



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

Department of Education and Children  
*Rheynn Ynsee as Paitechyn*

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## **NEWSLETTER (2) FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

### **Message from Mr Kelly**

We've had a really busy month in school since I last wrote to you all, and the children have had some fantastic learning opportunities. I've been so impressed with the way our Reception children are coming into school – now with smiles on faces and settling down much more quickly. We've had some fascinating guest speakers in school to enrich the learning experiences of our children: thank you to Michelle Storton from Manx Birdlife who came in to speak to Year Five about peregrine falcons, thank you to Mr Sharpe who came in to raise awareness of blindness with our junior children, and thank you to the team from Junior Achievement who spent a day teaching the children in Year 6 about "Our World."

It was lovely to see Laxey School so well represented at this year's Isle of Man Bank Fell Running Championships at Bradda Head. We had quite a team and all of the children did themselves proud. I should give a special mention to Issy, Stan, Lula, Abi, Nathan and Lucy who all managed a podium finish!

Thank you to the whole school community for supporting our "Bright for Sight" day in mid September. The children not only looked great and raised money for a really good cause, but they also were able to learn about how loss of sight and vision can affect people. The Manx Blind Welfare Society were delighted with the cheque for £133.00 that we were able to present them with.

If you haven't yet had chance to pop into school to see our entrance area display, then you have missed a treat! Please do come and have a look. Every child has contributed something and it looks fantastic. We've also made some changes to the communal area in between the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms so that it is much more welcoming and inviting. We've developed a more homely feel complete with an infant library. Again, please feel able to pop in and have a look the next time you're around.

As I reflect on my first full month working at Laxey School I can see much progress being made in key areas and I remain positive and optimistic about all that lies ahead. Keep your eyes out for changes to our entrance porch, the main corridor and to some aspects of our teaching. More on that in the coming months!

In the meantime, thank you to everyone who has continued to make me feel welcome. It has been great that parents have felt able to approach me to talk about a variety of aspects of the school and I encourage you all to continue this dialogue with me. Newsletters will continue to be published on the first Friday of the month during term-time and I hope you find our website and the new Facebook and Twitter pages useful sources of information too.

With best wishes,

## **Important dates**

w/c 9th October – Autumn Walks (see details below)

17th October – Parents Evening (see details below)

w/c 30th October – school closed for half-term

10th November – Remembrance Service in School Hall (details to follow)

28th November – Parent workshops at SNHS (details to follow)

5th December – Laxey School Christmas Fair (initial details below)

This is just a "heads up" for some upcoming key dates. More dates will be published and communicated to you very soon, and on an ongoing basis.

## **Autumn Walks**

Laxey School has a proud tradition of fundraising through participation in an annual "Autumn Walk". Each class takes part in a walk, and these are taking place next week (w/c 9th October.). In previous years we have asked children to collect sponsorship for doing the walk – this year, to ease the process somewhat, rather than collecting sponsorship we are asking children to bring in a small "donation" in return for completing the walk.

The walks are taking place as listed below, and on the day of your child's class walk they should wear appropriate footwear. A warm coat is also essential, as is a water bottle. There is no need for your child to wear school uniform on the day of their walk.

Reception	MONDAY AFTERNOON (9 <sup>th</sup> October)
Years 1 and 2	WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (11 <sup>th</sup> October)
Years 3 and 4	WEDNESDAY MORNING (11 <sup>th</sup> October)
Years 5 and 6	WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (11 <sup>th</sup> October)

Please send your donation into the school office during the week in an envelope labelled "Autumn Walk." Such a donation is entirely optional and children can still complete the walk without making a donation. All money raised will go towards the school fund.

## **School Fund**

The school fund is Laxey School's own account. Any funds raised for the school are deposited into this account and the money is used to provide additional resources and extra-curricular opportunities to enhance the learning experiences of all of our pupils at Laxey School. It is money in addition to the school's allocated budget from Treasury and is used to augment the provision we have. We are currently raising funds to refresh our school library and relocate it into the main corridor.

## **Parents' evening**

Laxey School is pleased to inform you that on Tuesday 17th October we shall be holding our first Parents' Evening of the year. We're offering this first Parents' Evening as an informal "open" evening for you to visit your children's classrooms and, if you wish, to have a chat with the teachers about how your children are getting along and settling in, and see some of the work they have been doing. No appointment is necessary, and you are encouraged to bring your children along so that they can show you their learning and talk to you about school. As I'm sure you can appreciate, after all afternoon in the classroom, the teachers will require a short break and an opportunity to prepare for the Parents' Evening; as such, once the children have been dismissed at the end of the school day, the doors for the school will be closed, re-opening for the Parents' Evening at 4pm. Doors will be locked again from 6.30pm onwards, with the parents evening closing at 7pm

We look forward to seeing you!

### **Gift for Children in Reception**

Book Trust is the UK's leading reading charity and aims to develop and foster a love for reading in children and families. Book Trust have kindly gifted each pupil in Reception with a book – The Bumble Bear – which they are giving as a way of encouraging you to make time to read with your child. Our thanks go to Book Trust for this kind donation and we hope that those of you in Reception enjoy the story!

### **Gift for Children in Y6**

Year 6 children are today bringing home a copy of the Safety Awareness Booklet which has been kindly donated by John Boyde Funeral Services. The booklets promote safety messages to children and families in a fun way and are produced by Safety Guide Services who aim to make our communities and schools safer places. We hope that our Year 6 pupils find them useful.

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

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

### **Dropping children off / picking children up by car**

I have been asked by residents who neighbour our school to remind parents politely to drive with care when using Menorca Hill and Quarry Road. Some drivers have been observed driving beyond the speed limit and some are observed parking in illegal and / or dangerous positions.

Following on from this, could I just give a timely reminder for everyone about the staff car park. I appreciate that parking can be difficult at the start and end of each school day. This is a common issue across many schools. Unfortunately, I will have to ask that parents /carers /relatives do not make use of the staff car park. There are very real safety reasons for this: reducing traffic congestion in this area is part of how the school manages the risk of on site traffic.

I really appreciate your co-operation in these matters.

### **Christmas fair**

Laxey School is hoping to engage a group of willing, able and talented parents to help us stage a Christmas Fair!

Our initial plan is to hold the fair on Tuesday 5th December in the Sports Hall, straight after school at 3.30pm and running it through into tea-time / early evening. A number of parents found time to talk to me last term to say they'd really welcome an opportunity to get involved in the life of the school and to help to arrange a couple of events for us. If this sounds like something you could assist with and have the time and energy to commit, please could you join Mr Kelly for a coffee and a chat on Friday 13th October at 3pm – just turn up at the main doors and Mrs Quane will show you through. The more people we have, the better!

We thought we'd go for 3pm as it will tie in with picking your child up at "home time!" See you there!