



Arbory Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J H Ayres BEd(Hons) NPQH

"A caring community of creative, confident learners."
"Co-phobble kenjal dy ynseydee chrootagh as yarrooagh."



13 June 2011

Dear Parents

Laa Columb Killey – Thursday 23 June 2011

Please note that school finishes at 12:00. All children must be collected from school on time.

On Thursday morning 23 June 2011, the children should come into school as usual. At the end of the morning the school will close at 12:00 and may I ask that you make arrangements to collect your children promptly at this time. There will be one bus service running to Ronague and Ballakilpheric for the children and this bus will depart at 11.50am. Children who need to travel in the Castletown direction should catch the 11.45am service bus. A member of staff will wait with them at the bus stop.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO CATCH THE CASTLETOWN BUS PLEASE ADVISE MRS BELL THE SCHOOL SECRETARY IN WRITING BEFORE WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE.

Please note that the school is officially closed on this afternoon but we would appreciate your child being available for the sports classes from 4:30pm until 5:50pm. **Please ensure your child is wearing suitable PE kit to take part in sports activities.** Could you let myself or the class teacher know if he/she cannot attend these events. Your child will be given a ticket on the morning of the event, which will enable him/her to gain free entrance and obtain a drink and some cake.

There will be a fancy dress competition, which will be judged at Ballabeg Hall, starting at 2pm – KS1 theme - 'From the Films' and KS2 theme - 'Royalty through the Ages'. We hope that as many children as possible will take part.

The Festival of Laa Columb Killey is a unique part of traditional life in the Parish of Arbory and our school plays an important role in helping to maintain and promote this tradition.

The origin of the festival

"Laa Columb Killey" means the Day of the Church of Columba, the Patron Saint of Arbory Parish Church. The festival is held as near as possible to the anniversary of the day in which Saint Columba died. It was the custom that on this anniversary day, the service in church should be followed by public games and an opportunity for people to meet with one another and show off home grown produce and crafts and hold exhibitions.

Involvement of Arbory School

Our children are involved in Laa Columb Killey in several ways including the preparation and presentations of handwriting and art work at school in the weeks leading up to the big day and also for KS2 children in the production of craft work. This work is judged before the day and then presented in one of the display tents for the children and adults to see immediately following the opening ceremony. This is usually a very exciting moment for the children and they look forward in eager anticipation to see if there is a winning ticket attached to their work. The children from school also take part in the school sports events from 4.30pm and these events will have been rehearsed beforehand at school. Each child will take part in a flat race and a novelty race which is organised by each class teacher.

Our Manx Dancers will perform after the opening ceremony and the Year 6 children will march with the banner procession from Ballabeg Parish Hall, leaving at 2.30pm. Please could Year 6 pupils wear their school uniform and bring their PE kit with them to change into for the sports. Y6 children involved in the fancy dress competition can wear this instead of school uniform.

One of the traditions surrounding Laa Columb Killey involves year 6 pupils helping to clear the field on the following day. This will involve picking up litter and other debris using plastic gloves. In the past, the pupils have received plentiful supplies of sandwiches. If you do not want your child to be involved in this, then please contact Mrs Faragher or myself before Wednesday 22 June. If it is wet on Friday it would be a good idea to bring wellies to change into.

Involvement of the community in Arbory

There are many competitions for members of the public from all ages to take part in, including growing of produce, art, photography, handicraft, confectionary and floral arrangements. There are also further sports activities in open classes for children at 6pm and adults from 7pm onwards.

Helpers Appeal

Helpers are needed on the children's sideshow stalls. If anyone could give up an hour to man one of the sideshows, designed to keep the children entertained, could they please give Jill Gardner a ring on 833244.

The opening Ceremony

The procession starts at Ballabeg Hall at 2.30pm and is led by Castletown Metropolitan Band and the Laa Columb Killey banner carried by Year 6 pupils. The children who have entered the fancy dress competition also make up the procession and they will join it at Ballabeg Hall. On arriving at the field, there are prayers, speeches and it is tradition for the following hymn to be sung:

*We thank Thee, Lord, for this fair earth,
The glittering sky, the silver sea;
For all their beauty, all their worth
Their light and glory, come from Thee.*

*So, while we gaze with thoughtful eye
On all the gifts Thy love has given,
Help us in Thee to live and die,
By Thee to rise from earth to heaven.*

The new Lieutenant Governor, Mr Adam Wood will open the Festival.