



Founded 1834

Arbory School News

Dates

28th March

Mother's Day Shop

4th April

Close for Easter Holidays

22nd April

School Open

Guild 2025

26th April

9.15am Manx Dancing

30th April

9.15am Y6 Folk Group

30th April

12pm Y3 Choral

Speaking

2nd May

1.30pm Choir

8th May

9am Dolphin Gala

26th March 2025

Dear Parents

Once again, this half term has been a busy one with a range of events, trips and competitions. Please take a little time to note down any important dates.

Updates

Many thanks to everyone who attended the recent parent teacher meetings. We hope that they were useful and gave you information about your child's progress and specific needs. We have taken all your completed surveys and will report back once we have collated the information.

Staffing

I would like to update everyone on the plans for Y1. Mrs Ayres and Mrs Weeks have continued to work tirelessly to ensure that the class is well catered for and that their needs are being met. This has meant that the Y1 class are benefiting from as much stability as we can give them in terms of continuity and working in an ordered learning environment. They continue to have the support of two teaching assistants each morning and one every afternoon. We are constantly checking their individual needs and we are targeting those child who may need extra support both educationally and emotionally.

Until now, we have only been able to plan for the short term, but the Office of Human Resources has now confirmed that Mrs Carr will not be returning to school this academic year. Although I am not able to discuss the details of the situation, it does give us the opportunity to plan ahead for the whole of next term. Mrs Ayres has agreed to continue to work on long term supply until the end of the school year and will work the first half of the week. Mrs Weeks will continue to work the second half of the week. Both teachers also agreed to undertake the parents meetings which were planned for this term.

I am happy to announce that Mrs Coole has now been appointed on a more permanent basis as well as Mrs Hawley, who will start next term in a support role.

Our thanks goes to Mrs Moore, who as an experienced teaching assistant, has used her expertise and experience to successfully cover this role for the past couple of months and has agreed to continue until Mrs Hawley starts with us.

Competitions

Well done to the Cross Country Teams who took part in the Junior Schools' competition at Nobles Park. The girls team came fifth and boys team came ninth which gave us an overall placing of sixth out of twenty five teams.

Congratulations to the school's Public Speaking Team, Tatum, Eva and Eleanor who secured third place in the island competition held at St Johns School. Tatum answered a very tricky question about what she admired most in *her* headteacher!

We had over 80 children taking part in the different classes at the Folk Awards in Douglas with wins for many of our children in dancing, Manx language reading, singing in Manx and English, and playing and composing music, songs and dances. Mrs Collister, Mrs Weeks, Mrs Sowrey and Mrs Wood have worked tirelessly to prepare the children for these classes and we were thrilled with the results. All the children were a credit to the school and hopefully enjoyed taking part. Due to Mrs Wood's efforts with the Folkestra, we were awarded a Folkastic Award which we are very proud of receiving.

Events and Trips

Our whole school Mardi Gras event was a great success and a celebration of the STEAM (Science Technology Art and Maths) week activities that the classes have undertaken. This was followed by a World Book Day event the following week and once again the children looked fantastic in their book-related costumes. Many dressed as their favourite characters and a last chance for me to dress up for the occasion - sad to note that I'm now more of a Dumbledore than a Peter Pan!

We were pleased to continue with our Celtic connections having hosted Joy Dunlop (Scottish Gaelic Presenter and Musician) earlier in the term we had a visit from a Breton/Manx band Neean Nesan (meaning West in both languages). Both groups taught us a few songs as well as some dance moves. As part of our class topics, Y2 children have seen year-old lambs at school while the Reception Class visited Knockaloe Beg for Lambing Live. Year 3 and year 4 children travelled to Port Erin for their RE themed day and Y2 are visiting the Victorian School room in Castletown.

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