

Onchan School Hub

Thursday 2nd April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am just writing a short note to keep you all updated with everything that has been happening in the Onchan School Hub.

Last week, Team B worked across the school with Mrs Richardson in charge. This week, Team A have been on duty and I have been coordinating. The children have had many different activities which have all been well planned and well received by the children all week.

As I have walked around the school this week, I have been struck by the amount of smiles and laughter from both the pupils and the staff - everyone is making the best of this unprecedented situation.

Routines are now really well established and the children are very used to washing their hands regularly and using the hand sanitiser stations around the building. The Department of Infrastructure have sent a large team of cleaning staff into the school this week and it is being deep cleaned around us. The caretaking staff have been brilliant with additional door handle wipe-downs and surface cleans throughout the day.

The weather has been largely kind to us this week - there is a bit of drizzle as I write this - but overall it has been dry enough for us to take the children outside regularly. The Ashley Hill staff have led a couple of off-site walks (practising social-distancing, of course) and we are making sure that the children get as much fresh air as possible.

We have also been supported this week by the MSR team and Miss Goddard has been providing sports sessions for all of the children. The low numbers have helped ensure that we can continue to encourage social distancing, even when taking part in PE.

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, Dr Alex Allinson MHK, paid a visit to the school earlier in the week and was impressed with what he saw. He was pleased that the staff and children had managed to settle into the new circumstances really well and he asked me to convey his thanks to you all for your support. He was pleased with the low attendance of pupils and it's great that the vast majority of children are able to be kept at home as this is the safest place for them.

It would have been the start of the Easter Holidays next week, but the school hubs are remaining open including the Easter Bank Holidays. There will be a different duty team in school next week as Team D take over. Your hub Head will be Mr Lewis from Ashley Hill School - I'm sure he will provide an update or two during the week.

In the meantime, try to have as pleasant a weekend as is possible under the circumstances. Keep well and stay safe.



Max Kelly
Headteacher (Dhoon / Laxey) and Team A lead