



"Inspiring minds to ignite lifelong learning"



Onchan Primary School
School Road, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4PD

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Autumn 2 Newsletter – Reception

Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd November – Return to school

Thursday 6th November – School Disco

Wednesday 12th November – School Nurse Visit

Monday 8th December – FS Xmas Performance PM

Tuesday 9th December – FS Xmas Performance AM

Thursday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 16th December – FS Xmas Party Day

Wednesday 17th December – Xmas Stay & Play

Thursday 18th December – Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 19th December – Break up for Christmas

Welcome Back!

We hope you have all had a lovely half term break and a *spooktactual* Hop-Tu-Naa if you celebrated it. We are excited to welcome the children back, who are sure to enjoy a fun-filled half term in school as we head towards Christmas.

Our team remains the same and as follows: Miss Diack (Owl Class) and Mr Jones (Penguin Class). Classes are supported by Miss Kirk, Miss Dale, and Mrs Cowin. We are also lucky to have Miss Sullivan with us as a student teacher and Mr Clegg as a student support member. Miss Wooding (teacher) will be covering PPA sessions throughout the year, as well as Andy from MSR.

Topic

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be exploring Bonfire Night and the colourful celebration of Diwali. As part of this, we will be learning about how to stay safe around fireworks and bonfires, helping the children understand how to enjoy the celebrations safely. We will then be blasting off into our Space topic before finishing the term by embracing the magic and joy of all things Christmas, with plenty of festive fun along the way.

Snack

Your child will be provided with a healthy snack and a choice of milk or water. This term, we will be starting our Tesco trips to buy the weekly snack. Children who have written permission will accompany Miss Kirk and Miss Dale on a Monday to Tesco to help choose the snack for the week. The children will then help to prepare the snack for that particular day. This is extremely beneficial, as it helps the children learn about money, weight, road safety, and much 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.

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Compassion - Integrity - Endeavour - Courage - Respect



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PE Kits

Reception will continue to have PE lessons on Thursday. Your child will need both an indoor and an outdoor PE kit in school, which will be sent home with them at the end the term. Long hair needs to be tied up and earrings need to be removed before they come to school.

Outdoor Learning

As a school, we are delighted with our Outdoor Learning Area and incorporate it into our learning as much as possible. Outdoor Learning will continue to take place on a Tuesday, so Reception children will need to come to school wearing clothes that can get muddy! No school uniform is needed on a Tuesday for Reception.

If your child does not yet have a pair of wellies in school, please could these be brought in as soon as possible ready for our outdoor learning sessions to commence.

Phonics Learning Logs

Phonics is taught daily within classes, focussing on two new sounds each week. One session has a reading focus, and the second has a writing focus, including formation and handwriting. We have recently begun learning tricky words, which are words that cannot be easily decoded ('sounded out' and read). These words must be learnt by sight.

Phonics Learning Logs will be sent home each week with the two new sounds, so you can practise them at home with your child whenever you have a spare moment. Please feel free to use the space next to the new sounds to practise writing them. Phonics Learning Logs will be collected on Thursdays and checked in school with the children at the end of the week.

Reading Books in Foundation Stage

All children will now start bringing home Pink reading books. These books contain very simple text, with around 1-5 words per page. The focus is on reinforcing early phonics skills, starting with simple sounds like **s**, **a**, **t**, **p**, and blending them into basic words like 'sat' or 'pat'. Please remember that not all sounds have been taught yet, so your child may not know every word. You can support your child by helping them understand that text is read from left to right.

When reading with your child, encourage them to read the words carefully. Ask them to sound out and blend the word, e.g. **d-o-g - dog**. Over time, most words will become part of your child's sight memory, and they will be able to read them without sounding them out. On the second and third readings of a book, encourage your child to read with more pace and focus less on sounding out the letters in each word.

Books will be changed at the start of every week, so please make sure they are kept in book bags. The reading record is where we will note how your child has read that day, and we also encourage parents to write a comment about their child's reading at home. Please try and read with your child as much as you can at home, we know this can be tricky with busy routines, but even short, regular sessions make a big difference to their learning and enjoyment of stories.

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Reception Clubs

Reception children will have the opportunity to continue attending a Multi-Sports Club with Andy (MSR) on Wednesdays at lunchtime. This half term, Mrs Cowin is running a Singing Club for Reception on Mondays at lunchtime. There is no need to sign up for these clubs – children can decide each week whether they would like to attend. Normal lunch routines will not be affected.

Toothbrushing

We will be starting our Smile of Mann supervised toothbrushing programme this half term for children whose parents have given written permission. This will take place daily at school and is not intended to replace the recommended twice-daily brushing at home.

Further information about the Smile of Mann initiative can be found on the Public Health Isle of Man website, or on the Manx Care page within the Children's Dental and Oral Health Section.

Foundation Stage Christmas Performance

Please find below the dates and times for this year's Foundation Stage Christmas Performance, which will be held in the school hall:

- Monday 8th December at 2:15pm (arrival from 2:00pm)
- Tuesday 9th December at 9:30am (arrival from 9:15am)

Further information regarding tickets will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Christmas Stay and Play

On Wednesday 17th December, we would like to invite one family member per child to come along to our Christmas Stay and Play session. This is an opportunity for you to come and complete some festive craft activities and explore the learning environment. The session will run from 2pm-3pm. Please arrive via the Penguin Class door, where you will be asked to sign in. Normal school hours will not be affected. For everyone's safety, family members will leave first at the end of the session. Children will remain in class until 3:20pm to allow time to get ready for home time.

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!

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 suitable for all.

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

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