

# Ashley Hill News

Monday 18th November 2024

## Mark Your Calendar

**Thu 21st Nov**

Year 6 Victorian Day

**Mon 25th Nov**

Year 3 Police Education session

**Wed 27th Nov**

Individual Photos

**Mon 2nd Dec**

Year 2 Police Education session

**Tue 3rd Dec**

Year 5&6 Dress Rehearsal

**Wed 4th Dec**

Year 6 Police Treat

Year 3&4 Dress Rehearsal (am)

Year 1&2 Dress Rehearsal (pm)

**Thu 5th Dec**

Reception Dress Rehearsal

FOAHS Movie Night

**Mon 9th - Thu 12th Dec**

Christmas Performances

**Fri 13th Dec**

Manx Family Concert for Reception & KS1

**Mon 16th Dec**

Christmas Tombola Draw

Whole School Concert at St Peter's Church (pm)

**Wed 18th Dec**

Christmas Lunch

KS2 Christmas Party

**Thu 19th Dec**

Rec / KS1 Christmas Party

It was a pleasure to see some of our children take part in the annual Remembrance services over the weekend of 9th/10th November. Children performed poems and readings and lay a wreath as part of both the Saturday and Sunday services at St Peter's Church. All involved can be proud of themselves for the part they played in this poignant event. We know the opportunity to reflect, however young or old, can be incredibly powerful. Thank you to all the children and families for supporting these events.



### Writing Competition

We were overwhelmed by the number of children who entered the Creative Writing Competition for Young Manx Authors. Created by Rob Cowley, one of our School Governors, the competition invited children to write a short story, focussing on Kindness, Friendship, Courage or Respect. Needless to say, the quality of stories entered was of the highest standard, and we were particularly pleased to hear that Ashley Hill provided the highest number of entries from island schools. Lily Taplin, Sophie Wood and Andrew Lawlor all won £25 as 'Excellent Runners Up' whilst Caoimhe O'Brien took first prize for 'Invisible Charlie', a story focussing on the theme of Kindness. Caoimhe will receive her prize at a ceremony to be announced in January. I had the pleasure in reading Caoimhe's entry in assembly last week and it had a profound impact on everyone listening - a worthy winner! Well done to all those who took part in this



competition - we hope it provides inspiration to you all to keep writing!

### Christmas Dates

You will have all received your tickets for the Christmas performances this week. Sincere thanks to Mrs Kinrade, in the school office, for administering these. A reminder that all morning performances commence at 9.30am, with afternoon shows starting at 2pm. The children are looking forward to entertaining you in the weeks to come!

### Anti-Bullying Week

Last week saw us recognise Anti-Bullying week in school. This included a whole school assembly on Tuesday where we clarified the definition of bullying and reminded everyone how we can be respectful to each other at all times. As a reminder to everyone, we define bullying as 'Intentional', 'An Imbalance of Power' and 'Ongoing'. We welcome your support in using this language at home, should you need to discuss an issue with your child. Should you wish to view our Anti-Bullying policy, please head to our school website - the policy can be found in the 'School Information' section. Additionally, if you ever have any concerns of this nature, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us in school.

### Mobile Phones

There is no doubt that, over the last few years, the age at which children are given a smartphone has dropped significantly. As a school, we understand the importance of getting in touch with your child, especially as they become more independent and are walking to and from school on their own. However, it is increasingly brought to our attention that children are using these devices inappropriately, accessing deeply inappropriate images and sometimes sending concerning messages on various online groups.

As we head rapidly towards Christmas, please consider whether your child really needs a smartphone and, certainly, if your child already has a device of this sort, please monitor their use carefully, to ensure they are accessing age appropriate applications and content.

### Laurel Avenue

It has been brought to my attention that there has been some recent 'near misses' when children have been crossing the road at Laurel Avenue. Last week, we reminded the children to Stop, Look, Listen when they are crossing roads and to ensure they cross at appropriate points, having full sight of the whole road. Please drive and park courteously in all the roads around our school, mindful that children are crossing at particularly times of the day.