

## Topic - As Manx as the hills...

**Essentials for Learning (E4L)** Our whole school focus for this half term is **Remembering**.

The children will be looking at how to transfer skills they have learnt, and strategies for remembering things in general. This is a particularly good life skill, especially being able to recognise that something you have done can be used in other situations.

### English:

We will be looking at writing some engaging fiction stories set in the hills, with an adventurous twist. The children will be encouraged to 'grip the reader' with interesting sentences and description. We will also be exploring how speech can bring characters to life, and how to set it out correctly when writing.

### Mathematics:

We will be focussing on multi-step problem solving, which will bring in our calculation skills. The children will be encouraged to practice these skills to help them solve problems accurately and efficiently.

The children will also be practicing using time - from simple timetables to how long events last.

### History, Geography and Citizenship:

With a focus on the Manx countryside, we will be exploring who uses the land we live on and how it is managed. We will also be looking at the island from a geological point of view, that will be enhanced by our workshop visit at the Manx Museum.

### Science:

Science will focus on electricity with lots of opportunities to explore how it is used, conductivity, safety and circuits. The children will continue to broaden their understanding of fair testing and thinking up questions to be explored.

### PE:

MSR coaching will focus on Basketball and Netball this half term, mostly indoors. Swimming lessons will take place every Friday morning.

### ICT:

We will be looking further into our Google accounts and how they can be used to work together on topics, and help us organise our work.

### RE/PSHE:

We will be looking at the SEAL unit 'All about me' taught by Mrs Ashley.

### Design Technology & Art and Design:

This half term we will have a go at some simple woodwork, improving measuring, sawing and jointing skills.

### P4C:

We will be using P4C to develop our thinking and communication skills. Being able to listen and question appropriately can significantly help across the curriculum.

### Music, Dance & Drama:

We will be using our drama skills to help us understand different peoples perspectives, role playing and acting out scenes where there are conflicts of interest.

### Visits & Visitors:

TBA - walk up Tholt-y-Will Glen to look at how the area has changed over time and how the area is used and managed by different people.  
20/3/17, 1:00-2:30 trip to Manx Museum for the geology workshop.  
21/3/17, 9:30 to 12:30: Visit to the Ayres to look at how the coastal areas are managed.

### Significant Dates and Events:

Parents' Evening - Tuesday, 14th March, 4-7pm  
Parents' Evening - Thursday, 16th March, 4-5.30pm  
Break up for Easter - Friday, 7th April  
Children back to school - Monday, 24th April

## How can I help my child at home this half term?

English	Please try to make sure that your child has completed their home reading for Guided Reading lessons. They are asked to read a relatively small amount at home each week. They should also be actively encouraged to read for enjoyment. Encourage your child to practice using joined up writing.
Maths	Maths games in the car are an excellent way to practice mental maths skills, as well as break up journeys! Play shopping games with simple amounts - I bought an apple for 47p and paid with a pound/50p, how much change would I get? Throw random tables questions around - start easy and work up. It's amazing how your own tables knowledge will improve, too! Time question - It's 2.00pm now, if it takes 35 minutes to drive to Douglas, what time should we get there? And so on. The children also have Sumdog accounts, which can be accessed at home.
General	<p>This half term will focus on how our Manx Countryside is formed and managed. We will be exploring who uses our countryside and who is responsible for it, from water management, to telecommunications. As you are out and about this half term, share your own thoughts and observations as you drive or walk around the island.</p> <p>If you are involved in countryside management in any way - farming, woodland, coastal, etc. and would like to host a visit or come into class to talk to us, please get in touch.</p>

## What is Essentials for Learning?

The Manx Curriculum and the curriculum at Andreas School is now based around the 6R's (Readiness, Relationships, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Remembering Skills and Reflectiveness). We feel it is incredibly important to equip our children with 'skills for life' rather than just factual knowledge. The knowledge, skills and attitudes that pupils will need, in the twenty-first century, are not the same as they were in the past and so school experiences need to evolve to reflect this.

Central to the design of the curriculum are the 6R's. These are dispositions which pupils need to develop in order to learn better. As a school we are developing the 6Rs so that we have:

- an explicit commitment, at all levels of the organisation, to the development of personal capabilities, alongside academic achievement
- a clear articulation of what learning means for all stakeholders
- an agreed definition of intelligence not as a fixed entity, but as capable of expansion
- provision which routinely supports the development of the 6Rs
- regular opportunities for pupils to exercise control over their own learning
- a common "vocabulary" used to discuss learning, prevalent throughout the setting
- opportunities for reflection and the evaluation of personal qualities, built into routines.

If you have any questions about this, please contact school and staff will be happy to talk to you about our provision.