, we hope this tree will stand as a symbol of our enduring connection to the local community and our hopes for the future.

Alongside the tree planting, pupils will enjoy a range of fun games and outdoor activities, making the most of the beautiful surroundings of the Arboretum. We are looking forward to a day of celebration, reflection and community spirit as we continue to honour 150 years of learning, friendship and achievement at Dhoon School.

Dhoon Children Performing at Parish Day

Maughold community Parish Day is taking place on Saturday 18th July on Maughold Green! There are lots of family activities including fancy dress, sports for children and adults, and fun competitions.

Children are also invited to take part in a creative activity linked to the 150th anniversary of Dhoon School by colouring or making a picture of a Victorian structure - the Albert Tower, the Ramsey Swing Bridge....

And I'm delighted to say, pupils from our school will also be performing at the event!

Our External Validation

A huge thankyou to everyone who was able to take part in our External Validation process earlier this term. Whether you were caught by the validation team on the playground or in one of the groups talking more formally during the day, it was terrific to see people getting involved.

We are really looking forward to sharing the outcomes with you soon - as soon as I receive the final 'write-up', I will send it out for you all!

**ENJOY THE
SUMMER**

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