



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

Department of Education and Children  
*Rheynn Ynsee as Paitechyn*

**Headteacher**  
Maxim J Kelly

**Deputy Headteacher**  
Trish Dudley



**Laxey Primary School**

Quarry Road, Laxey  
Isle of Man, IM7 1AH

Direct Dial No: (01624) 861373  
Website: <https://laxey.sch.im>  
Email: [laxeyenquiries@sch.im](mailto:laxeyenquiries@sch.im)

## **NEWSLETTER (1) FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

### **Welcome back pupils and parents**

I'm delighted to contribute to the first newsletter of the year, my first as headteacher of Laxey School. I intend to use this as a key mode of communication amongst many others; including parents' evenings, workshops, letters, and those enjoyable chats I've started to have on the playground in the mornings and afternoons. Some parents have been really helpful and have come to me with suggestions and ideas for making Laxey School an even better place. Thank you for all of these conversations, and I hope you'll start seeing positive changes over the coming months and years.

I was able to spend some time at Laxey School last term, and I have spent part of the summer break in school preparing for the term ahead. This has enabled me to find out a lot about the school and I've met so many different people that I already feel part of the fabric of Laxey School. The school is full of life and fun with the children, families, governors and all the school staff working together enthusiastically to provide exciting opportunities for learning. Everybody has gone the extra mile to make me feel welcome - especially the school staff and children who make up the school.

I hope that everyone – staff, pupils and parents – have had a fabulous summer break and are feeling refreshed and energized for the school year ahead. It certainly promises to be an exciting and positive one, building on the strengths of the school, and I would like to thank Mrs Jones for her tireless work. She leaves behind a strong legacy.

It has been lovely to welcome new pupils and new families into the Laxey School community. Our Reception children have settled in extremely well over the last couple of days, and our new pupils in other year groups have made a positive start. A warm welcome is extended to all of you who are new.

This academic year marks the beginning of the Garff Federation, consisting of Dhoon and Laxey Schools, which I have been asked to oversee. At Laxey, Mrs Dudley now has a reduced teaching commitment and a professional office space which recognizes her seniority and increased leadership responsibilities. Parents should feel that they can take any concerns, issues or queries to Mrs Dudley should I not be available, and Mrs Dudley will have delegated authority to deal with all such matters.

For everyone's convenience, I intend to make newsletters much more regular and you can anticipate receiving them on the first Friday of every month. If you have any matters which you wish to raise with the school or discuss, please feel free to make an appointment to see me or Mrs Dudley and we will be very happy to meet with you.

I wish everyone associated with the school all the very best for the forthcoming school year!

With best wishes,

## **Important dates**

12th September – Swimming lessons commence (info below)

14th September – MSR Sports Club commences (info below)

29th September – School photographs day (info below)

15<sup>th</sup> September – Joint fundraiser for school and Manx Blind Welfare Society (info below)

26<sup>th</sup> September – Reception photographs for Isle of Man Newspapers

30<sup>th</sup> September – Junior Fell Running Championships (initial details below)

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

## **Swimming**

The Department of Education and Children manages “Manx Sport and Recreation” (MSR) who we have used to deliver sports lessons at school since last year. The Department have asked MSR to take responsibility for the Island’s school swimming provision. MSR have undertaken a review of current swimming provision across all Island schools and have produced an updated Swimming Policy and guidelines document.

MSR have sought to bring greater equity of provision across all Isle of Man schools, and as such, all schools will be offering two-terms of weekly swimming lessons to all children in Key Stage Two.

Swimming lessons commence for this term on Tuesday 12th September. Lessons will now be for children in Years 3 – 6 every week until the Easter holiday.

Please note that we have been allocated a **new** time for our swimming lessons under the new arrangements, and we will be leaving Laxey School by bus as soon as we can in the morning – straight after morning registration. **I urge all parents to ensure their children are at school at 8.50am promptly on Tuesday mornings so that we can register them and get them on the bus for immediate departure.**

Children will require the following:

Boys – fitted swimming trunks (not shorts)

Girls – one piece costume (not bikini)

Swimming hat for long hair

Towel

Children will not be allowed to wear any jewellery to the pool. Ear studs should be taken out before the lesson or not worn that day. Children can bring swimming goggles if they wish.

## **Lunch and milk – September / October 2017**

Mrs Quane has sent out information regarding orders and prices for lunch and milk. Please don’t hesitate to call if you have any questions.

## **School clubs**

“Manx Sport and Recreation” (MSR) will hold a Sports Club (a variety of different sports, games and activities will be offered over the weeks) after school on Thursdays. The club will commence on Thursday 14th September 3.30 – 4.30. This term the club will be for children in Years Five and Six. Places are limited, so if you would like your child to attend please complete the slip at the bottom of the newsletter, and return to the school office by Monday. Please assume your child has been allocated a place – we will contact you directly if a place has not been found for them.

Spanish Club commences on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The club takes place at lunchtimes for Years Three and Four. The club is privately run and there is a charge for attending – spaces have already been allocated but if anyone is interested in finding out more, please contact the school.

## **Sports Lessons**

Last year we started to use "Manx Sport and Recreation" (MSR) to provide sports lessons for our classes. We are pleased to confirm that we have once again funded this provision so that every class can benefit from their expertise over the year. We're beginning with MSR sessions being offered to Years Five and Six and these have been timetabled for Thursdays (beginning this coming Thursday 14th September) so a reminder that appropriate PE kit should be in school on this day.

As a general point, PE kits should be in school and left in school for the entire half-term. PE kits should be in appropriately sized bags and children should be encouraged to take extremely good care of them.

## **Junior Fell Running Championships 2017**

The 2017 Junior Fell Running Championship, which is being held at Bradda Head in Port Erin, takes place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 1.30pm Races are for primary school children in Years 2 through to and including Year 6.

School will prepare a letter, which will go home with those children selected, with all the information you need. Please keep an eye out for this.

## **Staff Car Park**

A timely reminder for everyone and an important message for parents and families new to our school concerns car parking. 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 this matter.

## **Manx Blind Welfare Society / School Fund Joint Fundraiser**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, Laxey School will be holding a joint fundraiser. We are hoping to raise money for our school fund as well as supporting Manx Blind Welfare Society's "Vision Awareness Week" by holding a "Bright for Sight" day. On this day, children are encouraged to wear non-uniform, and to dress wearing really brightly coloured clothes in exchange for an **optional** £2 donation, which we will collect on the children's arrival at school.

Representatives for Manx Blind Welfare Society will be visiting the school during the day to speak to the children in Key Stage 1 and teach them about the work that they do.

All monies raised will be split equally between Manx Blind Welfare Society and Laxey School so that we can enhance our curricular and extra-curricular provision.

## **Parental consent and medical information form**

At the end of this letter you will find the annual Parental Consent and Medical Information Form. I'd really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this form and return it to the school office. There is also a data collection sheet which shows all of the information we currently hold in relation to addresses and emergency contact details. I urge you to check this, and mark any amendments clearly so that we have the most up-to-date information you can provide. There is a space at the end of the sheet to sign, and we would like all sheets returned and signed – even those where no amendments have been necessary.

Should there be a change in your contact details, or if at anytime you wish to revoke the permissions granted on this form, it is crucial that you inform the school immediately so that we can adjust our records accordingly.

Please do take the time to complete these forms and return them to the school office as soon as you can, and no later than Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**Social Media**

Laxey School can now be found on social media – we have a Facebook Page and Twitter feed. Please remember to “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter to ensure that you are kept up to date with photographs, snippets of information, reminders and useful dates which are all communicated through these channels. If you don’t use social media, don’t worry – there won’t be any vitally important information broadcast across our Facebook and Twitter pages that isn’t available to see in newsletters or on our official school website. The social media pages will augment our efforts to communicate effectively with everyone involved with the school.

Google searches will lead you to all of our social media pages and feeds.

As with newspaper photos, please let school know on the accompanying “Permissions Form” if you do not wish your child to appear on our website and social media pages. Engagement with our social media pages is entirely optional. Feedback from parents at other schools in the Isle of Man has been extremely positive on the whole, and as we take e-safety extremely seriously, we will not use photographs of your child without your consent. The page is intended to be used by parents, families, friends of the school – but not by pupils.

On a final note, if at any time you have any concerns about your child at school, then please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange to meet with the relevant staff member. We would ask that parents and carers please support the school in its constant drive to raise standards by discussing any concerns or issues directly with us rather than on social media sites which could be potentially damaging for the school and its pupils. We would also encourage parents and carers to monitor their children’s use of social networking sites encouraging them to be respectful in this arena.

**School photographs**

Laxey School is pleased to confirm that Steve Woodley Photography will be visiting school this term on the morning of Friday 29th September to take our annual school photographs.

Steve will be available in the school hall from 8.30am for any parents who wish to have their children photographed with younger siblings not presently attending Laxey School. If you make your own way into the hall with your children, Steve will organize you and make sure that the photographs are taken in the groupings that you would like.

After morning registration, each class will be taken to the hall, where Steve will take individual shots as well as sibling shots.

Proofs of the photographs will be made available to parents a couple of weeks later, and it is at that point that you can decide whether or not you would like to make any purchases. There is obviously no obligation to buy.

An additional letter with all relevant information will follow.

**Reception photographs**

Isle of Man Newspapers produces a supplement every year with pictures of the new Reception classes across all the schools in the Isle of Man. The photographer is visiting Laxey School on the morning of Tuesday 26th September, and the supplement will be published and available to buy in shops within the next couple of weeks.

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I would like my child ..... to attend MSR Sports club on Thursdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm. My child is in Year 5 / Year 6. **THIS CLUB COMMENCES ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

At 4.30p my child is: being collected / walking home / catching a bus home / other\_\_\_\_\_

Signed.....

