



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

Department of Education and Children  
*Rheynn Ynsee as Paitechyn*

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## **NEWSLETTER (3) FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2017**

### **Message from Mr Kelly**

I hope that you all had an enjoyable half term break and would like to welcome back all of our pupils and families for what we know will be a very busy and fun-filled half term at Laxey.

As I reflect on my first half-term at Laxey School I am filled with a huge sense of pride at what has already been achieved in a relatively short space of time. There have been improvements to the physical building with new flooring in the main entrance area, the latest enhancement to our facilities. The main entrance display looks fantastic and makes for a bright and welcoming feast for the eyes for our pupils, parents and visitors. We've also updated the entrance porch – you'll now find an up to date information board together with a leaflet-holder containing copies of school correspondence, forms and the latest newsletter. The porch has been decorated by the children, every one of whom has contributed a drawing to represent themselves. Next time you're around, pop in and have a look! We've updated the infants' library and our caretaker has started the job of painting the long corridor so that it has a refreshed look and feel. We've certainly been busy, and this programme of refurbishment will continue.

Alongside all of these environmental improvements, the teachers have undergone training on curriculum planning and have been working hard to plan topics that are more responsive to children's interests, teacher's passions and more reflective of current affairs so that learning has a real relevancy and context.

I'm pleased to also be able to tell you about an excellent opportunity for the parents of Laxey School. On Tuesday 28th November you are all invited to attend the "Support and Signpost" evening at St Ninian's Lower School (Bemahague). During the evening, there will be a series of 30 minute workshops available for parents to choose from, delivered by a range of agencies, which aim to offer help and support for parents of all school aged children. You are welcome to attend up to four of these workshops over the course of the evening, or you may wish to attend only one or two if you have less time available. Of course, attendance at the evening is entirely optional, but it is a great chance to find out about a whole host of issues which may affect your children as they grow up, such as e-safety, bullying, sexting, and emotional well-being. There are further details of this event included in the accompanying literature.

Finally, I just wanted to say how lovely it was to see so many parents, friends and families at this morning's Remembrance Service in the school hall. The children of Laxey School did a super job and delivered a very moving and most fitting tribute to the men and women who have given their lives for our freedom. It is an honour and a privilege to be associated with such fine young people, and I am proud to be their Headteacher.

With best wishes,

## **Important dates**

- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Steve Woodley Photography Re-Sits (details below)
- 13<sup>th</sup> November – 1st December – hamper donations being collected (details below)
- 17<sup>th</sup> November – BBC Children in Need Day (details below)
- 28<sup>th</sup> November – Support and Signposts Evening (details below)
- 5<sup>th</sup> December - Laxey School Christmas Fair @ 3.30pm (details below)
- 11<sup>th</sup> December - Reception Class Christmas Production @ 2pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December - Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production @ 2pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December - Years 3 and 4 Christmas Production @ 2pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch in School (details below)
- 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December - Years 5 and 6 Christmas Production @ 2pm

## **Reception children for September 2018**

If you know of any families who have a child due to start at Laxey School next September, please would you ask them to contact the school as soon as possible to register a place with us.

## **Christmas Productions**

This half-term the staff and the children will be busy preparing for their annual Christmas Productions. I thought you'd appreciate knowing the dates of our performances in advance – we intend to hold two performances for each production, with the exception of Reception class who perform just the once:

- Reception Class – 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm
- Years 1 and 2 – 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm
- Years 3 and 4 – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm
- Years 5 and 6 – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

These productions are not ticketed events, and parents, grandparents, families and friends are duly invited to turn up to whichever performance is most convenient. If you enjoy the first, you are more than welcome to attend the second! Productions are performed in the sports hall, and as usual we'll be filming them so that you can purchase a DVD copy as a keepsake.

Further details will be sent out in due course, but at least everyone now has the dates for their diaries!

## **Christmas Fair**

I am extremely grateful to the committee of parents who have been busy organising a Christmas Fair for Laxey School. It is absolutely fantastic to have such willing parents – generous with their time and enthusiasm: I really hope this is the beginning of greater parental involvement going forward!

The Christmas Fair will be held in the Sports Hall and will take place on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 3.30pm (straight after school!) A flyer is attached to this newsletter – pin it to your fridge so that you remember to come along!

We are asking for donations to fill our hampers for our highly anticipated raffles. As usual, we are collecting themed donations across the different year groupings:

- Reception class: please bring in anything suitable for the hamper – items should be green.

- Years 1 and 2: please bring in anything suitable for the hamper – items should be red.
- Years 3 and 4: please bring in anything suitable for the hamper – items should be silver.
- Years 5 and 6: please bring in anything suitable for the hamper – items should be gold.

We are ready to accept donations from MONDAY (13th November) and we need to stop collecting on Friday 1st December so that we can make up the hampers.

We would also like to run a cake stall and would be grateful for any cake-bakers out there to get busy and send in some tasty treats. We will take these in on the morning of the fair – just bring them with you to school in the morning.

Just a final note, we are also planning to run an “adopt a teddy bear” stall and will require donations of quality teddy bears / small cuddly toys which are in good condition. Please read on for further information about this – it’s in the section of the newsletter about “Children in Need.”

A big thank you in advance for your support and generosity. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us at this event to help us begin our festive celebrations at Laxey School.

### **Christmas Jumpers**

School is aware that children like to accessorise their uniforms at Christmas time, with girls wearing Christmassy alicebands, and boys wearing festive hats. This is absolutely fine. In addition, although I would like children to remain in school trousers / skirts, school polo shirts and appropriate school shoes, I won’t object to children wearing Christmas jumpers in school during the entire month of December, this can start on Friday 1st December. This is entirely optional, and children can obviously continue to wear their school jumper if you do not wish them to come to school in Christmas jumpers, or do not have a Christmas jumper for them to wear. I’d also have to stress that this is not an invitation for children to dress up in things beyond a Christmas jumper, and the rest of the uniform must be observed as stated above. I will relax the rule further for the final week of term when children will be free to wear non-uniform: that’s anything from jeans and football tops through to pretty dress-up clothes and fancy shoes!

As stated, this is entirely optional and is not part of a fundraising drive: we ask for nothing in return. It is simply to enjoy the festive fun of Christmas and help make the time as seasonal and as special as possible for the children.

### **Children in Need – Friday 17th November**

Laxey School is delighted to announce that we are supporting BBC Children in Need on Friday 17th November. We are being visited by Pudsey Bear during the day and this will be covered by Isle of Man Newspapers!

I am proposing that in order to celebrate the work of “BBC Children in Need” the pupils can come to school in non-uniform on the day (Friday 17th November). In exchange, the children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 can bring in an unwanted teddy bear or small cuddly toy which can be donated towards our school fair. Please could these be checked for general quality, and put through the washing machine if necessary. Children in Y3 and above are

asked to bring in some loose change which they can throw into Pudsey's collection bucket when he visits the classes.

It should be a fun day in school and I look forward to seeing the children in their glad rags! *(Please send your child to school in non-uniform even if you are unable to make a teddy bear donation or a monetary contribution. Although we ask for such donations, I do recognize that it is entirely optional to do so, and I wouldn't want to stop a child from "dressing down" and joining in the fun!)*

### **Christmas Lunch for the Pupils (15th December)**

On Friday 15th December, School Lunch will be Mrs Corlett's famous Christmas Dinner! This will be the meal given to all children who usually have a school lunch. The dining hall will be decorated with table cloths, festive music will be played and all the children will have crackers. If your child has packed lunches, you may wish to think about sending in a festive feast on the day (e.g. turkey and cranberry sandwiches, mince pies etc).

### **Steve Woodley Photography**

We have had a message from Steve to inform us that the re-sits, previously advertised for tomorrow between 10am and 5pm, will now open for a shorter time between 2pm and 5pm.

For those of you who have placed orders for photographs, these will have come home today with this newsletter.

### **Support and Signposts Evening**

As mentioned above, the "Support and Signpost" event is taking place on Tuesday 28th November, to which you are cordially invited. The event has been organised by St Ninian's High School with input from its feeder primary schools, and all the relevant information – including details of how to book – are included in the accompanying letter.

### **Sickness - vomiting and diarrhoea**

If your child has vomiting and/or diarrhoea, please do not send them to school.

Please do not take your child to hospital or to your GP surgery. If you need medical advice, please contact your GP or MEDS by phone.

Practice good hygiene especially hand washing. Follow the "48 hour rule": please do not send your child back to school for 48 hours after all the symptoms have stopped, because the child continues to excrete the virus during this time. The most common cause for outbreaks of sickness, vomiting and diarrhoea is believed to be failure to follow the 48 hour rule.

### **Naming items of clothing**

It is essential that all items of clothing are clearly named so that items of lost property can be returned.

\*\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\*\*

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