

SCOILL VALLAJEELT PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



Meadow Crescent
Braddan
Isle of Man
IM2 2NN
01624 670844

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you find the information in this prospectus helpful and that it gives you a clear picture of your child's education.

I know that it can be a daunting time for both parents and children when they start school either in Reception or if they join us as a new pupil in other year groups. I would like to assure you that all the staff will do everything possible to ensure that your child feels welcome and secure when they join us. I have every confidence that your child will be happy at Scoill Vallajeelt.

Scoill Vallajeelt is led by an experienced Senior Leadership Team to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the school. The Headteacher is Miss Denise Lyon and the Deputy Head is Mrs. Liz Dixon.

From September 2018, St. Thomas' C of E Primary School co-located on the Scoill Vallajeelt site and the site is now known as known as Meadow Campus. Scoill Vallajeelt was at one time a 2-form entry school but for a number of years there has only been enough children to have one class per year group. Therefore, the building had plenty of space to be able to accommodate a small school such as St. Thomas'. Whilst the school has its own "footprint" on the campus, some facilities are shared across both schools such as the assembly hall, dining area, sports hall, playground etc. The children from both schools sharing playtimes and dinnertimes but have lessons in their own school though at times there may be joint learning.

Should you have any queries or concerns or worries about starting school, or even if you just want to have your mind put at rest, please do not hesitate to telephone me. I am more than happy to make time to ensure that you are fully informed and satisfied about all aspects of your child's education. I truly believe that education is a partnership and I hope that during the time your child is with us we will work together to ensure they are happy and well educated.

Further information about our school can be found on our school website scoillvallajeelt.sch.im, which is regularly updated.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children.

Miss Lyon
Headteacher

Contents

ADMISSIONS.....	3
OUR SCHOOL VISION.....	4
FACILITIES.....	6
STAFFING 25/26.....	7
SCHOOL HOURS.....	8
ATTENDANCE.....	9
LUNCHTIME.....	11
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.....	12
UNIFORM.....	13
FRIENDS OF SCOILL VALLAJEELT.....	14
SCHOOL ORGANISATION.....	15
SCHOOL MEDICALS, HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.....	16
REPORTING PROGRESS TO PARENTS.....	19
SAFETY.....	21
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.....	22
HEALTH EDUCATION.....	23
ASSEMBLIES.....	24
REWARDS AND ENCOURAGEMENT.....	25
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	26
TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.....	27
THE CURRICULUM.....	28
FOUNDATION STAGE - RECEPTION CLASS.....	29
KS1 & KS2 CURRICULUM.....	33
TRANSFERRING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL.....	39

ADMISSIONS

The following fall into our catchment

Alderley Close	Harcroft Avenue
Annacur Lane	Hopcroft Meadows (partial)
Ashberry Avenue	Harcroft Road
Ashbourne Avenue	Hedgerow Close
Ashbourne Grove	Horseshoe Avenue
Ballaughton Close	Kirby Hill
Ballaughton Lane	Lheannag Park (partial)
Ballaughton Manor Hill	Manor Woods (partial)
Ballaughton Meadows	Meadow Crescent
Ballaughton Park	New Castletown Road (partial)
Ballaughton Villas	Orchard View
Bluebell Close	Pinehurst Avenue
Bramble Close	Pinehurst Close
Chaffinch Close	Pinehurst Glen
Coil Farrane	Robin Lane
Copse Hill	Saddle Road
Farmhill Grange	Spinney Close
Elderberry Rise	The Meadows
Farmhill Lane (partial)	Vicarage Park
Farmhill Park	Vicarage Road
Harcroft Avenue	

Age Range

The school year runs from the 1st of September to the 31st August inclusive. Children are admitted to the school in the September of the school year in which they are five. Children must be 4 years old by the 1st September in the year they start school.

Enrolling a child

To enroll your child, please contact the school for an Admission Form. The school will require to see your child's original birth certificate as proof of identity along with a utility bill as proof of residence within the school's catchment area.

Outside Catchment Area Admissions

Any application for an out of catchment area school must be made to the Department of Education, Sports and Culture. Senior officers of the Department will consider any such application and a decision will be made following consultation with the school.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

We are a learning community, working together to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment. Our learning journey will be creative, challenging and personalised, to be the best we can be.

Our school family is proud to be inclusive. We encourage respect and equality, valuing each and every member. We treat each other with kindness and build relationships on a foundation of trust and honesty.

Life and learning at Scoill Vallajeelt is inspiring for both pupils and staff. Everyone feels included and valued, creating a safe environment so that challenge and growth are expected. Our inspirational curriculum is child-initiated and enhanced by stimulating learning environments. Teachers have subject confidence and use this to create meaningful lessons. Children are supported by their families, the staff and each other to reach their full potential. Staff provide helpful, positive feedback which nurtures self-esteem and brings us together as learners. Staff are supportive of each other.

We are making a positive contribution to our national and international community by teaching a curriculum connected to real world experiences, understanding and celebrating diversity and using cultural expertise from the community. Our school community is proud of our Manx heritage and identity and we use this Manx context to enhance learning. We teach cultural, local and global awareness and challenge stereotypes of cultures and countries. Pupil voice is important to our community.

In preparing our school family for the future, we encourage and embed a culture of growth mindset alongside teaching the 6Rs, promoting resilience and viewing failing as an important part of learning. We invite challenge and value physical and mental health equally. A positive mental attitude underpins our ethos and we work with outside agencies to safeguard pupils and support families. As a school family, we have a collective responsibility to prepare for our future. We enjoy lots of community events and our wider family contributes enthusiastically to all areas of school life.

School Values

Our School Values are Honesty, Kindness, Trust, Respect, Inclusivity and Equality. Assembly once a week celebrates one of these values. At school, we model values to the children in lessons and during the day to show expectations of behaviour within our school family. During the week, children who have demonstrated these values have their names entered into the Appreciation Book. This is then shared during Friday's Success Assembly. Please ask the children about what they are doing at school to learn about these values. We display the values around school and in classrooms to remind the staff and children and to promote positive relationships.

Behaviour

The pupils and staff of Scoill Vallajeelt have the right to learn and teach in a safe, caring and supportive environment - one that reflects high expectations of behaviour, shared values and creates an atmosphere in which all children can flourish.

Staff at Scoill Vallajeelt believe that pupils deserve to be taught that their behaviour results from choices made by themselves. Good behaviour is the outcome of good choices, but unacceptable behaviour can carry consequences. Emotion coaching is used to help children learn to self-regulate and deal with big feelings.

Respect

As a campus, we have a shared value of **respect** and this helps our children feel safe and happy.



This poster is displayed around the campus and in classrooms and/or regularly discussed with the pupils.

Rewards

Positive relationships are the key to feeling safe and being ready to learn.

Scoill Vallajeelt has a positive Relationship Policy which means that we reward children for making good choices regarding self-regulation. This reward may be a verbal comment, sticker, certificate, contacting parents or a privilege in school. By commenting on and rewarding positive behaviours, children learn to make good choices. Encouragement is central to the promotion of good behaviour choices. Rewards are one means of achieving this. It helps all pupils understand that good behaviour is valued and expected.

Consequences are put in place when there is unacceptable behaviour. They will be used sparingly, since it is acknowledged that children must be given the opportunity to improve their behaviour choices through positive means. Parents will be informed if the member of staff feels it is necessary.

FACILITIES

Our school is divided into 3 parts for administration purposes:

Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage 2)

Key Stage 1 (Years 1/2)

Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6)

Wherever possible, children are taught in single year groups.

We are very fortunate to have a well-decorated and well-equipped school comprising of:

10 classrooms

Library

Music and Resource Room

Community Room (For Toddler Group)

Assembly Hall

Sports Hall (plus changing rooms)

Dining Area

Open plan teaching areas

Large playground

Log cabin

School field



The school is welcoming and coupled with the excellent displays of children's work; it is a very rewarding working environment for children and staff alike.



STAFFING 25/26

Headteacher	Miss Denise Lyon		
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs. E. Dixon		
	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff
Reception	Mrs. Larson	Administrator	Miss. Kelsall
Year 1	Mrs. Maurel		
Year 2	Miss Bradbury		
Year 3	Miss Christian		
Year 4	Mr. Molyneux	Caretaking	Mr. Cleworth
Year 5	Mrs. Cooke		Ms King
Year 6M	Miss McGill		Miss Hay
Year 6D	Mrs. Dixon		
		Kitchen Staff	Mrs. Wardell
			Mrs. Finan
Educational Support Assistants:		Lunchtime Ancillary:	
Miss Conway Mrs. Parry Mrs. Asbridge Mrs. Keen Mrs. Wolno		Mrs. Pinkerton Mrs. Lunt Mrs. Keiver Ms. R. King Miss Matthews Miss Hay	
Peripatetic Teachers:		Governing Body:	
Mr. Jennings - Guitar		Chair/Co-Opted Governor - Mrs. J. Thomas Education Council Member - Ms. S. Moore Parent Governor - Mrs. R. Oates Teacher Governor - Mrs. M. Larson	

The Governing Body

The Governing Body's role is to support the Headteacher and the staff of our school in their work to achieve the highest possible standards for all pupils. The Governing Body meets every half term.

SCHOOL HOURS

Foundation Stage 2 - (Reception)

8:55am - 11.50pm
1.00pm - 3.20pm

Key Stage 1

8:55am - 12.00pm
1.00pm - 3.30pm

Key Stage 2

8:55am - 12.15pm
1.15pm - 3.30pm

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is held each morning in the Meadow Hall for all Campus children (main hall) and is run by staff. The Club starts at 8.15am each morning and children can arrive up until 8:30am. The children can choose from the following:

- *Juice / milk
- *Toast and spreads
- *Cereal (variety)
- *Yoghurt

After breakfast has been served the children can take part in some supervised activities in the hall or, from 8.45am, Y2-6 can go out onto the playground where they will be supervised by a member of Scoill Vallajeelt staff until 8.55am. When the bell rings to signal the start of the school day, they will be collected by their teachers. Reception and Y1 children will remain in the main hall and be taken to their classroom when the bell rings for the start of the school day.

The cost per child is £2.00 per day and payment for Breakfast Club is required in advance via Parent Pay. We appreciate there may be exceptional occasions when your child needs to access Breakfast Club without prior-booking and this is permissible.

If your child is not attending Breakfast Club, please do not send them to school before 8.45am. On wet days, children will be supervised in the main school hall from 8.45am.

All children will be collected by their teachers from the playground or school hall at 8.55am, however the register will not open until 9am.

Office Hours

The school office will normally be attended by our school administrator between 8.30am and 4pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am - 12.30pm on Fridays.

ATTENDANCE

Late Arrivals

Children arriving after 9am should report their arrival to the administrator in the school office. Please note that children arriving late will be given a “late mark” and parents will be informed if the frequency of “late marks” begins to impact on children’s learning. Late arrivals for medical appointments are perfectly understandable but it would help if you could let the school know in advance if at all possible.

Absences

For your child’s schooling to be successful and happy, it is important that they attend regularly and on time. The Governors and Headteacher ask you to plan your holidays in *school holiday time*. Taking them in term time is disruptive to their learning and sets bad patterns for the future. Learning will not be set for children to complete if they are absent from school due to a planned holiday.

In the event of absence from school, parents should contact the school office as soon as possible. It is very important for the school to be notified by telephone if a child is to be absent from school at short notice. Details of the reason for absence and an approximate estimation of how long the absence is likely to last will be asked. If you are aware in advance that your child is going to be absent, please notify in writing.

If your child has been ill, it is important that you allow a period of time to elapse after the sickness has finished before sending him or her back to school eg: Children with diarrhea and/or vomiting should definitely be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms of diarrhea / vomiting have gone. Such action will help to prevent the infection spreading unnecessarily to others in the school. Included in this prospectus is a list of the infectious diseases which children may get. In any case of German Measles, Chicken Pox or Slapped Cheek Virus please contact school so that any persons who are known to be pregnant or a vulnerable can be notified.

If it is your intention to take your children on holiday during term time, it will be necessary to write, in advance, to the Headteacher to request authorisation and to explain the reasons for the request. Holidays in term time will only be granted in **exceptional circumstances** and each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis against the criteria set out in the Department of Education, Sports and Culture’s policy and guidance literature. If you do decide to take your children out of school, without authorisation, then this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence in the register. Teachers will not set learning for the children to do whilst they are on holiday.

The way in which our curriculum operates makes it increasingly difficult for teachers to give children the opportunity to cover those areas missed through absence. In some instances the cumulative effect of holidays and absence through illness can have serious implications with regard to progress and levels achieved. All absences, both authorised and unauthorised will be recorded and reported to parents in your child’s end of year report.

Leaving School at the end of the day

We expect parents to collect their children at the end of the day or to make arrangements for their children to be collected by someone else. Please make sure that the school is notified in writing, in advance, of the name of any person authorised to collect your child or any changes in these arrangements. Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3 children will not be allowed out of the building until the teacher has seen you or the person collecting your child. If an older brother or sister is collecting please make sure that the school is notified in writing. If your child is going to be collected by an after-school care provider, please let us know in writing. Wherever possible, we would also like to be advised prior to collection.

Please ensure your child is collected on time. Late collections are recorded and inspected by the Education Liaison Officer.

Leaving School early

Children who have appointments with the doctor or dentist in school time may need to leave early. **No child will be allowed to leave school during school hours unless the class teacher or school office has been previously advised.** Children must be collected personally on such occasions. The school records all late arrivals and children who leave early as part of our Absence Policy. Parents / carers will be asked to sign the child out of school on early collection.

Leaving School at the end of School Clubs

We expect parents or adults designated by parents to collect children personally from clubs at the appropriate finish times. Children should be met at the main reception foyer doors. Older children may walk home alone if the school has received written permission. These forms will be issued from each club.



LUNCHTIME

Dinners

Children are supervised in the dining hall and on the playground by a team of lunchtime assistants. We have a wide range of play equipment for the children to use at playtimes and lunchtimes.

The school has its own kitchen and there is a choice of 2 meals each day. Children order their choices a week in advance with their teacher. Children may stay for a school meal, bring a packed lunch or go home for lunch.

Children on packed lunches should have a proper lunch container that is clearly marked with their name. **Water is the only drink permitted for children to bring for their packed lunch.** Please note that hot drinks and glass bottles are not permitted. The eating of sweets is not promoted at school so please bear this in mind when preparing packed lunches. This rule is to promote healthy eating and to support dental hygiene as well as keeping the school tidy.

- School meals currently cost **£2.55** per day.
- There will be no option to purchase a hot meal on a daily basis.
- School meals should be paid for using Parent Pay.
- There is a choice of 2 hot meals.
- You may pay for meals on a half termly basis. Notice of the amount due for each half term will be sent to parents in advance.
- If your child is absent during the half term period then you will not be charged for schools dinners for these days.
- If you wish to change lunchtime arrangements, please give the school at least one week's notification.

Water

Children are welcome to bring a bottle of water to school which they can use throughout the day.

Glass bottles, cans, fruit juices, cordials or fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Sinks are located in each of the shared areas and the children may refill their water bottles through the day when necessary and there is a water fountain next to the staff room.

Playtime Snack

Children are not allowed to bring crisps or chocolate bars to school. We encourage fruit, cereal bars and other healthy options.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school provides some extra-curricular activities for the pupils that take place in addition to the normal school timetable. Letters will be sent home to inform parents which clubs are on offer for each term. Parents will then need to send the permission slip back to school to sign their child up for a particular activity. During the year we offer such clubs as yoga, football and hockey.



Educational visits are a carefully planned feature of our curriculum. We use these to enhance learning and also provide children to apply their learning in a meaningful context. Being out in the local and wider community allows the children structured opportunity to explore their island and its cultural heritage. The safety of the children on such visits is our paramount concern and the arrangements always meet or exceed the requirements of the Department of Education, Sports and Culture. We are always looking for parental help on such occasions and parental support is very much appreciated.



UNIFORM

The Governors, staff and parents fully advocate a uniform policy for the children of Scoill Vallajeelt. We believe that a school uniform helps pupils to see themselves as part of a community, which is proud of itself and its reputation.

All official items of school uniform bearing the school logo can be purchased from Promenade T Shirts & Embroidery Limited, Queens Promenade (tel 675160).

Please note that there is a STRICT no trainers policy. If your child has to wear alternative footwear for any reason a note must be sent to the Headteacher.

Mid-grey skirts, pinafore dresses, long or trousers (no jogging bottoms or track suits).

White, grey or purple socks or tights.

White or purple polo shirt (with or without the school motif).

Purple sweatshirt or cardigan with the school motif.

Home knitted cardigans in the school colour.

A pair of sensible shoes, but not trainers.

A summer dress (purple and white gingham).

Reversible fleeces, sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts, PE bags and book bags are also available. For more details please contact Promenade T Shirts & Embroidery.

Sandals are optional during the Summer months, provided that they are flat, secure on the foot, and allow the child to run and play freely so that they do not cause them to trip or fall. In keeping with our usual uniform requirements, sandals worn for school should be plain and either blue, black, brown, or white.

Remember to clearly mark all clothing and personal property with your child's name.

PE

A pair of white shorts together with house t-shirt should be worn. Children will be notified of their house colours and we will endeavour to ensure that family members are in the same house.

PE will often be done barefoot but some activities may require the use of plimsolls. The shorts, T- Shirts and plimsolls must be kept in school in a PE bag. They will be sent home regularly for washing and checking of footwear sizes.

Please note that for safety reasons we ask all children with long hair to tie their hair back when using school equipment. This is particularly important during PE and games lessons and when using some specialist equipment in science, art, food technology etc. Hair should be kept neat and in conventional styles. Hair bands, slides etc. should be kept simple.

Jewellery and make up (including nail varnish and lipstick) are not permitted in school. Children with pierced ears may wear studded earrings, which will need to be taped over by a parent before school for PE sessions. Once the lesson is over the child can remove the tape. Staff cannot take responsibility for removing or replacing studs or for their loss.

Children may wear a watch and will be responsible for it at all times. **We ask parents and carers that they do not send children to school wearing smart watches as they serve as a distraction and cause much upset if they get lost or damaged.** The school will not be held responsible for any losses. Watches must be removed for PE and games lessons.

No other form of jewellery is permitted unless it is worn for religious or cultural reasons.

FRIENDS OF SCOILL VALLAJEELT

The Friends of Scoill Vallajeelt is an informal and friendly association involved in raising funds for the benefit of the pupils.

The Association is noted for organising non-profit and profit-making social events for both children and adults including discos and events for the Y6 leavers. These events help to engender a greater sense of community amongst those associated with Scoill Vallajeelt.

The Friends' Association is looking to welcome new members. If you have any ideas on raising money for the school, can help regularly, or on occasion, then please come along to our next meeting or contact the Chairperson.

The Association meets regularly throughout the year, once a half term, usually on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. Details of the next meeting and forthcoming events organised by the Friends can be found on our newsletters, Facebook page and school website - www.sch.im/vallajeelt and you can contact the Friends using info@fsv.im

Chair: Lyndsay Brew

Treasurer: Ashley Jermy

Secretary: Nina Murray

Communications Officer: Voirrey Larkham

Friends of Vallajeelt School

Isle of Man Registered Charity No.586

Chairperson: Lyndsay Brew Vice-Chairperson: Nina Murray
Secretary: Ashley Jermy Treasurer: Stephanie Steele
Comms Officer: Voirrey Larkham

Meadow Crescent, Douglas,
Isle of Man. IM2 1NN
Phone: 01624 670844
E-Mail: info@fsv.im
Website: <https://www.fsv.im>

 [FriendsofVallajeeltSchool](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofVallajeeltSchool)



SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Data Collection

Upon registration at our school, as a parent / carer you will be sent an email giving you access to the Parent Portal on our management information system called Arbor. We use Arbor to take our daily registers, record assessment data, record Special Educational Needs information, parental consents, record personal information, book Parent's Evening appointments etc.

By using this portal, you can input and update personal information about your child such as health details, provide/decline consent for your child to participate in school activities both in and out of school, their travel to such events, and also the use of your child's data and image etc. When you have completed this section on the parent portal, an email will be sent to the School Office to notify the school of changes and updates in the personal information we hold about your child.

It is essential that we have an up-to-date home or work telephone numbers so that parents can be contacted quickly in case of illness or accident. When your child first comes to school, we need details of your family doctor and where either parent can be contacted during school hours. We must also have two further emergency contacts, in addition to you, in case we cannot contact either parent - a friend or relative would be suitable.

If any of this personal information changes, we ask parents to update this on Arbor using the parent portal.

School Fund

There will be several events each year that raise money for the school fund. These may include optional non-uniform days and sponsored events. The money from school fund is vital to purchase additional resources for the curriculum, pay towards travel cost for educational trips and towards the costs of visiting theatre companies. The Friends of Scoill Vallajeelt contribute to the school fund to pay for lots of experiences throughout the school year such as pantomimes, reading prizes, trophies etc

Charging Policy

The staff and Governors of Scoill Vallajeelt believe that all our pupils should have an equal opportunity to benefit from school activities and visits (curricular and extra-curricular) independent of their parents' financial means.

Throughout the year there are likely to be day visits organised for classes in conjunction with their curriculum work, or visits to the school by Theatres or Workshops etc. Such visits play an important part in the school curriculum, extending the learning that is started in the classroom and no child is excluded for financial reasons.

From time to time, parents may be invited to make voluntary contributions towards the cost of these visits, to enable the school to continue with such worthwhile activities. (If there are not enough contributions, then a trip may not be financially viable and will have to be cancelled.) Details of the approximate cost will be sent home in advance and, providing we are able to get the necessary support, we will confirm bookings and collect the donations.

SCHOOL MEDICALS, HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

Medical Information

The school nursing team carries out a health assessment when your child is in the Reception year of school. It is an informal discussion about your child's health; at the same time your child will be weighed and measured and have their sight and hearing tested.

If you are concerned about your child's hearing the school nursing team can arrange for a test to be carried out. The same applies to eye tests, though these are carried out in school routinely at the age of nine years.

Never send any type of medication into school with your child. If your child uses an inhaler or epi-pen, please make an appointment with the Headteacher so appropriate paperwork can be completed. Inhalers and epipens will be kept safely in the classroom but will be available throughout the school day. If your child is on a permanent or long-term medicine, which needs to be administered during the school day, please consult with the school immediately.

If your child sustains an injury and needs to wear a cast/use crutches/use a wheelchair during their recovery, please make an appointment to come and see the Headteacher to discuss how we can support you and your child to access the school day.

First Aid

Staff provide basic first aid treatment for minor medical problems and accidents. We are not able to administer any medicines to children in school unless there are exceptional circumstances or it forms part of a Care Plan. A Care Plan can only be written in conjunction with the School Nursing Team. To enquire regarding administration of medication by staff during school hours, please ask at the school office.

If a pupil is taken ill during school hours, parents will be contacted. Please ensure that all contact details are correct and keep the office informed of any changes.

If it is necessary to send a child to hospital, parents will be informed immediately. If we cannot contact parents, the school acts 'in loco parentis' and will accompany the child to hospital. We continue to try to make contact with the parents.

We do ask that you inform us of any medical problems your child has. Certain children's illnesses such as diabetes or arthritis do require us to draw up a Care Plan. In these circumstances, we work with you and the School Nursing Team to ensure we meet the health needs of your child.

Our policy for Relationships & Sex Education is available on request and on the school website.

Head lice

- Head lice are a problem in all schools.
- Please check your child's head regularly (at least twice a week) and then follow the advice from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>
- Please remember that children catch head lice just like they catch measles or mumps, so do not be too distressed if it occurs in your family.
- Treat all the family and deal with it promptly; then **keep checking regularly**.
- Please let the school know if you find any lice as we can then send home a reminder letter to all parents of children in that class.
- It is the parent's responsibility to deal with head lice, not the schools.

Medicines at School

If your child needs to take medication during the day, you will need to book an appointment with the Headteacher to discuss this on an individual basis.

If your child suffers from asthma and needs to use an inhaler during the school day, please ask your doctor to prescribe a second inhaler and a spacer that can be left at school during term time. Similarly, if your child has been prescribed an epipen, please ask your doctor to prescribe 2 epipens that can be kept at school.

Exact details of your child's medication must be entered on the Administration of Medication form that is kept in the office. **Please ensure that all inhalers/spacers/epipens and boxes of capsules/disks are clearly marked with your child's name and exact dosage. All inhalers will be kept in medical cabinets in the classrooms.**

If your child has a complaint which needs regular medication during the day or as treatment for an emergency allergic reaction, please see the Headteacher to make special arrangements and to draw up a Care Plan.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that medicines kept in school for their child are in school and in date.

Infectious Diseases - Periods of Exclusion:

Infection	Period of Exclusion	Notes
Chicken Pox	Five days from the onset of rash	<i>Advise Vulnerable Children and Female Staff - Pregnancy</i>
Measles	Five days from onset of rash	
Slap cheek (parvovirus or fifth disease)	None	
German Measles	Five days from onset of rash	<i>Advise Female Staff - Pregnancy</i>
Mumps	Five days from onset of swollen glands	
Whooping Cough	Five days from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks.
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	For 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require treatment
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required	Treatment is required

Please ring the school office for advice on absence for other illnesses.

Covid 19

Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any symptoms of covid 19. If your child has symptoms, please contact 111 for advice. If they show any covid symptoms at school, we will contact you to arrange for you to come and collect them and their siblings.

The most current information is always available on the IOM Government website. [covid19.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/covid19)

REPORTING PROGRESS TO PARENTS

Every term we hold parent teacher interviews with each term having a different focus. We encourage all parents to attend the appointment so that we can work with you to support your child.

In the Autumn Term, we encourage all parents to come in to discuss how your children have settled into their new class and to raise any concerns you may have at the start of the academic year.

In the Spring Term we hold more detailed parent teacher interviews and we encourage all parents to attend. During these parent evenings, you will be able to discuss in detail your child's progress to date and also how to fully support their continued learning at home.

In the Summer Term, after the school report has been sent home, we hold short parent teacher interviews in order for you to discuss any issues you may have with your child's school report. If you are happy with the report, there is no need for you to take up the offer of an appointment.

The annual report to parents is a detailed document that informs you about what your child has learned, how they have achieved, and sets out clearly the next stage in their education. It also comments on their personal and social development and any special needs issues. These reports are sent out in the Summer Term.

In addition to all this information please get in touch if, at any time, you feel the need to talk to myself, Mrs. Dixon (Deputy Headteacher) or your child's class teacher. We really believe in an open-door policy where communication between parents and teachers is vitally important. My only request is that you do make an appointment if you will need to chat for a few minutes, as catching a teacher at the start of the day does take up valuable teaching time.

Home Learning

We encourage the children to establish a clear routine for home learning. We ask that the children read on a daily basis and record this in their reading diary. Children in Reception are encouraged to take home reading books, phonics games and number games to share. In Key Stage 1 the children will bring home reading books to share and read, sounds / words / spellings to learn and maths home learning will usually be in a form of a game.

In addition, at KS2 spellings are sent home weekly. Children will also be given at least one piece of Maths and one piece of English each week. Children may also be asked to complete learning at home or undertake research in order to help them with a particular topic.

We use Mathletics to help consolidate learning in maths and each child will have a login. Times Tables should also be learned at home and from Y2 upwards, an online resource is used called Times Table Rockstars. Parental permission is sought via Arbor using the parent portal to enable school to set up an account for your child.

We do ask that children get into the habit of recording their home learning on a daily basis and ask their parents to sign their book to say that it has been completed.

Home learning can be differentiated and is given out at the end of the week and collected at the beginning of the next week. An extra day is given for home learning over the weekend to take into account family activities. Individual teachers will inform parents of the home learning routines of the different classes.

Parental Partnership

We believe that parents are part of our learning community and should take an active interest in their child's learning. The school builds positive links between home and school because we believe this partnership is essential so that children can thrive, difficulties can be shared, problems resolved and success celebrated. We very much value your contribution in supporting your child with work at home, a role that is vital to maximise the level of progress which can be achieved.

To support all parents/carers to take an active interest in their child's learning, we will keep you informed of curriculum matters, policy and practice through regular newsletters, the website and parent's evenings. Practical support is given through resources to foster home-based learning, curriculum planning overviews for each class and curriculum workshops. Our 'open-door' policy enables you to discuss matters relating to your child's specific educational needs.

Feedback from parents is very welcome on how we are meeting the needs of your child. Often this will be an informal discussion with staff or the senior management team. Questionnaires are regularly sent out to gauge how well the school is doing in different areas, e.g. Home Learning, Teaching and Learning, Safeguarding etc.

It is very important that you keep the school informed of any changes that may affect your child. Please let us know promptly about any medical, physical or emotional difficulties, which may affect your child's education or happiness in school.

Parents volunteering in school

Parents are invited to volunteer to help in school and are encouraged to work within the classrooms with language and maths games, reading, cooking, sewing and a wide variety of other activities. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to help in any way and they will book an appointment for you to speak to the Headteacher. All helpers must have full DBS (Disclosure and Barring Check) clearance before being allowed to help in school and all visitors to the school are required to sign in at the Office. The safety of all children is our highest priority. All volunteers are subject to the same high standards of conduct and policies as for staff and will be asked to **read and sign** the school's Volunteer Policy and Guidelines and the Confidentiality Policy.

SAFETY

Social Media

We would ask that parents and carers please support the school in its constant drive to raise standards by discussing any concerns or issues with us rather than on social media sites which could be potentially damaging for the school and its pupils. We would also encourage parents and carers to monitor their children's use of social networking sites encouraging them to be respectful in this arena.

Due to safeguarding reasons, there may be times at school events where parents and friends are asked not to photograph / record events. Understanding is asked for if this decision is made. If photographs / recordings of school events are permitted, we ask that you exercise common sense and not "post" photos / recordings of children other than your own on social media.

Child Protection

In order to ensure the safety of all children in our care, we are required to follow the Child Protection Procedures as agreed by the Department of Education, Sports and Culture. (DESC)

We will endeavour to share with parents/guardians any concerns we may have regarding any injuries noted or other specific issues regarding the welfare of their child. We will keep a record of any concerns raised and will share them with the parents/guardians if it is appropriate to do so.

We do have a duty to refer to the Department of Social Care's Children and Families team if we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm. If we make a referral, we will inform the parents/guardians concerned unless to do so would place the child at increased risk of significant harm. Our first concern will always be the welfare of the child.

Policies and procedures we follow are to be found on the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board website. Miss Lyon is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs. M. Larson.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

All children with special educational needs are taught in classes and the learning is adapted according to their needs. Children may also be withdrawn from class for additional help from our specially trained Educational Support Officers. These intervention programmes include reading, spelling, fine and gross motor skills, speech and language and numeracy support. If your child is deemed to have special needs, you as a parent will be fully involved in the process from setting targets and writing an individual education plan, to reviewing progress and discussions with the special needs co-ordinator or class teacher. The school also works closely with a number of external agencies that also offer support. These include the Isle of Man Inclusion & Safeguarding Team, the Thie ny Shee, the Speech and Language Team, Physical Impairment Team, Hearing Impairment Team, Visual Impairment Team, Social Care and Children and Families Team and many other agencies who are there to fully support the learning or behaviour needs of your child. Children may need additional support in their development for many reasons including:

- Difficulties in literacy-reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Difficulties in numeracy
- Difficulties in memory, organisational, fine and gross motor skills
- Difficulties in behaviour, social and emotional skills

When a child's need is first identified, a concern sheet is completed with parents and the child's progress and attainment is closely monitored by the class teacher who informs the Special Needs Co-ordinator at this Universal Stage. They work together to look at ways to further support that child. The next stage is to raise the child's profile to Additional Need. Here the Special Needs Co-ordinator will be more fully involved and an Individual Education Plan will be written that specifically addresses the needs of the child and is monitored on a half termly or termly basis as appropriate. External agencies may be involved in further extending the scope of the Personalised Learning Plan. The final stage is a recommendation for a Complex Need recognition where an Educational Psychologist will assess the child and decide whether to advise for such a provision to be put in place. The final stage sees the child being given a Complex Need designation that will ensure that they receive appropriate support throughout their school career.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education is part of Science and Personal, Social and Health Education & Citizenship. Relationships and Sex Education as an integral part of the school curriculum. Scoill Vallajeelt uses an online curriculum called Kapow as a framework to deliver PHSE and RSE lessons. A curriculum overview can be found on our school website.

Our aim is to present the facts in an objective and balanced manner, set within a clear moral framework with due regard for the values of family life, whatever the make-up of that family might be.

We see our role as a supportive and complementary one to parents, helping your child to cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up.

Our aim in delivering a Relationship and Sex Education programme across the school, as well as aiming to prepare pupils to cope with the challenges of growing up, is to give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction.

Pupils' questions are answered sensitively and with due consideration for any particular religious or cultural factors bearing on the discussion of sexual issues.

Parents are informed in writing before the course commences and given the opportunity to view any material that may be used. Further information regarding PHSE and RSE can be found on our website.

Relationships and growing up, peer pressure and general health are all parts of the Science and PSHE curriculum throughout the school. These activities are carefully planned and age appropriate.

ASSEMBLIES

We hold whole school assemblies 3 times a week and these are led by either a member of staff or on occasions a visitor.

Any visiting faith leaders are given guidelines about running assemblies at Scoil Vallajeelt.

Our assemblies, which include our Act of Worship (the legal obligation), are an important feature of our school's life. Children are not encouraged in one particular religion but given the opportunity to think, reflect and consider the similarities and differences of religion and spirituality in a diverse society. Permissions regarding assemblies are covered in the consent form completed by parents when their child starts school. We also use one assembly per week to demonstrate the school values, rehearse whole school singing and sometimes run events such as Eurovision and Off by Heart.

At the end of each week, we celebrate the efforts, improvement and achievements of our children in a celebration assembly. Here we share successes in the 6Rs, Appreciation Book and House Points. Our Y6 School Ambassadors help in this assembly.

Each class also performs their own assembly to the whole school and parents / guests once a year. The children enjoy sharing their learning with their parents at such events. There are other assemblies during the year which parents are invited to by letter nearer the time.

At the end of each term, we have a huge celebration of children's achievements. Unfortunately parents are not able to attend this celebration as we are unable to fit all the children and parents in the hall. Three times a year, two children are chosen from each class to receive a Headteacher's Award for a particular aspect of their work of which both they and their teacher are very proud. The children receive these awards in a final celebration assembly at Christmas, Easter and Summer Term.

We also award certificates for excellent attendance and prizes for 100% attendance for one or more years.



REWARDS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

When the children start school they are put into one of four houses.

Ashbourne
Harcroft
Kirby
Saddlestone

The children are rewarded with house points for effort, good work, being helpful or friendly and for improvement in their work. House points are NEVER taken away from children. If a child gains 5 or more House Points in a week, they receive a certificate in the Celebration Assembly.

Once a week the house points are totalled and shared in the Celebration Assembly and a House Points Cup awarded to the winning house at the end of each half term.

Reading Prizes

Each child is given a book to record their daily reading in.

When a child has read at home 30 times and this has been recorded in their Reading Record Book, they can come to the Headteacher to receive a special prize.

They choose from a wide range of small gifts. Each teacher will send home a suggested reading list of books that are age appropriate for parents to share with children or for children to read independently. On this list is the Bronze, Silver and Gold Reading Challenge and once completed, certificates are presented in assembly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Personal Belongings in School

Children should not bring their own possessions in to school as we cannot be held responsible for their safekeeping. The following items are prohibited from school:

- Jewellery other than watches and stud earrings
- Smart watches
- Toys and games
- Make up and deodorants
- Mobile phones (permitted in Y6 under certain circumstances)

Bicycles

Bike racks have been installed at the front of the school so children can ride / scoot to school. We request that children wear cycle helmets, but we would prefer that they have passed their cycling proficiency first. Parents must send a note to school to state that their child has permission to ride independently to and from school. The school cannot accept responsibility for cycles.

Equipment

Pencil cases are not a requirement for school. All necessary equipment for school - pencils, pens, rubbers, crayons, rulers, erasers, exercise books etc will be made readily available for the children.

Induction Days

Induction days for Reception new intake children are held from May through to July. A parents' meeting will be held prior to the induction days to allow new parents to ask any questions and familiarise themselves with the school environment.

Safety in School

Children should not be on the school premises before 8.45am. A teacher will supervise the children on the playground from this time each day, but there will be no supervision before that. On wet days, children will be supervised in the main hall (from 8.45 am) until the bell rings at 8.55 am.

In the interests of everyone's safety and security, external doors must be kept locked around school during the day. We do however realise the importance of parents being able to speak with their child's class teacher, particularly in a morning. So when the need arises, parents should come to the main office where teachers will be contacted for you. If your message or concern will take longer than a few minutes, please book an appointment so teaching time is not lost.

Visitors and parents should only enter the main building by the main entrance. The school inner door is locked for security. Visitors and parents are requested to sign the visitor's book before proceeding through the inner doors.

A fire alarm system is installed and the building is alarmed and fitted with movement sensors. School adheres to the Department of Education, Sports and Culture's requirements regarding Fire Drills and Emergency Procedures.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Pedestrians

Children who walk to school should use the pathway provided along Meadow Crescent to the playground entrance. Please note that children should not be on school premises before 8.45am as they will be unsupervised.

Children will be allowed to enter the school building at 8.55 am when they will be collected from the playground by their teacher.

On wet days, children must come inside school (from 8.45 am) via the rear entrance and go straight to the assembly hall.

Travelling by Car

In the interests of everyone's safety, please travel slowly around school premises. Parents bringing or collecting children by car should drive into the lower car park, following the one-way system - please do not obstruct other vehicles.

After you have parked your car, please see your child safely to/from the playground as it is dangerous for children to be unaccompanied in the car park.

The car park in front of the main entrance is for staff parking only and needs to be kept clear in case of emergencies. **Parents are asked to use the lower car park provided, including days when it rains.**

THE CURRICULUM

Curriculum provision at Scoill Vallajeelt takes account of every aspect of a child's development. The curriculum gives children the opportunity to achieve the highest possible academic standards and become confident in physical, artistic, practical and social skills. We provide a broad and balanced education allowing for the individual needs of each child to be met within well-planned learning experiences.

Curriculum planning involves all members of the teaching staff to ensure there is progression and continuity in learning as your child passes through the school. Our planning processes give due regard to the requirements of the Manx Curriculum stipulated in subjects such as RE, history and geography where local heritage is taught and celebrated.

From the Reception class through to the end of Year 6, we take a cross-curricular approach to learning and teaching at Scoill Vallajeelt. Teachers use **Response Planning** to engage children with their learning. Children will discuss with their teacher what they would like to learn in broad themes. The children will then vote which theme they would like to explore and the teacher will then select the objectives from the curriculum areas to teach through this theme. (There will be times where a subject may need to be taught outside of the topic to ensure curriculum coverage.) By using Response Planning, the children are engaged and motivated by the learning from the start. By giving the children choice, they are eager and curious which makes learning fun and more meaningful.

Subjects do not lose their identity, as we place a great deal of emphasis on teaching the skills each subject area brings. This enables pupils to then develop and apply those skills to a range of contexts.

Support and help from parents are essential ingredients in a child's education. The delivery of the planned curriculum involves parents helping/encouraging children at home with such things as reading, number work, consolidation of acquired skills, etc. Great value is placed on trips, visits and experiences to enhance learning and we welcome contributions from our local and national community to inspire and engage children on their learning journey.

At the core of our curriculum is E4L - Essentials for Learning - which is a framework devised by the Department of Education, Sports and Culture. This focuses on skills and attitudes that our children will need in the 21st century.

An important component of E4L is The 6Rs, which, along with our school values, are at the heart of how we function as a school family. The 6Rs are:

Resilience, Remembering, Resourcefulness, Readiness, Relationships and Reflectiveness.

FOUNDATION STAGE - RECEPTION CLASS

Induction into School

In September when the children start school, they will have a phased induction into school life over the first week of the term. The children are split into groups and will attend school either in the morning or afternoon during their first week in school. The children will all attend full time in the first full week of school. This is to support your child when settling into school life. It also gives staff the opportunity to get to know your child and complete baseline assessments. Details of these induction visits will be included in your admission pack, which you will receive prior to your child's admission to school.

Preparing your child for school

Starting school is an exciting time for your child. However, some children can feel anxious with the transition from Nursery pre-school to school. Here are a few suggestions to support you child:

- Talk positively about school and read books about starting school to encourage your child to talk about what will happen.
- Help your child to practise:
 - Dressing and undressing in their school clothes,
 - Using the toilet on their own,
 - Putting on their coat and doing up a zip,
 - Tidying up their toys, books etc
 - Opening packets that might be in their lunch box, and using a knife and fork
- Encourage your child to recognise their name, in lower case NOT capital letters (just the initial letter) or it will confuse them when they learn letters and sounds in school.

Nappy Policy

There is no Nappy Policy at school and if there are any issues concerning this then they are treated on an individual basis after discussion with the Headteacher.

Curriculum

In our Reception Class, we have a teacher and Senior Educational Support Officer to help your children learn.

In the Reception year, the children work on the Foundation Stage Curriculum, which is broken into 7 key areas of learning. These are:

Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout the school day, we aim to motivate children's learning and development by allowing children to take ownership of their own learning by initiating ideas and making decisions. We encourage children to discuss their interests so that we can incorporate this into their learning environment and make the learning meaningful to them.

We aim:

- To provide a stimulating environment, which is designed to meet the differing needs of individuals and where each child feels happy and secure.
- To provide a learning environment in which children are able to realise their potential. We encourage children to learn from mistakes and think about consequences of their actions they take with regard to their work and behaviour.
- To develop an enquiring mind and nurture a love of learning.
- To develop perseverance and determination to complete challenging tasks and ensure children have plenty of time to explore ideas and interests in depth.
- To help children to be able to work in a variety of situations, developing co-operation, empathy and teamwork. At this early stage, children learn all their skills and concepts through play. Play is a vital part of the learning process and is key to ensure success.

We expect all parents to be involved in their children's learning and to provide a supportive environment at home.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be learning to mix with others of the same age group, respond to adults, learn through play, work in a group, take turns, dress and undress and learn to independently take care of their personal hygiene. In order to make dressing and undressing for P.E. less frustrating for your child we would suggest wearing elasticated waists and shoes without laces. At this stage simple fastenings will encourage independence and speed.

Moral

We encourage a sense of right and wrong throughout the school by our Relationships Policy. We believe that children with positive self-esteem find it easy to learn so we recognise good behaviour choices, and challenge poor choices, using emotion coaching. This helps children to self-regulate and develop a good sense of self-worth. Through stories, discussion and the sharing of worries, thoughts and feelings in circle time, children are encouraged to develop a sense of right and wrong, to understand other people's needs and to have opportunities to express their feelings.

Spiritual

We also encourage the children to develop an understanding of the needs of other people and the wonder of the world around through religious stories, discussions and taking part in assemblies. These will be of a mainly Christian nature and discussed as a religion that some people believe and follow. Other religions will also be shared with the children through story, film clips etc as greater awareness and understanding. The children will also understand that having no belief or religion is a personal choice.

Communication, Language and Literacy

Our priorities in this area is to develop the children's spoken language and listening skills and to give each child a love of books that will encourage them to read. We will also be encouraging them to start expressing themselves through writing, drawing and role-play. We will provide a wide variety of stories, poems and rhymes as well as a well-resourced non-fiction library. Children will be able to regularly take books home to share with their parents. They will be given the opportunity to learn about how a book works; know that words and pictures carry meaning and that in English, print is read from left to right and top to bottom.

They will use pencil, crayons, paints, chinks and felt tips to develop their drawing and writing skills; the importance of correct grip when writing and the appropriate use of lower and upper-case letters will be emphasised from the start. We expect parents to help their children practise this correct approach from the beginning. Incorrect habits are hard to break.

We will teach the children to recognise and write their own names and some familiar words. They will also be taught to recognise letters of the alphabet by shape and sound. This knowledge will be used in our approach to writing where the children will be encouraged to try to write for themselves from day one. The skills needed for writing will begin to be taught in the first term and throughout the Reception Year and Key Stage 1 (handwriting, sounds and spelling, grammar, different forms of writing) as the teacher assesses the individual needs of each child. They can progress at their own pace.

Mathematics

The children will become familiar with numbers through stories, songs, rhymes, counting games and practical activities. They will explore the mathematics of the world around them by using sand, water, weighing and measuring, shapes and dough. They will begin to develop an understanding of number operations and the use appropriate language.

Understanding of the World

The children will talk about where they live, their environment, their families and past and present events. There will be regular opportunities for the children to visit both the local environment and further afield. We will encourage them to explore the world by looking at living and man-made objects, their similarities and differences, patterns and changes. Technology will support their learning throughout the curriculum as is appropriate.

Physical Development

The children will be encouraged to develop a healthy lifestyle by indoor and outdoor activities that encourage different ways of moving confidently and with increasing skill. They will use appropriate large apparatus in the hall as well as small apparatus (balls, quoits etc) inside and outside. Imaginative dance and yoga will also form part of our curriculum.

Expressive Arts and Design

Through the use of scissors, painting, drawing, folding, rolling and cooking, the children will develop their hand control. We also have a large stock of construction materials for the children to handle, build with and develop an understanding of how things work.

Through art, music, imaginative play and stories they will explore their feelings and the use of their senses in a creative manner. Music will be taught through singing, playing simple instruments and listening to a variety of music from our own and other cultures.

We have a wide range of materials for the children to use in an exploratory way in their artwork. Through this exploration and direct teaching, they will also be developing the skills necessary to express themselves in a variety of ways.

KS1 & KS2 CURRICULUM

English

The school follows the Isle of Man Framework for English. All children receive a daily English lesson of up to one hour. In addition to this they also receive a daily guided reading session of 20 - 30 minutes per day and a weekly handwriting session.

In the English lesson, children take part in a range of activities from shared and modelled writing, word level and sentence level work, text explorations, spelling investigations and independent work. During the term, the children will produce a piece of work that shows all that they have learned during the week and this work is marked and levelled.

In guided reading, the children are grouped according to ability. The children follow a timetable of reading activities during the week, which may include reading poetry, non-fiction, free choice, investigating their topic and of course being taught by their teacher.

The emphasis in the taught guided reading sessions is acquiring new skills in reading and developing strategies for new words as well as expressing preferences in literature and looking at the deeper meaning in the text. The teachers have a detailed programme for each level of the children's reading according to the requirements of the school's English Policy, Long Term Planning and assessment documents and progress and attainment are meticulously recorded. During the rest of the week, the children are then asked to put their newly acquired skills into practice.

We have an excellent range of guided reading books in school and these include traditional schemes as well as a broader range of trade books. The children will have experience of reading a range of genre throughout each year. All the books are graded and the children will progress through the levels according to their reading ability.

We also have a library where children can borrow books for a period of time. Books in the class libraries are also available to take home in order to truly encourage reading and to foster a love of reading in school.

We do ask that the children be given the opportunity to read at home every day. At KS2 you do not necessarily have to **hear** them every day, but we would like you to sign their reading log to say that they have had some quiet time reading for pleasure or to improve the skills they have been working on in school.

Writing is taught using a pedagogy called Talk for Writing where there is great emphasis placed on embedding spoken language, vocabulary, grammar and other toolkits to equip the children with skills to write in different genres.

Spelling is taught according to word families and patterns on a weekly basis as set out in the IOM English Framework. Groups of words are sent home to be learned on a weekly basis. If you wish to have a list of patterns that are covered in the taught spelling session in school, please contact your child's teacher.

We teach the Cambridge Penpals handwriting scheme in school. The children receive weekly handwriting sessions and regular practice is provided in order that all children develop a fluent handwriting style. Children receive many opportunities in the curriculum to develop their speaking and listening skills. This could include presenting work to small groups or the class, taking part in assemblies or reporting on a particular topic. Discussion forms a key element in all our work at school and a constant exchange of ideas is encouraged before, during and after activities. We actively encourage children to develop and express their opinions.

We are developing more opportunities for drama and structured play in school in order for the children to become more confident in expressing themselves and communicating ideas to a wider audience. Drama is also a wonderful opportunity to develop personal self-esteem and allows children to address a whole range of issues in a secure environment.

All the staff at Scoill Vallajeelt are always willing to discuss your child's progress and attainment in literacy. If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher. We would be grateful if you could make an appointment so that your child's teacher can give you the time that you deserve to discuss your concerns.

Mathematics

The school follows the Isle of Man Framework for Maths. Scoill Vallajeelt uses the principles of Maths Mastery as the foundation of learning and the curriculum.

We ask that all children learn their tables as part of their weekly homework routine. Maths becomes so much easier if the children have that knowledge at their fingertips. We would ask that parents spend a few minutes each day working on tables with their children. The value of this cannot be underestimated. It is the singular most important contribution you can make to help your child in maths.

The teacher regularly assesses the children's knowledge and understanding and children are given targets in their maths books to work towards. At the end of each term the children are assessed across the school in order to build up a whole school profile of attainment and to plot individual progression and attainment.

Levels of attainment are reported to parents in the child's end of year report and targets for future learning are set for each child.

Science

The school follows the Isle of Man Framework for Science. Science is a core curriculum subject the topics taught come under the headings Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The children receive at least 2 sessions of Science teaching per week. After a science content topic, the children then do a STEAM project linked to that learning.

The most important aspect of Science is scientific enquiry and we encourage children to ask questions about the world around them, make predictions and deductions and develop an enquiring mind. This is done through experiments and investigations as well as more formal lessons in acquiring knowledge and a scientific vocabulary. Each term all children are assessed in elements of scientific enquiry. All work is moderated to develop a whole school profile of achievement and progress.

Levels of attainment will be reported to parents and results of these tasks enable teachers to set clear targets for future learning.

IT

Children have access to computers linked to the Internet and a large range of software. We have a detailed Internet Access Policy that is available on request and updated on an annual basis. We teach the children the basic skills required to be able to approach this area with confidence in everyday life. In addition, IT is used to support other curriculum areas. Children are formally assessed in IT and teachers keep records of what each child has achieved according to the scheme of work. This assessment record is passed on each year and shows progression across the key stage.

We aim to have IT opportunities in most lessons and in Y1 to Y6, children have access to a range of hardware as well as PCs, to enhance and deliver their learning in a more appealing and stimulating way.

RE

The school follows DESC Policy and Guidance with regard to the curriculum and the children study major world religions, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. The children are taught about the key practices and leaders of each faith and also major festivals, holy buildings and holy books. There are also aspects that investigate broader themes such as belonging, celebrations, rules, faith and tolerance.

Each topic in RE is divided into 2 attainment targets: Learning from Religion and Learning about Religion and the children are encouraged to ask and raise questions about each faith and aspect studied. Children are taught that religion is a choice and within that choice is a choice for a person to have no religion. We also teach the children about respect and acceptance regarding another person's beliefs.

One further, relevant, requirement of the Education Act 2001, is that, "The curriculum shall include provision for...the teaching of...the culture and history of the Island".

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons. We would ask that this request be made in writing for our records.

We hold traditional Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations and children will also have the opportunity to take part in festivals of other world religions. Children are assessed regularly.

History

In KS1 history is taught through topic work and is integrated into the topic where possible. In KS2 history may be taught on a weekly basis to all children for a period of between 40 minutes and one hour. The children are taught the importance of using appropriate vocabulary, how to make deductions and interpret evidence and how to communicate their work in a variety of ways. We look in detail about how people and events have changed the past and that history can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Children are assessed regularly. We use the Manx Curriculum to develop, in broad outline, pupils' awareness of selected periods in the history of the Isle of Man, Britain and the wider world. Manx National Heritage sites and workshops are features that we use to enhance the learning for children. Skills include: Chronological Understanding-language & sequencing and Organisation & Communication- interpretation & enquiry. Children are assessed regularly.

Geography

In KS1, geography is taught through topic work and is integrated into the topic where possible. In KS2, geography may be taught on a weekly basis with lessons lasting between 40 minutes and one hour. During their time at school children will study significant places and environments in the British Isles, Europe and the wider world. They will look at environmental issues, settlements, the weather, and the effects of water on the landscape. We aim to develop a greater understanding of place, patterns and processes and the impact of the environment. We aim to ensure that children develop the skills of geographical enquiry and use a range of sources to help them in communicating their findings. We use the local environment and the Island environment to deepen understanding of knowledge and skills. Children are assessed regularly.

Music

The children have the opportunity to play, sing and compose whilst developing their creative musical ideas. We encourage the skills of listening, appraising and performing. Music is assessed on an annual basis and reported to parents in the end of year report. Children have the opportunity to join our school choir and learn to play a variety of instruments. We also enter our choir in the Manx Music Festival each year.

Additional **music tuition** is supplied by visiting peripatetic teachers. Violin lessons are available for children from Year 3 upwards. Flute, clarinet and guitar from Year 4 upward.

Our school is very proud of its school productions, Christmas concerts and Easter service where the children have the chance to show case their musical ability. Children are assessed regularly.

Art and Design

All artwork is taught through topic. In both KS1 and KS2, they will develop their skills in painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, textiles and collage. The standards in art are very high at our school and the children are encouraged to develop their ideas and designs and evaluate all their work. They are taught to use an appropriate artistic vocabulary and they also study a range of famous artists, including Manx, traditional, contemporary and multi-cultural. Children's work is regularly displayed with pride, throughout the school. Children are assessed regularly.

Physical Education

All children receive 2 hours of physical activity, which includes games, gym and swimming. **We do expect all children to come to school with an appropriate PE kit for both indoor and outdoor work. Failure to do so will result in a letter home.** Children will participate in a variety of gymnastic, athletics, dance and games activities during the academic year. All children are also taught the importance of exercise in daily life and the links between exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The children are encouraged to constantly stretch themselves in their physical activities as well as develop skills such as defending, balance, stamina work and sequences of moves. Assessment in PE is carried out on an annual basis and reported to parents in the annual school report. If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please send a note to let the teacher know. Children who do not do PE watch the lesson.

We encourage try to participate in many events run by Manx Sports and Recreation throughout the year such as football, cross country, multi-sports etc. Children are assessed regularly.

Swimming

We offer swimming lessons to all pupils from Y3-Y6 for 2 for half of the school year. Costs are met by the DESC. During their lesson, children have the chance to work for a range of badges and awards. You will always be kept fully informed about swimming arrangements via letter. We use the pool at the NSC and are always looking for volunteers to accompany the children. So if you can spare a Thursday morning, we would be very grateful. As with PE kits, please ensure all swimming kit is clearly marked with your child's name. Further information detailing the specific swimming costumes allowed at the NSC are to be found on our school website. **A child will not be allowed to join the swimming lesson if they do not have the correct swimming attire.**

Design and Technology

We believe that Design and Technology prepares pupils to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. They learn to think and intervene creatively to improve the quality of life. During each KS1 and KS2, all children have the opportunity to develop, plan and communicate their ideas, work with a range of materials and tools and evaluate their work and the work of others. They are given the chance to investigate and deconstruct familiar products and are encouraged to think about how they work, how they are used and the views of the people who use them. Children are assessed regularly.

PHSE and Citizenship

PHSE and Citizenship is taught using an online provider called Kapow as well as through assemblies, class lessons and the ethos of the school. In PHSE, children are encouraged to examine and talk about a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, stereotypes, first aid, racism and financial management, to name just a few! The lessons form a vital part of your child's education beyond the academic. There is little written formal work as the children are encouraged to explore their ideas and values through role-play or discussion or designing leaflets and posters. Children are assessed regularly.

TRANSFERRING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

In January, the school will send home a letter from the Department where parents will need to indicate which school their child is to transfer to according to their catchment area. The form details catchment areas and also the procedure regarding older siblings.

In the Spring & Summer Terms:

- Secondary schools run taster sessions for different lessons at Scoill Vallajeelt and also at the secondary school.
- Pupils are invited to attend open evenings at the secondary school.
- Special Needs staff from Secondary Schools visit the Headteacher and Primary School staff to discuss all the children who may need support with their behaviour or particular areas of learning.
- Transfer records are collated, giving details of the full range of academic abilities, interests and hobbies. The children also have the opportunity to record any worries or thoughts they may have about transferring to secondary school.
- Two induction days take place which give the children the chance to meet their tutors, experience lessons and meet children from other primary schools in the area. The children begin to become familiar with routines, expectations and the layout of the buildings. They have a fantastic time and are usually very excited at the prospect of starting in September.
- Additional time is provided for vulnerable pupils.

