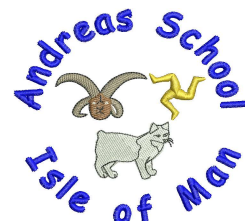




Andreas School

Andreas Village
Isle of Man, IM7 4EZ
Headteacher: Mr Will Nelson
Telephone: (01624) 880375
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Friday, 5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and managed to get a good break. The children are already enjoying learning in their new classes and when I have been around and spoken to them, they were all full of their news from the summer.

Head of School

As you will be aware Mrs Hawkins has stepped down from her role of Head of School for this academic year and has taken on the role of class teacher in Reception alongside Mrs Stewart. In July we advertised for a new Head of School but were unable to appoint. This role is currently being readvertised and I am hopeful that we will be able to appoint this time around.

In the meantime, I will be spending more time at Andreas School. I will normally be on site at Andreas all day Monday, Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning, all day Thursday and Friday morning. If you wish to speak to me at any time, please just call in and if I am available, I will happily meet without the need for an appointment. Should you wish to contact me on an urgent matter when I am not at Andreas, please give me a ring at Jurby School – 897651 or ask Mrs Robinson to contact me.

Shoes

As we start back at school, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify what our rules are around footwear.

We allow the children to play on the field all year round but in order to do this, they need to have a second pair of 'shoes' to change into when they want to play on the field. In the winter months many children choose to keep a pair of wellies in school which are easy to slip on and off and keep their feet dry. In the summer some continue to wear wellies whilst others bring in a pair of trainers or similar. An alternative would be that the children use their normal school shoes when they are playing outside on the field and instead bring a pair of slippers / crocs etc to wear inside.

In summary, we ask that all children have different footwear to wear inside if they want to play on the field. We also ask that whatever the children choose to wear that they are able to put them on and take them off as independently as possible.

Holidays in term time

The rules and regulations about holidays in term time are always contentious and different people have differing views. The law says that as Headteacher I am allowed to authorise a maximum of 10 days per school year and I would ask that, unless there are significant extenuating circumstances all families ensure that they do not exceed this.

If you take a holiday in term time, please be aware that school events will continue without your child and we can't reschedule them or rearrange them to accommodate holidays. This is particularly relevant for children in Year 6 as the days and times of transition events with RGS are not within our control and are not normally arranged until a few weeks before they take place.

Communication

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

E-mail – The majority of our letters and information is sent out via E-mail. If you change your e-mail address, please let us know. E-mail is also the best method for you to pass on general information to us. Please use AndreasEnquiries@sch.im and Mrs Robinson will then pass the information on to the relevant members of staff.

Text Messages – School has a text service which we use very occasionally to pass on urgent generic information e.g. if the school is closing early due to extreme weather. Please do not reply to these text messages as we do not see the reply.

Facebook - We have a school Facebook page which we use to celebrate achievements and promote our school. If you haven't yet followed our page, please do so.

Website - The school website contains more detailed information about our school including some of our school policies and copies of our newsletters.

The most effective form of communication is face to face. Teachers are normally available at the end of the day if you need a quick chat, and we do encourage you to talk to your child's class teacher 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 pick your child up from school, please contact Mrs Robinson and arrange a mutually convenient time for your child's teacher to 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 vital that we can get in contact with you or a family member immediately. All your details can be checked using the Parent Portal on Arbor and amended directly on there. Please take a couple of minutes to check that all the information we hold on Parent Portal is 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.

Allergies - IMPORTANT!

We have some children in school with severe allergies to nuts and dairy products. Current advice is that these items should not be banned from school as this leads to a false sense of security and can put a child at risk. If your child's snack or lunch contains nuts or dairy, we ask that it is labelled as such so we can ensure children with allergies are not directly exposed to them. Please be aware that lots of plant based products contain nuts. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club restarts on Monday. It runs every day in the dining room from 8.00am and is open to all pupils at a cost of £1 a day. It is run by a team of parents on a voluntary basis and without their support it would not take place. If anybody can join the team, please get in touch. Enrolment forms are now available from the school office and need to be completed before your child attends to ensure that the fantastic volunteers running the club have up to date information about your child. Thank you.

Water bottles, uniform and kit

Please ensure your child's PE kit and uniform are all labelled. Staff are not as proficient at identifying clothing by smell as some of our pupils are! All water bottles should be clearly named so pupils can access water whenever they need it. Cups are not provided. The named PE kits should be in school every day - thin soled black pumps or trainers, shorts and a house coloured t-shirt. PE kits will be sent home half termly for washing.

Second Hand Uniform

Mrs Robinson has a great selection of good quality pre-loved school uniform we would like see re-used, including a small selection of wellies. If you need anything, please let Mrs Robinson know. They are available at a very small cost and proceeds go to school fund. Please ensure you clearly label these as well.

Swimming

Swimming starts on Friday, 12th September for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. This year there have been some changes to school swimming, with the length of the lessons extended to 45 minutes. Our school will be swimming every week from now until February half term. All children should swim unless they are ill in which case please either send in a note or e-mail Mrs Robinson.

It is essential that all children have the right swimming attire as they will not be allowed to swim otherwise. A separate email with attire and DESC expectations will be sent to all KS2 parents shortly.

Before/After School Clubs

We will be offering a before school FUNDamental Skills Club for Year 1 and Year 2 on a Wednesday. Reception pupils will be able to sign up after Christmas. Children need to be in the school hall for 8.30am. Trainers may be brought from home to be worn.

After school Sports Clubs will be offered on Thursdays and these will be used to train our teams for the half termly MSR Sports Competitions. Therefore, we will be selecting our team each time from those children who have attended the club.

Sport	Year Groups	Start date of Club	End date of Club	Date of Competition
Hockey	Y3 and Y4	10 th September	8 th October	Monday 13 th October
Badminton	Y4, Y5 and Y6	15 th October	19 th November	Tuesday 25 th November
Tag Rugby	Y2 and Y3	7 th January	4 th February	Tuesday 10 th February
Indoor Athletics	Y4, Y5 and Y6	25 th February	18 th March	Wednesday 25 th March
Kwick Cricket	Y5 and Y6	22 nd April	13 th May	Thursday 14 th May
Netball	Y4, Y5 and Y6	20 th May	17 th June	Monday 22 nd June
General Sport	Y3,Y4, Y5 and Y6	24 th June	15 th July	No Competition, just for fun.

The year groups and dates of the competitions have been set by MSR.

We will send home a couple of weeks before the club starts a registration form for each club which we will ask you to fill in and return.

Depending on numbers attending we may open the clubs up to children from other year groups. If this is the case we will send out further details at the time, but these children may not be able to take part in the actual competition.

Manx Lessons

Years 4, 5 and 6 will each have a term of Manx Language lessons. These will be on a Tuesday afternoon. Term 1 Y5, Term 2 Y6, Term 3 Y4.

Permission for the use of apps and software

A very important letter about the use of apps and software across school will be sent home shortly. Your permission is required for staff/pupils to access the apps. Please complete and return the tear-off slip as soon as possible. Thank you.

Tuck Shop

This Year 6 enterprise remains a firm favourite on Fridays at a cost of 30p. Please make sure that your child's purse or wallet is labelled.

House Teams and Fundraising

Year 5 pupils who wish to be considered as Vice House Captain need to prepare a short speech to deliver to their team on Monday 22nd September, who will then vote for their chosen candidate.

Once again the House Captains and Vice House Captains will be organising 3 fundraising events, with the money raised being donated to our school fund. The dates of these events can be found on the attached 'dates for your diary sheet', with further details sent home nearer the time.

Non-uniform days will take place on the last day of every half term. A minimum donation of £1 per child is requested and this money will be donated to our chosen charity, which the children will be choosing over the next few weeks. Please encourage your child to have a think about a charity that they might wish to nominate for selection.

Mums and Tots

This will start again next Friday, 12th September and will run from 9.30am until 11.00am in our school hall. Thank you to Emily Kneen who will continue to co-ordinator these sessions.

Dates for your diary

We have set the dates for key events for the year which are attached. Further details about some of these events will be sent home nearer the time.

Kind regards



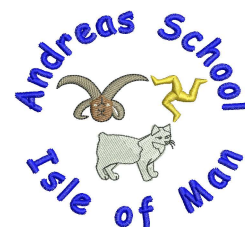
Will Nelson
Headteacher



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Dates for the Year 2025 – 2026

Autumn Term

Monday 15th September – School Photos
Saturday 27th September – Kirk Andreas Produce Show at the Parish Hall, doors open at 1.00pm
Monday 13th October – Cycle Training all week for Y5
Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October – Parents Evening
Tuesday 21st October – Harvest Festival at 2.00pm
Friday 24th October – Non uniform Day and Last Day of the Half Term
Monday 27th – Friday 31st October – Half Term
Thursday 27th November – Charity Day
Friday 12th December – Christmas Lunch
Monday 15th December – Christmas Concert at 2.00pm
Tuesday 16th December – Christmas Concert at 6.00pm
Thursday 18th December – Christmas Party
Friday 19th December - Non uniform Day and Last Day of Term

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January – First day of school
Friday 13th February – Last day of School swimming, Non uniform Day and Last Day of the Half Term
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – Half Term
Thursday 5th March – World Book Day Come to school dressed as a character from your favorite book.
Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March - Parents Evening
Friday 27th March - Charity Day
Thursday 2nd April - Non uniform Day and Last Day of Term

Summer Term

Monday 20th April – First Day of School
Monday 27th April – Friday 1st May - Y6 Venture Centre Trip
Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19th May – Sports Day
Thursday 21st May – Reserve Sports Day, Non uniform Day and Last Day of the Half Term
Friday 22nd May – Friday 5th June – TT Holiday
Monday 8th June - First day of school
Friday 3rd July – Manx Concert – A Celebration of our learning through the Manx Passport
Monday 6th July – School Closed Tynwald Day
Monday 13th July – Charity Day
Tuesday 21st July – Y6 Leavers Assembly at 2.00pm
Wednesday 22nd July – Whole School Day Out
Thursday 23rd July - Non uniform Day and Last Day of Term