



Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

Department of Education, Sport and Culture
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NEWSLETTER (7) FRIDAY 2ND MARCH 2018

Message from Mr Kelly

We have just passed the half-way point for this academic year! I trust everyone had a relaxing half-term break and are now well-settled into the flow of routines for what promises to be yet another busy time in school. Just as I was thinking we were through the worst of the weather, March came along and rather than delivering the beginnings of a gentle spring, produced some snow, sludge and ice and has been bitterly cold! I am looking forward to some brighter and warmer weather – and I would imagine the same is true of most of us, especially the pupils who so love to be active outside. Usually (!) March brings with it the beginnings of days that are lighter in the mornings and stretch a little longer into the evenings as springtime awakens around us – lets hope for some signs of that soon. I am personally really looking forward to seeing all the wonderful daffodils and decorated pots which our infant children will be bringing in for our newly established daffodil competition. The date for this year's competition is 15th March and a flyer with additional information should already have come home. I've popped the details up on the school's Facebook page, too!

There has been so much going on recently, and I hope last week's parent's workshop from Morrells Handwriting Company gave you a good opportunity to find out about our new approach to teaching this important skill. Plans are afoot to bring Morrells back to Laxey School in the near future to reach more interested parents and also to work with children on specific handwriting issues – so watch this space! We've also added a post on the school's Facebook page for parents to sign up to if they'd like to purchase any of the equipment – head over to Facebook for all the details.

Please do remember to check our school website for copies of newsletters and useful forms and documents. News and updates are often to be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages, so check those out from time to time, too! And, of course, I'm always happy to meet with you in person if you feel you would like to discuss anything with me.

With very best wishes

Important dates

5th March – Year 6 attending "Bright Futures" conference – details below

6th March – rescheduled "World Book Day" event: workshop with Mokee Joe author Peter J Murray at Laxey School

12th March – trainee teachers working in Yr 4 & Yr 5 (until TT, and under the supervision of Mr Astin & Miss Hastings)

13th and 14th March – parents evenings (details below)

15th March – daffodil competition (details on accompanying flyer)

w/c 19th March – Y6 cycling proficiency (initial details below)

22nd March – Isle of Man Cross Country Championships (details to follow)

23rd March – Sports Relief (details to follow)

27th March – final swimming session for this academic year

29th March – school closes at 3.25pm for Easter Holidays (please note this is a THURSDAY)

16th April – school reopens at 9.00am for start of Summer Term

16th April – Meeting for parents in respect of the Y6 Shropshire Trip at 4pm – details below

18th April – Dolphin Swimming Gala (details to follow)

Bright Futures Conference – Year 6

On Monday 5th March, Year 6 will be travelling to the Salmon Lake Centre to participate in a joint conference with Dhoon School's Yr 5/6 class.

The 'Bright Futures' conference is designed to inform the students about environmental groups working within the Isle of Man.

The children will be there for most of the day, so will need to bring a packed lunch, a drink and a morning snack. Please make sure your child is in uniform and is wearing suitable footwear and a waterproof coat.

Mrs Ward has written to all Y6 parents with the details and you should have received that letter earlier this week.

World Book Day Event – junior children's presentation from Mokee Joe author Peter J Murray

What a shame that our big "federation" event, planned as part of World Book Day, was scuppered by the weather! We are delighted to inform you that Peter has agreed to remain on the Isle of Man for a few more days and will be able to deliver his presentation on Tuesday next week (6th March.)

As originally planned, all the juniors from Dhoon School will be heading to Laxey School on that morning for Peter's special workshop-style lesson alongside their peers from Laxey! We're really pleased to have been able to reschedule this event as the children from both school's had really been looking forward to it!

(As a one-off, and to accommodate Peter who has travelled over from the UK to work with our children, we will have to cancel swimming this Tuesday.)

Parents Evening

The first of our formal parents evenings is due to 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.

If you haven't yet signed up for an appointment, don't forget that the appointment sheets are in the main entrance until Friday 9th March.

Y6 Cycling Proficiency Lessons

Cycling proficiency lessons for the children in **Year 6** will be taking place every morning, starting Monday 19th March and lasting until Friday 23rd March. In order to participate, parental permission is required along with a commitment from parents that their child is provided with a bike in roadworthy condition. Information to assist parents in checking the suitability and roadworthiness of their child's bike will be sent home with the Year 6s in due course, and the parental permission form will need to be signed and returned to school prior to lessons starting. Failure to complete and return the form will mean that your child will be unable to receive the cycling proficiency lessons.

On **Monday 19th March**, Year 6 children will be asked to bring their bicycles with them to school in the morning. They should be wheeled (NOT ridden) through to the bottom playground and rested against the outside sports-hall wall by the fire-escape doors. Bicycles are to remain at school for the duration of the week and will be securely stored inside the sports-hall overnight. Parents are to collect the bicycles from the back of the sports-hall on **Friday 23rd March**, after school. Please note that bicycles should not be ridden across our car-park or on our playground.

Parents Information Meeting for Year Six Trip to Shropshire

On Monday 16th April, at 4pm, there will be a meeting for parents about the Year 6 trip to Culmington Manor in Shropshire. At this meeting we will explain the details and itinerary for the trip, issue a kit-list, talk through medical matters, and answer any questions that you may have.

There will be some paperwork for parents to complete as well, and the attendance of a parent for all children registered on this trip is strongly encouraged. The children are welcome to come along, too.

Swimming

Swimming will finish for this academic year on Tuesday 27th March.

**** ENDS ****
