



"Inspiring minds to ignite lifelong learning"



Onchan Primary School
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD
email: OnchanEnquiries@Sch.im
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Autumn 1 Newsletter – Reception

Key Dates for your Diary

Thursday 4th September – FS Children start

Tuesday 21st October – Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 17th September – Reception Photos

Wednesday 22nd October – Molly Quirk's Glen Trip

Thursday 2nd October – Flu vaccinations

Friday 24th October – Break up for half-term

Wednesday 15th October – Rock Kidz

Welcome to Foundation Stage!

We hope you have all had a lovely summer and are enjoying seeing your children settle into school life so far. We have been really impressed with how well the children are finding their feet and we are enjoying getting to know each of them. Over the past couple of weeks, we have spent time observing and chatting with your children to learn all about their interests and what excites them about learning.

The Foundation Stage Team

This year, our Foundation Stage team is made up of Miss Diack (Owl Class) and Mr Jones (Penguin Class). Classes are supported by Miss Kirk, Miss Dale and, Mrs Cowin. We are also delighted to have Miss Sullivan joining us as a student teacher and Mr Clegg, who will also be supporting in class.

Throughout the year, Miss Wooding (Teacher) will be covering PPA sessions, along with Andy from MSR.

Topic

Over the first few weeks, we have been learning about our class animals (Owls and Penguins) as well as exploring Ourselves – our likes and dislikes, what makes us unique, and our families. Next, we will be looking more closely at our feelings before finishing the half term with our Harvest topic, exploring seasonal changes and how people celebrate this time of year.

Snack

Your child will be provided with a healthy snack, along with the choice of milk or water. Throughout the year, the children will have the opportunity to accompany Miss Kirk and Miss Dale to Tesco to buy the snack for the following week. The children will then help to prepare the snack for that day. This is extremely beneficial, as it helps children learn about money, weight, road safety and many other important life skills!

The cost of snack is **£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 payments could be sent in a named envelope.

Onchan School Values
Compassion - Integrity - Endeavour - Courage - Respect



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Phonics Learning Logs

We will soon be sending home a Phonics Learning Log with your child to support their phonics learning. Inside the learning log, you will find a letter explaining how it works.

Phonics is taught daily in class and focuses on two sounds per week. Each sound has two dedicated sessions: the first focuses on reading, and the second on writing, including formation and handwriting. Phonics Learning Logs will be sent home every Friday with the two new sounds, so you can practise these with your child whenever you have a spare moment. We will then collect the logs the following Thursday and check them with the children.

Reading Books in Foundation Stage

Children will start bringing Lilac reading books home in the next couple of weeks. Lilac books have no words, encouraging young children to tell their own stories.

Sharing wordless books is a fantastic way to build important literacy skills, including listening, vocabulary, comprehension, and an increased awareness of how stories are structured, as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle, end format.

We will change the books at the start of every week so please make sure they are in your child's book bag. The reading record is where we will note how your child read that day. Please try to read with your child as much as possible at home. We understand this can be tricky with busy routines, but even short, regular sessions make a big difference to their learning and enjoyment of stories.

PE Kits

Reception will have PE lessons on Thursday. Your child will need both an indoor and an outdoor PE kit in school, which will be sent home at the end of each half term. Please ensure that long hair is tied up and earrings are removed before your child comes to school on PE days.

Outdoor Learning

We are delighted with our Outdoor Learning Area and incorporate it into our teaching as much as possible. Every Tuesday, Reception, will use the outdoor space to further develop team building, resilience and life skills. On these days, children should come into school wearing clothes - including a suitable coat - that can get muddy! No school uniform is needed for Reception on Tuesdays.

If your child does not yet have a pair of wellies in school, please send them in as soon as possible so they are ready for our outdoor learning sessions.

Molly Quirk's Glen Trip

On Wednesday 22nd October, the children will take part in their first school trip to Molly Quirk's Glen. This visit will support our exploration of autumn, allowing the children to explore a local area during seasonal change and use their senses to notice colours, sounds, textures and smells in nature. We will leave school shortly after the morning register and will return in time for lunch time. Children should come to school wearing their outdoor clothing. Parents are not required to attend this visit. Further information will be shared closer to the time.

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Tapestry

You will shortly be receiving an email with a link to the Tapestry page, where you can access your child's individual learning journey. This is where we will capture some of the special learning experiences your child has completed. You can also like, comment and upload your own posts to your child's profile.

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 child's learning journey!

Home-School Communications

If you have any queries or need to record absences, please email the school office at **onchanEnquiries@sch.im** and they will pass on any relevant information. If you require a more in-depth chat, please see your class teacher to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

If you have any questions,
please feel free to pop in and speak to a member
of the Foundation Stage Team 😊