



Andreas School

Andreas Village

Isle of Man, IM7 4EZ

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Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and managed to get a good break. This start of the year newsletter is quite long, but please take a few minutes to read it carefully as it contains lots of information about our school and the year ahead.

Staffing

I am pleased to be able to welcome Mrs Hawkins back into her role as Head of School on a full time basis. Also re-joining us is Mrs Phillips who will be working in our school all day Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Cottier is also back at school, teaching in Year 5 and 6. Finally Mrs Penketh and Mrs Watling are joining our school on an interim basis, Mrs Penketh will be working in the Year 5 and 6 classroom and Mrs Watling in our Reception and Year 1 class. Please do say hello to them when you see them.

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 grass 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 grass. 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 grass 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 grass. 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.

For PE the children need a pair of pumps or similar thin soled shoes that allow them to grip with their feet and 'feel' the equipment that they are using / balancing on. In the summer term for outdoor PE and Sports Day practice they will need a pair of trainers. Many children use the same trainers as they use for their regular outdoor shoes for this.



Second Hand Uniform

Mrs Robinson has a great selection of good quality pre-loved school uniform we would like see re-used. If you need anything, please let Mrs Robinson know. They are available for a small donation and proceeds go to school fund.

Are all your child's clothes named?
Is the name easy to read or has it become faint in the wash?

Please take 2 minute every week just to check. If you do, it is much more likely that a lost item will be quickly returned.

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. We will respond to general queries sent via e-mail as quickly as possible, normally within 5 working days.

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 the facility to access such is not open all the time.

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 would 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, and always within 5 working days.

If you have any questions, worries or concerns about your child, your first point of call should always be your child's class teacher. They will have the best knowledge of your child and will nearly always be able to answer your question straight away. If they are unable to help you, or if you still have concerns after you have talked to them, please talk to Mrs Hawkins. As Head of School, she is responsible for the day to day running of the school and is best placed to help solve any difficulties that you or your child are experiencing. If both the class teacher and Mrs Hawkins are unable to help, you can of course come and talk to Mr Nelson.

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 the 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.

Have any of your contact details changed?

Does dad have a new e-mail address that he looks at on a regular basis?

Did Grandma get fed up of spam calls and change her phone number?

Please make sure that we have the most up to date contact details for you and let us know if they change mid year.

You can do this quickly and easily yourself on the Parent Portal



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.

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.

Holidays in term time

Please find enclosed a copy of the school holiday dates for the next two years. Please study them carefully as there are some changes to the traditional pattern, in particular around the Christmas break.

During the school year we get many requests for holidays in term time. I fully understand that the cost of holidays is significantly cheaper during term time and that for some families if they are forced to take their annual family holiday during the school holidays, they would be unable to afford it. I also understand that others may be governed by when they are allowed to take time off from their work, or some families have relatives off Island who they wish to celebrate special occasions with and that necessitates a day or two away from school in order to get there and back.

I do ask though that you think carefully about how much time your child misses from school and at what time of the year. Missing the last couple of days of term will have far less of an impact on their learning than missing the first couple of days. In addition, missing a few days spread across the year will have less of an impact than missing two full weeks.

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.

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 everyday - thin soled black pumps or non marking trainers, shorts and a house coloured t-shirt. PE kits will be sent home half termly for washing.

Swimming - This will start on Friday 11th September for children in Miss Holland's, Miss Brindley's and Mrs Cottier's classes. Please can you make sure that your child has the correct swimming costume for these lessons and a hat if they need one. A copy of the regulations from the DESC Swimming Team is at the end of this letter. If they are not appropriately dressed then they will not be allowed to take part. This is a rule that is set by the DESC swimming team and school staff are unable to ignore it. Thank you for your support with this.

If your child is unable to swim for any reason we ask that you let us know in writing, either a note on the day given to their class teacher or an e-mail to the school office.

Earrings must be removed for swimming. If they are unable to be removed as they have only recently been fitted, then they must be covered with waterproof tape or a swimming head band.

Dates for the Year 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term

Monday 14th September – School Photos

Monday 14th September - Thursday 17th - Cycle training for Year 5

Monday 21st September Fans AGM at 2.45pm

Saturday 26th September – Kirk Andreas Produce Show at the Parish Hall, Doors Open at 1.00pm

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October – Parents Evening

Wednesday 21st October – Harvest Festival at 2.00pm

Friday 23rd October – Non uniform Day and Last Day of the Half Term

Monday 28th – Friday 30th October – Half Term

Friday 11th December - Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal at 2.00pm

Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Concert at 2.00pm

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Concert at 5.30pm

Friday 18th December – Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 22nd December - Christmas Party and Last Day of Term

Spring Term 2026

Wednesday 6th January – First day of school

Friday 29th January - Last day of school swimming

Friday 12th February – Non uniform Day and Last Day of the Half Term

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February – Half Term

Thursday 4th March – World Book Day Come to school dressed as a character from your favorite book.

Tuesday 16th March and Wednesday 17th March - Parents Evening

Thursday 25th March - Non uniform Day and Last Day of Term

Summer Term

Monday 12th April – First Day of School

Monday 26th April – Friday 30th May - Y6 Venture Centre Trip

Monday 3rd May – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 26th May – Sports Day

Thursday 27th May – Reserve Sports Day, Non uniform Day and Last Day of the Half Term

Friday 28th May – Friday 11th June – TT Holiday

Monday 14th June - First day of school

Monday 5th July – School Closed Tynwald Day

Tuesday 20th July – Y6 Leavers Assembly at 2.00pm

Wednesday 21st July – Whole School Day Out

Friday 23rd July - Non uniform Day and Last Day of Term

Further information about many of these dates will be sent out nearer the time.

Printed copies of these dates are available to pick up from the school office.

SWIMMING ATTIRE

Pupils should wear appropriate costumes for swimming that conform to safety and teaching requirements. It is important that swimming clothing is tight fitting to minimise the effect of drag in the water and to enable teachers to see the movements that limbs and joints are making in the water to ensure appropriate learning takes place. There are additional safety factors in relation to inappropriate and baggy swimwear to take into consideration which include:

- Increased drag within the water making it increasingly difficult for young people to swim
- Young people in baggy swimwear have increased buoyancy and therefore greater difficulty in swimming
- Floatation devices and woggles can get caught within baggy swimwear posing significant risk to other young people learning to swim
- Other pupils can get caught within baggy swimwear and are at a greater risk of getting into difficulty in the water as a result

Therefore appropriate clothing must be worn by ALL pupils during swim lessons:

- No baggy shorts are allowed to be worn
- Bikinis and loose clothing are not permitted
- Those children with long hair must wear swimming hats (long hair is at the discretion of the swim teacher who deems the child's safety to be at risk ie hair in eyes so child is unable to see and follow instruction safely)

*** PUPILS NOT WEARING THE APPROPRIATE CLOTHING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN THE LESSON AND WILL REMAIN ON POOLSIDE ***

Children who swim frequently, or whose eyes are susceptible to irritation, may request to use goggles for swimming. Parents should be informed of their responsibility to teach their child to put on and take off goggles in the correct and safe fashion.





School Holidays and Term Dates

	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
In-service days (closed to pupils)	<i>Monday 1st September 2025 and Tuesday 2nd September 2025</i>	<i>Tuesday 1st September 2026 and Wednesday 2nd September 2026</i>	<i>Monday 6th September 2027 and Tuesday 7th September 2027</i>
First day of term	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Thursday 3 rd September 2026	Wednesday 8 th September 2027
Half Term	Monday 27 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025	Monday 26 th October 2026 to Friday 30 th October 2026	Monday 25 th October 2027 to Friday 29 th October 2027
Last day of term	Friday 19 th December 2025	Tuesday 22 nd December 2026	Tuesday 21 st December 2027
In-service day (closed to pupils)	-	-	<i>Tuesday 4th January 2028</i>
First day of term	Monday 5 th January 2026	Wednesday 6 th January 2027	Wednesday 5 th January 2028
Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026 <i>Includes 2 days in-service for all schools to be twilighted</i>	Monday 15 th February 2027 to Friday 19 th February 2027 <i>Includes 2 days in-service for all schools to be twilighted</i>	Monday 14 th February 2028 to Friday 18 th February 2028 <i>Includes 2 days in-service for all schools to be twilighted</i>
Last day of term	Thursday 2 nd April 2026	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Friday 7 th April 2028
First day of term	Monday 20 th April 2026	Monday 12 th April 2027	Monday 24 th April 2028
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2026	Monday 3 rd May 2027	Monday 1 st May 2028
Bank Holiday	Monday 25 th May 2026	Monday 31 st May 2027	Monday 29 th May 2028
In-service day (closed to pupils)	<i>Friday 22nd May 2026</i>	<i>Friday 28th May 2027</i>	-
Half Term	Tuesday 26 th May 2026 to Friday 5 th June 2026	Tuesday 1 st June 2027 to Friday 11 th June 2027	Thursday 1 st June 2028 to Friday 9 th June 2028
Bank Holiday (Tynwald Day)	Monday 6 th July 2026	Monday 5 th July 2027	Wednesday 5 th July 2028
Last day of term	Thursday 23 rd July 2026	Friday 23 rd July 2027	Friday 21 st July 2028
	188 pupil days 5 in service days *2 days for teachers' professional development	188 pupil days 5 in service days *2 days for teachers' professional development	188 pupil days 5 in service days *2 days for teachers' professional development

*Two days for teachers to invest in their own professional development which can be utilised at any point in the academic year outside of the school session times at a time and a place of their choosing.

- **In-service day:** In-service days and twilight sessions are for staff training. **Schools are closed to pupils on these days.**
- In respect of Southern Schools, there may be a deviation in the holiday dates to accommodate the Southern 100 in July.
- **Please note that all holidays are subject to IOM Government Bank Holidays and TT Festival dates being released, therefore dates may be subject to change.**