



NEWSLETTER 2 - NOVEMBER 2023

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the children are at the heart of everything we do



Welcome back and hope all the children had an enjoyable half term.

Staffing: For personal reasons, Mrs Callow has taken the decision to step down as Deputy Headteacher for the remainder of the academic year. She will remain as Reception class teacher. Mrs Wainwright has been appointed as Acting Deputy Headteacher for the remainder of this year. Mrs Edwards has begun her maternity leave and Mrs Tang has been appointed as her maternity cover.

Inauguration of the Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle: Our choir will be singing at Inauguration on Friday 3rd November. We are delighted to be involved in this historic event.

The choir also represented the school at Civic Sunday Service in September. They did St Mary's proud. Many thanks to them all for giving up their Sunday morning.

Lost Property: As weather is turning colder please ensure that coats, hats, scarves etc. are clearly labelled. Named items can be returned! All unnamed items are kept in the lost property box, which is located at the bottom of the stairs in the Year 1 and 2 area. We have noticed an increase in items without names.

Uniform Swap: As we all know, children grow at an astonishing rate, and it can be quite costly to constantly replace their uniforms. Therefore, we are delighted to continue to offer a platform for parents to exchange gently-used uniforms that their children have outgrown. This initiative not only helps to reduce waste but also provides an opportunity for families to save money. The uniform swap shop is located in the chill room. We kindly ask you to ensure that all donated uniforms are clean and in good condition and old labels taken off and re labelled so items can be returned to the new owner. Thanks to FOSMs for running this.

Morning Drop Off: Please can we ask that children are not dropped off prior to 8.30am, to ensure they are not on the yard for too long, before school opens at 8.45am. Lots of children are standing on the yard for a long time before school, getting very cold and wet.

Term Time Holidays: We are seeing a huge increase in holiday requests for term time holidays. I can authorise up to ten days absence from school, for extenuating circumstances e.g. representing a sport off island / family funerals and weddings off island. If your child's attendance is already below 80%, I will not be authorising. You can check your child's attendance on the Arbor Parent Portal. Emails will be sent out if attendance drops below 80%, even when the absences have been authorised so parents are aware of attendance %.

Parking - School Pick Up: I would like to address a concern regarding parking outside the school. We have received reports of dangerous parking practices that put our pupils at risk. I kindly request that all parents and guardians adhere to the designated parking areas and exercise caution when dropping off or picking up their children.

Also, can children and parents NOT walk through the staff car park. Staff often have to leave straight after school to attend training etc. It is not safe for people to be walking down the middle of the car park.

Sporting Success: We continue to enter as many sporting competitions as we can. We entered two teams into the Hockey Tournament and both teams

showed tremendous skill and determination, and I am proud to announce that one of the teams made it through to the finals where they finished 6th place. Congratulations to all the players and for their hard work and commitment. Many thanks to Mrs Quinn and Tim for organising the training and accompanying the children to the events.

New Fencing: The next stage of the exterior fencing is underway. When this is complete we will plant the trees which have been purchased through FOSMs.

Daffodils: The children have brought home their daffodil pot and bulb. This is for the Douglas Borough Council competition. They need to be returned to school for judging on Friday 8th March. There is a prize for the 'best' daffodil or the most creative pot. So even if your daffodil does not survive you can still enter the competition with the pot!

Parent Portal: Parents' evening appointments can now be booked via the Arbor app. Appointments are for week beginning Monday 6th November.

Poppies: Poppies will be on sale from Monday 6th November (minimum donation of 20p). There are other items for sale, such as, wrist bands / pins / stationary etc (min donation of £1) for these items. Y6 will be coming round classes everyday to sell items.

Children in Need: Every year we support this charity. Friday 17th November will be a dress down day (£1 donation is optional). Wear spots, PJs or anything else!



Class Projects: You will be receiving your class information sheets, via email, which details the class project for the term and the exciting learning your child will be doing in class. The project is framed by an enquiry question. Don't forget to check your child's class page on the school's website for photos and updates of their learning. The school blog is also updated with school news.

Admissions: I know it seems early, but if you have a child, or know anyone who has, due to start school in September 2024 please register them at the school office as soon as possible. The deadline for registering your child in Jan 2024.

Christmas Concert Dates: Dates for all concerts are on the second page.

We are not going to be issuing tickets this year as we are performing in year groups to reduce numbers, however, seats will be limited per family due to Fire Regulations in the hall. Each family will be able to have up to 4 places available per performance. We ask that families do not use more than they are allocated.

Hosanna Rock: The children will also be performing Hosanna Rock at St Mary's Church on Monday 18th December at 10.30am. All families are welcome to join us. If you can not make it the performance will be live streamed on <https://manxcatholic.org> This can be watched from around the world if you have families not on the island.

Many Thanks - Mrs Martin

DATE:	EVENT:
Monday 30th October	All PE kits brought back to school this week.
Tuesday 31st October	MSR Club - Y2/3 Tag Rugby 3.30pm - 4.15pm
Wednesday 1st November	KS2 Swimming
Thursday 2nd November and each Thursday	Badminton Club
Friday 3rd November	Inauguration of the Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle KS2 Choir singing
Monday 6th November	Parents' Evening Week - book via Arbor parent portal Poppies go on sale
Wednesday 8th November	Fun Football Festival at NSC Y2/3/4 Group watching IOM Netball team play at NSC
Tuesday 14th November	Badminton Festival at NSC
Friday 17th November	Children in Need - DRESS DOWN - £1 optional donation
Wednesday 6th December	Christmas Dinner £2.40 wear Christmas Jumpers <small>If your child normally has packed lunch a Christmas dinner will need to be ordered by Friday 1st December.</small>
Thursday 7th December	Year 6 Concert @ 10.00am OR 2.00pm
Friday 8th December	Year 4/5 Concert @ 10.00am OR 2.00pm
Wednesday 13th December	Reception Concert @ 10.00am
Thursday 14th December	Year 1/2 and 3 Concert @ 10.00am
Friday 15th December	Year 1/2 and 3 Concert @ 10.00am Reception Concert @ 2.00pm
Monday 18th December	Hosanna Rock at St Mary's Church at 10.30am Christmas Party Week Reports Home (1 of 3)
Friday 22nd December	BREAK UP
Monday 8th January	Children return to school

