

# Ashley Hill News

Tuesday 16th January 2024

## Mark Your Calendar

**Mon 15th Jan**

Year 2, 3 & 4 Cricket sessions  
(for Manx Youth Games)

**Mon 22nd Jan**

RNLI visiting Reception

**Fri 26th Jan**

FOAHS Wacky Hair Fundraiser

**Tue 30th Jan**

Ambulance visit for Reception

**Fri 9th Feb**

Netball Fixtures for Year 5/6  
at King William's College

Dress Down Day - in aid of  
Congenital Heart Defect  
Awareness Week

**Tue 13th Feb**

Year 2/3 Tag Rugby Festival  
at NSC

**Fri 16th Feb**

Break up for half term

**Mon 26th Feb**

School reopens after half  
term break

**Wed 28th Feb**

Young Engineers (STEM)  
sessions start with Year 5

**Thu 29th Feb**

FOAHS Cake Bake (cakes  
provided by Reception & Y1)

**Fri 1st March**

Dress Down Day in lieu of  
Mothers' Day shop items

**Wed 6th March**

Mothers' Day shop

**Thu 7th March**

Primary Schools' Cross  
Country Championships at  
Noble's Park

A belated Happy New Year to you all! I trust you all had a lovely festive period and are fully refreshed and excited about the year ahead. 2024 promises to be another entertaining year, full of challenges and opportunities.

### **Enrolment of new Reception intake - September 2024**

A polite reminder that if you have a child due to start with us in September 2024, please register them with us as soon as possible, ideally before the end of January. We would be most grateful if you could reiterate this message to any friends and family who you know will be commencing their education with us in Reception from September. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this.

### **Handwriting**

As the term gathers pace, I wanted to write to you to seek your support with our efforts to improve handwriting at Ashley Hill.

Last term, staff received training from Sue Smit, from Morrells Handwriting. The result of the training has encouraged us to refresh our school policy on handwriting and to input some additional strategies into our weekly timetable.

I have attached our Handwriting policy alongside this newsletter, for your interest. The majority of this policy will be applied with regular and consistent sessions within the class timetable, but you'll note from the policy that there is a short section concerning the role of Parents/Carers. We would be most grateful if you could support this effort to place greater importance on handwriting. Encouraging your child to sit appropriately whilst writing, taking pride in the work produced and using a knife and fork whilst eating a main meal are all ways in which we can ensure an appropriate pencil/pen grip and overall improvement in your child's output on the page. Should you need any further information about this policy and how you can support your child, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you, again, for your support with this.

### **Manx Youth Games**

By now, children in Year 2 to Year 6 will have received a booklet advertising the Manx Youth Games on Saturday 11th May 2024. This event is a fantastic opportunity for children in these year groups to get involved in a sport and take part alongside regional team mates. The coaching sessions for these sports commence during the week beginning Monday 22nd January and I would encourage all families to have a look at the MYG website (<https://msr.gov.im/sdu/sporting-club-manx-youth-games/>) and register for a sport your child is interested in. It would be lovely to see a

large contingent of Ashley Hill pupils taking part in the event in May!

### **FOAHS News & Events**

The FOAHS continue to plan for more exciting fundraisers in the term ahead. Please look closely at the calendar tab to keep an eye on some events coming up, starting with a Wacky Hair day on Friday 26th January. The FOAHS committee will be sending some communication out to clarify specific details for each of these events.

Whilst I am mentioning the wonderful work of our FOAHS committee, I'm delighted to announce they raised £1721 during the recent Christmas Tombola - a fantastic achievement! As you know, this money will be used to fund memorable experiences for the children, such as the Young Engineers workshops commencing on 28th February for our Year 5s. Thank you to the FOAHS for their continued hard work.

### **Isle Listen sessions**

Either side of Christmas, Isle Listen / Minds Matter have joined Key Stage 2 classes on a weekly basis to carry out workshop based learning, focusing on key areas such as relationships, emotional regulation and empathy. These workshops have been well received by all children in these year groups and it has been a pleasure to see children reflect on important areas of their development as they grow up.

This Thursday (18th January) is their final session and as a recognition of the work they have undertaken, each child will receive a certificate of completion. Lead Learners will be identified in classes and will receive an additional certificate and water bottle. These individuals will have displayed great involvement, kindness and support during the programme.

Given that it is the final session, we are inviting children to **wear a green item** on Thursday (18th January) as we continue to raise awareness of the important message of looking after your Mental Health. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Nepal link - Pahar Trust**

The final message comes directly from our Year 4 children:

*We really enjoyed creating the wonderful tea trees for you to buy. It was extremely nice to see your smiley faces pop up at our stall. We were glad to get some business experience, plus it was fun to work as a team and put in a big effort. Thank you for believing in the Pahar Trust and for all of your support that helped 'Tea Trees for Nepal' raise over £300 in total! This money will make a big difference to helping educate children in Nepal. All of Year 4 really appreciate your donations.*