



*"Learning is a journey, to be taken together, one step at a time"*



**Onchan Primary School**  
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD  
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## Autumn 1 Newsletter – Foundation Stage

### Dates for your Diary

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September – INSET Days

10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September – Part-time for FS

14<sup>th</sup> September – Full-time for FS

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September – School Photos

21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September – Book Fair Week

5<sup>th</sup> October – Meet the Teacher

5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October – Walk to School Week

23<sup>rd</sup> October – Half-Term Break

### Welcome to Foundation Stage!

We hope you have all had a lovely Summer and are looking forward to your children starting their learning journey with us at Onchan School.

We have been really impressed with how well the children have settled into school life and we are really enjoying getting to know them. We have been spending time observing and chatting to your children and finding out all about their interests.

### The Foundation Stage Team

The Foundation Stage team consists of class teachers, Miss Cubbon (Penguins) and Mrs Bell (Lions), along with support staff Mrs Bird, Mrs Watterson and Mr Watterson.

Mrs Richardson and Mrs Cullen will be covering some PPA sessions throughout the year, as well as Andy from MSR.

### Snack

Your child will be provided a healthy snack and the choice of milk or water. Throughout the year the children will have the opportunity to accompany Mrs Bird and Mrs Watterson to Shoprite to buy the snack. This is extremely beneficial to the children, as they will learn about money, weight, road safety and lots more!

Snack costs £15 per half term and we kindly ask for this to be paid in cash to a member of the team. We would really appreciate it if this could be paid in a named envelope.

### Onchan School Website

Make sure to keep an eye on our school website <https://onchan.sch.im/> as we will be regularly updating our page with newsletters/blog posts and photos of your children's learning journey!

### Class Dojo

We will be using Class Dojo as both a reward system for the children and as a way to share messages/reminders to parents/guardians.

We ask that if you have any queries, to speak to the class teacher in the morning or afternoon. Alternatively you can send an email to the school office: [onchanenquiries@sch.im](mailto:onchanenquiries@sch.im) and our Administration staff will forward this to the team.

### We are always looking for...

Any art and craft supplies eg. cardboard boxes, tubes, bottles, wallpaper etc.

Any old blankets, bed sheets, material etc, that can be used for den building outside.

### Learning Language & Learning Powers

Your child will soon come home talking about our Learning Powers and using our Learning Language.

Our Learning Powers are six different characters representing the 6Rs (taken from the Island's Essentials for Learning curriculum). The Learning Language links in with each character. It always amazes us at how quickly the children learn this language and start using it in their day-to-day tasks.

You will find a copy of our Learning Powers on our school website.





Isle of Man Department of Education

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### Topic

The first few weeks will be spent getting to know your children and learning about our class animals (Penguins and Lions).

For the rest of the half-term we will be learning all about Kenya in Africa. The children will be finding out where Kenya and Africa are on a map and will be thinking about all of the different ways we could get there. They will be learning all about animals that live in the African Savannah and what it's like there. They will also be finding out what it's like to be a child living in the Maasai Tribe. We will be looking at how Mud Huts are built and may even try to make some of our own!

If you have any books at home about Africa please feel free to send these into school with your children.

We aim to foster a love of learning and feel the best way to achieve this is by following the interest of the children. Therefore, learning will follow a number of routes this half term, as we are guided by the children.

### Phonics Learning Logs

We will soon be sending home a Phonics Learning Log with your child, to support phonics learning. Inside the learning log you will find a letter that explains this.

For past parents, this will be replacing the little blue 'sound and sight word' book, as these will now be incorporated in the Phonics Learning Log.

The way we are going to be teaching Phonics is changing this year. Over Lockdown, a number of staff completed a Phonics Training Course and using this knowledge combined with our experience we have decided to adapt how we teach Phonics. Phonics will still be taught daily within classes and will focus on 2 sounds per week. Each sound will have two sessions devoted to it. The first will be a reading focus and the second a writing focus (including formation and handwriting). The theory underpinning this is that this way the children will embed the knowledge they have gained and use it throughout other subjects within school. Phonics Learning Logs will be coming home weekly with a variety of activities for you to complete with your child.

### Reading Books in Foundation Stage

This year we have decided that all children will start bringing reading books home at October half-term. This will give the children time to get used to phonics lessons in school and the Phonics Learning Log routine.

### Outdoor Area

We have revamped our Foundation Stage Outdoor Area over the Summer Holidays and have loved seeing the children enjoying this! We have been through all of the rules for outside and the children are already learning how to follow these. When we are confident that the children know how to play safely outside, we will be allowing them to access the area during learning time, to work on tasks. 4 children from each class will be allowed out at one time, and they must wear a yellow band. Adults in FS will be regularly swapping these over and making sure the children are focussed on the activities that are outside.

**If you have any questions please feel free to pop in and speak to a member of the Foundation Stage team.**

**Many thanks,  
Miss Cubbon, Mrs Bell, Mrs Bird, Mrs Watterson  
& Mr Watterson**