



Jurby Community School

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Believe it; Achieve it



Welcome to Jurby Community School

It was lovely to see everybody return to school today and to welcome all the new children to our school. I hope that this year will prove to be less disruptive than last year and we have already set dates for many of the key events of the year. A copy of these are attached to the letter, and they can also be found on our website and Facebook page.

Health Precautions

As an Island we are now in a 'learning to live with Covid' phase. This means that the level of Covid on our Island is likely to go up and down throughout the year. As a school we will be following the guidance and recommendations that have been developed by Public Health, and I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the frequently asked questions that formed part of the Courier 'wrap' last week.

In summary we will be:-

Ensuring that children (and adults) wash their hands whenever they enter the building.

Following the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it approach. We will be ensuring that children make good use of tissues and that these are disposed of appropriately.

Increased ventilation in all our rooms. We know that fresh air play a big part in reducing the spread of Covid and will need to try and balance this with the overall temperature in the rooms as winter approaches. Your child may well find that they need their jumper, cardigan or hoodie a little sooner than normal in school.

Ensure a high level of cleaning takes place during the day and after school each day.

If at any time your child develops COVID symptoms please seek medical advice and don't send them into school until they have tested negative.

If any child or adult develops symptoms whilst they are at school we will immediately contact you and ask that they are collected and that you seek, and follow, medical advice.

If your child tests positive, they will need to self isolate for 10 days, and we would ask that you let school know. This will enable the school to monitor the level of positive cases and obtain further advice from Public Health around additional measures that may be needed if we have a spike in case in our school e.g. reducing contact between classes, asking visiting teachers and other professionals not to attend the school etc.

If your child wishes to wear a mask at any time in school, or during school activities e.g. on the swimming bus, then they are, of course, most welcome to do so. There is however no legal requirement for them to do so, it is a personal choice for you and your child.

As we enter the winter period there is always an increase in coughs, colds, and general bugs. As always if your child is not well, then the best place for them is at home. Children must not attend school for 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or sickness.

Wellies

We are planning on continuing to make use of our field at lunchtimes, as it gives the children much more space to play. In order to be able to continue with this during the winter we would like children to bring to school a pair of wellies or similar, that they can put on at lunchtime when they go on to the field. In addition if your child walks to school and wants to wear wellies when it is wet, that is of course fine, but please remember to send their normal shoes in with them for them to change into when they arrive.

P.E. and Swimming.

Please can you make sure that your child has their P.E. Kit in school every day. (House coloured t-shirt, shorts, socks and pumps or trainers.) We will be continuing with our Mile a Day initiative on the field when it is dry and on the Parade Ground when the field is very wet and muddy.

Swimming starts on Tuesday for children in Mrs Radcliffe's and Mrs Cranmer's Classes. Children with long hair, or a fringe that is at eye level or below will need a swimming hat. Whilst we understand that occasionally this may be forgotten, the pool have a very limited number to borrow, and if your child does not have a hat, and needs one, they will not be able to swim. Girls will need a one piece costume, and boys tight fitting trunks. Baggy swimming shorts are not allowed.

Communication

Two way communication is vital for our school to be successful, and there are a number of different methods that we employ.

Text Messages - We have a text service which we use to send out brief reminders. This can also be used for you to inform us if your child is ill. If you have not asked to join this service please speak to Mrs Patterson in the office.

Facebook - We have a school Facebook page which we use to share information and news. This page is not monitored around the clock, so should not be used to pass on time sensitive messages e.g. changes to pick up arrangements.

Website - The school website contains more detailed information about our school including some of our school policies. We try to always make a post on our Facebook page when we update our website.

The most effective form of communication though is face to face. Teachers are available in the playground every day at 8.55am if you need a quick chat, and we would encourage you to talk to us if you have any worries or concerns sooner rather than later. If you think this will take more than a couple of minutes then ask if you can arrange a time to meet for longer. If you don't drop your child at school, please ring Mrs Patterson and arrange a mutually convenient time when your child's teacher can give you a ring. This might not be possible the same day but we will contact you as soon as we can.

If your child is ill or injured at school it is of course vital that we can get in contact with you or a family member immediately. We will be sending home separately from this letter a copy of the contact information that we hold. Please take a couple of minutes to check that it is all accurate and up to date.

Occasionally there are changes to family circumstances, or events take place, that may have an impact on your child. If something has happened, or is happening at home which could impact your child it is always helpful if we know. We will of course keep this information confidential and only share it with adults who work directly with your child on a regular basis.

Homework

Children in Mrs Cranmer's and Mrs Radcliffe's classes will be given a piece of literacy or numeracy homework each week on a Friday, which should be brought back in by the following Wednesday. This work should help them to consolidate that week's learning, and most of the children should be able to complete it within 30 minutes with little help or support. In addition any opportunity to practise and reinforce times tables knowledge will always help with their overall maths learning. Occasionally the children may also be given an extended piece of topic based work to complete.

Children in Miss Dennett's and Miss Lace's classes will be given a piece of homework every three weeks. This will be a practical open ended task linked to their learning, and we hope will provide an opportunity for you to find out a little bit more about what your child is learning. Children in Miss Dennett's class will also be given a weekly activity linked to the phonics words that they are learning.

As a school we understand that from time to time special events are happening at home and that there might not be time that week to complete the homework. If this is the case, please just let your child's teacher know, so they know not to ask your child for their homework.

Breakfast Club and the start and end of the day

Breakfast Club starts at 8.10am (not before), and runs on a 'just come along' basis. Some children attend every day, some only on certain days each week, and some just every now and again. The cost is 80p a day and can be paid daily, weekly, or half termly. If you have any questions about payment just ask Mrs Patterson.

From 8.50am a member of staff will be outside in the playground to supervise the children, and by 8.55am most of them will be outside. This is an ideal opportunity for a quick chat with your child's teacher if you have any messages to pass on. All children should wait in the playground until the bell goes at 9.00am, when they can line up with the rest of their class ready to go in. We would ask that parents do not bring their child into school directly, as it helps the children to develop independence if they come in with their teachers and friends rather than their parent.

If your child arrives late they should use their classroom's outside door to come into school, rather than the main entrance.

At the end of the day all children will be dismissed from their classrooms. Children in Miss Dennett's and Miss Lace's classes will be together every afternoon and will be dismissed from Miss Lace's room. This is the classroom with the blue metal fence at its entrance. Our younger children will not be allowed to go until an adult comes to collect them.

Harvest Festival, Awards Night and Art Exhibition

We plan to hold a joint Harvest Festival, Awards Night and Art Exhibition, starting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 29th September. Further details about this event will be sent home shortly, but we hope that many of you will be able to come along to this event. We plan to involve the children from Year 1 to Year 6 in the evening, and will of course be inviting back the Year 7 children who have started at RGS today. We feel that it will be a little too soon to involve our new Reception children in the events on the night, although they will be made most welcome if they do come along.