



Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

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

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NEWSLETTER (8) THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 2018 – THIS IS THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

Message from Mr. Kelly

In a one-off break from tradition, this newsletter, which is the April edition, is coming home today – Thursday - rather than the first term-time Friday of April, which falls on the 20th April and felt far too late in the month. We shall revert to our usual newsletter timetable for May.

It's been a whirlwind of a month at Laxey School, with so much going on as always. As I write, Laxey Firefighters have just finished a visit to the school to round off Year Two's "Great Fire of London" topic in fantastic style, by burning down the children's model of Pudding Lane and demonstrating how to put it out safely! Thank you to all involved! This is just the latest opportunity in a month that has seen – amongst many other things – a talk about invasive species in Year Five; the Federation's "Bright Futures" conference for Year Six; Adam, Greg and Molly being broadcast on Manx Radio as part of Fair-trade Fortnight; our netball team enjoy phenomenal success in the regional and national finals (Isle of Man runners-up, no less!); a fantastic display at the inaugural daffodil competition; a trip to the Jurby Transport Museum for Reception Class; an NSPCC workshop for the children; cycling proficiency lessons for Year Six; the Isle of Man Cross Country Championships where we had some fantastic team and individual performances; and live music concerts in school with the School Handbell Ringers entertaining the rest of the school on Wednesday and musicians from the Shennaghys Jiu festival performing earlier this morning. We've even found time to support two fantastic causes this month with everybody donning their sporty gear for last Friday's "Sport Relief" money-raiser and a good showing of odd-socks in order to help raise awareness on World Down Syndrome Day. We are very grateful to Aidan McCusker for coming into to school to speak to our children in Years Five and Six about Down Syndrome and relate it to his own experiences of raising a son with this syndrome. These kinds of learning opportunities do happen all year round at our school, but it's been a particularly busy period during the run up to Easter. Extra special thanks are given to Mrs. Dudley in particular for her relentless work with developing good learning habits in all of our classes, but all of my staff deserve special recognition for everything they do to enable these opportunities to happen for our pupils.

Our staff is augmented up until TT Week by Miss. Ettenfield and Mr. Ali, trainee teachers from Edge Hill University. Miss Ettenfield will be working in Year 5, alongside and under the supervision of Miss Hastings and Mr. Ali will be working in Year 4, alongside and under the supervision of Mr. Astin. We wish Miss Ettenfield and Mr. Ali all the best for their placement with us.

I wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. I look forward to welcoming you back to Laxey School on Monday 16th April for the Summer Term; one which promises to be just as full, just as exciting and just as inspiring as ever with lots of exciting events on the horizon. I know that Year 6 are very excited to be travelling to the UK early in the new term for their residential trip with Dhooon School! And I know that there will be lots of great learning going on in the classrooms, too. But until then, unwind, switch off and don't eat too many Easter Eggs!!

With very best wishes

Important dates

- 29th March – musicians performing in school for pupils as part of Shennaghys Jiu
- 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
- 7th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)
- w/c 14th May – Year Six Residential to Shropshire
- 28th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)
- 31st May – School closes at 3.25pm for TT half-term.

After school clubs

MSR Sports Club will continue as normal after Easter starting on Thursday 19th April. This term the club will be offered to children in Years 1 and 2. Places will be offered on a first come-first served basis – please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and bring it into school on Monday 16th April if you would like a place! (Parents: please assume your child has been successful in getting a place at MSR Sports Club unless we contact you to tell you different!)

Lunch / milk money – April / May 2018

Mrs. Quane will be sending home details of costings in a separate note. Please note that we have now moved on to the "summer menu" which will be available to view at:

<https://www2.sch.im/groups/schoolmeals1/wiki/e87c6/Menu.html>

At least one week's notice is required should you wish your child to change from school dinners to packed lunch or vice versa.

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.

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy

The staff at the school have been reviewing some of our policies – a key policy we have looked at recently is the Behavior and Anti-Bullying policy. **I must emphasise that this has not been in response to an issue or problem with behaviour generally, as it is exceptionally good at Laxey School.** It is always good practice to look at how we do things and learn from what has gone on before, and the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy is one of many we will be considering and reviewing over the next couple of years.

As you would expect, our policy for behaviour includes an emphasis on high expectations, and acknowledges teachers' professional judgment in managing behaviour within their classrooms. You may notice over the next couple of weeks that a more consistent pattern to addressing poor behaviour emerges, and as such, some of the children may talk to you using the language of our policy as teachers and staff begin to implement it.

We will gradually move over to our new policy over the next term, and have launched it formally in assemblies this week with **all** classes and **all** children. This included a full introduction and explanation to the pupils which incorporated a discussion around bullying and a re-clarification that bullying will not be tolerated - though it has to be said that bullying is *very rare* at Laxey School. We also introduced the children to the policy of a "yellow-card" letter being sent home to parents of children who find themselves in trouble for deliberately hurting another member of the school, either physically or emotionally. Parent-friendly summaries of our newly updated Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies are now available in the main foyer area of the school in our letter holder, and we've taken the step of sending a copy home today with this newsletter so you can take a look over the Easter break.

Cycling to and from school

Well done to all of our Year 6's for taking part in the recent Cycling Proficiency Scheme. I'm pleased to say that the instructors were very impressed with our pupils, and lots of children were successful in being assessed through the scheme. The school's traditional stance regarding pupils cycling to and from school remains in place, and we must, with regret, decline requests for pupils to travel to and from school by bicycle. The reason for this, as may be obvious, is that there is simply no space to store bicycles safely at school. We accommodate them by making special, temporary, arrangements during Cycling Proficiency Week, but we are not in a position to offer storage beyond this.

Swimming – ceased

Swimming sessions for this academic year have now finished (swimming lessons for primary schools never extend into the Summer Term.)

Summer uniform

Our pupils wear school uniform from Reception to Year 6. Maroon school sweatshirts, featuring the school logo, should be worn over white or sky-blue polo shirts. Polo shirts may be plain or with the school logo. They are worn with grey school trousers or tunics or skirts. Girls may wear red checked cotton dresses as part of school uniform this term. We have several hardy boys who have been wearing shorts all through the winter, though of course we would be delighted to see boys wearing grey school shorts as part of their summer uniform.

**** ENDS ****

✂ Reply Slip -----

I would like my child to attend MSR Sports club on Thursdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm. My child is in Year One / Year Two. I confirm that my child will be collected from Laxey School at 4.30pm. Signed