



# Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

*Department of Education, Sport and Culture*  
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Dear parents of children due to start Laxey School in September

## **RE: Induction for new "Reception" children**

Please allow me to officially welcome you and your child to Laxey School. Preparations are well underway at school to make your child's first year with us a fantastic success and a truly positive first step in their formal education. We can't wait to welcome you and your child to our friendly school and we will do all that we can to make this important time in your life as worry free as possible! We hope that this pack of information answers any questions you have, but please, if you remain unsure about anything then please do get in touch with us. No issue or query is too small!

On Thursday 29th June, your child is invited into school from 2pm. This will give the incoming Reception class an opportunity to experience the school environment, their new classroom and meet their teacher. Parents are invited to come in as well, and once the children are settled, we will be politely asking you to leave! This is the hardest part for any parent, but we absolutely promise you that it is the best thing for the children for you to leave as quickly as possible. It is anticipated that parents can then enjoy a bit of freedom before returning to pick their children up at 3.20pm.

On Thursday 30th June, your child is invited back into school for a second time, this time arriving at 9.30am, and parents can collect them again at 11.30am from the lower playground. Again, there is no need for parents to stay. This second visit will allow the children to experience a school playtime, and should parents have any questions following the previous day's visit, there is an obvious opportunity to raise these with the school straight away.

We will assume that you and your child are able to attend the induction days as detailed in this letter, unless you contact us to tell us differently. We would urge you to make every effort to attend on these days as it will give your child the opportunity to meet all the other children who will be starting school with them.

**Please note that induction visits are staggered so the information you are receiving re times and dates may be different to that which other parents are receiving. Please do not be alarmed if other parents have been given different details. Stick to the times in this letter addressed to you.**

I also have great pleasure in enclosing some key information for you in this pack. First and foremost, please find a copy of our Parent Handbook which contains all of the information you need in advance of starting your child at Laxey. In addition to this, there is a letter from your child's new teacher, Mrs Knight and nursery nurse Miss Smith.

Mrs Knight will be your child's teacher, and is an extremely qualified and experienced practitioner, especially with the important Reception year group. Miss Smith is our longest serving member of

staff at Laxey and is one of the most experienced nursery nurses in the Isle of Man. Your child will be in very good hands!

We've also included a "poster" which acts as a guide to helping your child enjoy the exciting journey to becoming school-ready.

I'll finish off with a few practical points which will be of interest:

- Mrs Knight will put your child into a "colour" team. She will give you this information on the transition days in June. The teams are useful for organising the children into small groups for some activities such as PE. Although we'd request that the T-shirt for your child's PE kit matches the colour group that your child is placed in, it isn't essential; and you don't need to worry that the colour grouping will come to define your child or their opportunities. It is a purely organisational mechanism that becomes much less important over time.
- We currently have 31 children registered for the class with a reasonably even boy/girl split. This is around the size of a usual incoming cohort at Laxey School, and by no means the largest intake we've ever had. The children have a very spacious area of two classrooms, connected by a shared zone across the upper end of the rooms. This means that the Reception team can split the class into two groups for some teaching, which improves the adult:child ratio and enables the numbers to be extremely well managed.
- School uniform can be ordered and purchased from Promenade T-Shirts. We would recommend not purchasing this until towards the end of July or during the August school holiday closures. Children have a habit of growing!
- The school has an active Twitter feed and Facebook page. If you haven't already done so, check them out and keep your eye on them as they give a good flavour of what goes on and act as a window into the life of Laxey School. We also have a website at <http://laxey.sch.im> which has a wealth of additional information.

Finally, we have produced a "virtual welcome" to the school in the form of a video which you can show your child. The video will introduce your child to some key people and let them see their new classroom and begin to familiarise themselves with it. You can find it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkrGmsGijy4&t=8s>

We are also holding a live Information Briefing for parents via Zoom at 2pm on Monday 26th June (the week of the first induction visit) where we will introduce you to the teachers and talk to you about some of the key information you need ready for September. And don't worry, you won't need to remember everything as we'll make a recording of the webinar available on our website, and on your child's first official day in September, we'll hold a brief physical meeting with all of our new parents too - details about that will be shared in the webinar. Please see the school's social media feeds for the link to register for the webinar.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.



Mr M Kelly  
**Executive Headteacher**