



Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

*Department of Education, Sport and Culture
Rheynn Ynsee, Spoyrt as Cultoor*

Headteacher
Maxim J Kelly

Deputy Headteacher
Trish Dudley



Laxey Primary School

Quarry Road, Laxey
Isle of Man, IM4 7DU

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

NEWSLETTER (6) FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2018

Message from Mr Kelly

It's hard to believe that the children have been back for half a term since Christmas – it really has flown by. As usual, all of our pupils have been having a fantastic time in their classes and their topics have certainly ignited their imaginations. I really hope you have found our social media channels, particularly Facebook, useful additions to our communication with you all, and I hope the regular updates are providing you with a useful window into the life of the school.

Of course, we still strive to improve at developing our vital working relationship with parents, and to that end, I hope some of the information in this newsletter – particularly about the Discover Day at our federated partner school and the Laxey specific "handwriting workshop" – will be useful in strengthening the home-school partnership.

The staff team have been busy working on classroom environments and, I have to say, the classrooms are looking spectacular. Fabulous displays, a renewed energy on organisation and tidiness and a continued focus on learning and the learning process has resulted in a warm, bright and welcoming interior environment. We remain in the process of overhauling our main corridor – the new flooring will be completed over half-term and then the job of fitting this out as a library will begin. We've also started to look at the outside environment. It won't happen overnight, but plans are beginning to fall into place for dealing with the persistent mud issue and making the whole place look a lot more cared for. Thanks must also go to the small army of volunteers who are giving up their time next weekend to help repaint the dining hall. Together we can make our school really beautiful for the children!

With best wishes,

Important dates

w/c 12th February – Half-term

22nd February – Discover Day @ Dhoon (details below for Laxey parents)

28th February – World Book Day is marked at Laxey School

13th and 14th March – Parents Evenings (details below – including information on how to make an appointment. Please read this as we have changed the system!)

Dining Room

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, our school dining hall is in desperate need of an upgrade. It is not a pleasant environment for the children to eat their lunches in. I am going to invest some money in tablecloths, china plates, new cutlery etc and I have had some early conversations with the dinner ladies about serving the food in a more "canteen" style.

But, what the school would really like to do is clear out all the clutter, take down the old curtains and give the room a lick of paint. The green colour is so dated and grubby looking. We've already started

to recruit a small army of volunteers to give up a few hours over a weekend in February – we've now agreed that this will be next weekend (10th / 11th February) - to come into school and help paint the hall.

There is still time to offer to help. If you are interested in helping out, please could you get in touch with the parent organizing committee – either in person or through Debbie Boyle via the committee email laxeychoolfundraising@gmail.com

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.

Handwriting workshop for parents

The school staff will be reviewing our approach to teaching handwriting in the coming weeks and months, and our expectations for children's handwriting and presentation of work in their books. I have arranged for high-quality training for all of my staff from a UK organization called "Morrells" who are coming over in February to work with the school and kick-start our review.

I'm also delighted to announce that Morrells will be running a training session / workshop for parents. This will take place on Thursday 22nd February at 9.15am in the dining hall. The session is completely free and will cover everything from the correct approach to teaching handwriting to pencil grips to letter formation to joins to tips as to how you can help and support at home. The session will last approximately one hour – **if you'd like to come along, please could you give Mrs Quane a ring /email just so that we have some indication of how many chairs to put out and how many refreshments to provide for.**

In the meantime, if you'd like to check out Morrells and see what they have to offer, simply visit <https://morrellshandwriting.co.uk>

Swimming

For the first Tuesday after half-term we are only taking a selection of children swimming. These will be children with a green certificate or higher. **We will make sure the children know who is and who is not swimming that week!** Our intention is to do timings to help us begin to plan our squad selection for the Dolphin Gala. Swimming will resume for everyone in Years 3 – 6 as normal from the second week back.

Parents Evenings

Formal parents evenings are due to be held in the second half of this half-term. The main parents evening will be held on Tuesday 13th March (4pm – 7pm). 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 6.50pm onwards.

On Wednesday 14th March, there will be a shorter parents evening (4pm – 5.30pm) to meet with any parents who were unable to attend on the Tuesday. Again, 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 5.20pm onwards.

From the first Monday after half-term (Monday 19th February 2018) up until Friday 9th March, there will be appointment sheets on display in the Main Entrance Area. Parents will be able to sign up to an appointment with the teachers they would like to see. Please can school request that the appointment sheet is filled in by parents and not their children. Any parents who have not made an appointment by Friday 9th March will be contacted by telephone and offered free slots. Obviously if you do not sign up for an appointment for a time of your choosing, the slots offered to you by telephone may not be as convenient to you. Our expectation is that every child will be represented by a parent at one of the two evenings, and we encourage you to sign up for an appointment as soon as possible.

World Book Day

Laxey School will be celebrating "World Book Day" this year. In fact, we are actually celebrating it a day early, and on Wednesday 28th February a very special workshop has been arranged for the children in Years 3 - 6. These classes will be gathered together in the sports hall for a presentation by Mokee Joe author, Peter Murray, who will talk about his work as a children's writer and bring some of his stories to life. We will be joined by the junior children from Dhoon School for this event – so there is a great opportunity for us to work with our federated school and for the pupils to begin to get to know one another a little better, too! Additionally, every child in every year group will receive a £1 book token to bring home at the end of the school day.

Discover Day @ Dhoon

Our federated partner school, Dhoon School, holds a bi-annual "Discover Day" in its school hall. This year, the Discover Day takes place on Thursday 22nd February from 2pm. The event is an opportunity for parents to discover lots of information about the partners who work with the school and the work that they do.

Lots of the school's partners will be in attendance, with various of information stalls in the school hall, including Ramsey Grammar School to talk to Y6 parents about the move to secondary school, Morrells Handwriting Company to explain the handwriting scheme that we use at Dhoon School, Manx Sport and Recreation to answer queries about school swimming lessons and to promote their out-of-school activities, the Early Help and Additional Support (EHAS) team from Social Services to explain the service they offer, the Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment to talk about the work they have done with Dhoon School to support outdoor education and the Family Library to explain how they facilitate learning through books and reading. There will be lots more going on too, with lots of other information that you can dip in and out of, including stalls from the local Church, charity groups, and St John Ambulance.

From 3.45pm, there will be a presentation of 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. The presentation will be split into short blocks from a range of speakers including Daphne Caine MHK to explain her role as Children's Champion for the Isle of Man and Sue Smits from Morrells Handwriting Company to lead a session on how parents can support children with their handwriting.

We're highlighting this event now so that parents from Laxey who are interested in attending have got plenty of time to make arrangements for being able to do so. Although the event has a "Dhoon" slant, there will be plenty of information that is relevant to Laxey and it would be a great way for parents from Laxey to visit our federated partner school.

If Laxey parents then felt that the event was useful, we could look at staging something similar at Laxey in future years.

There is no need to notify school of your intention to attend – if you'd like to go, please just turn up and you will be very welcome!

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.

**** ENDS ****
