



Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

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

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NEWSLETTER (9) FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2018

Message from Mr Kelly

It does not seem long since I last wrote to you all in April as the Spring Term drew to a close and the Easter holidays approached. So much has happened since then including the installation of the new library throughout the main corridor, fabulous collaborative learning across all classes to create a series of stunning "displays" for the new library, the Year 5 and 6 "Federation Games" with Dhooon School, and visits from speakers including author Vikki Orwin and some delightful meg lambs courtesy of Emma!

The new term has been a time of real celebration for Laxey School. The Swimming Squad finished in fourth place in the Isle of Man Dolphin Trophy and many boys and girls continue to receive Learning Hero certificates and badges. "Learning Hero: is a **real** achievement – we don't award it to children just because "it's their turn"; it is hard earned, and requires children to demonstrate a sustained and consistent approach to their learning over time. This helps keep "Learning Hero" as something which is truly valued – we'd never want it to lose that. Of course, the individual success, though extremely welcome, is just part of the joy of the "Learning Hero" celebration: the enjoyment and sense of pride the whole class can take from our pupils achieving "Learning Hero" is just as powerful, and that's lovely to see.

The new term continues apace, with this week having been particularly busy and significant as the school received a quality assurance visit from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture which confirmed that our curriculum is effective. The staff have started a piece of work to develop this further – watch this space for exciting news about our new "Laxey Learners" programme.

In other news, we have our off-island trip for the Y6s fast approaching! I for one am really looking forward to this, and I know the children are, too!

In this newsletter I have taken the opportunity to share the dates and initial details of some key events that are being planned for the Summer Term right through to the end of the academic year. I hope this is useful to you all.

With very best wishes

Important dates

- 7th May** – Bank Holiday (school closed)
- w/c 14th May** – Year Six Residential Trip to Shropshire
- 17th May** – skipping workshops with all children from YR to Y5
- 28th May** – Bank Holiday (school closed)
- 31st May** – school closes at 3.25pm for TT half-term.
- 11th June** – school reopens following TT half-term break
- 14th & 15th June** – Year Five Residential Trip to Ardwhallan (Mrs Dudley will be writing separately to Y5)
- 18th June** – Crucial Crew Day at University College IOM for Y6 (details to follow)
- 19th June** – Ian Bland (visiting poet from the UK) working with all children (details to follow)

22nd June – KS1 visit to “Ministry of Science Show” at Gaiety Theatre (details to follow)
26th June – KS1 football tournament at Sulby School (details to follow)
27th June – Lifepath Day at Rushen Abbey for Year 5 (details to follow)
30th June – Children in Song at Villa Marina (initial details below)
30th June – Millennium Football Tournament (details to follow)
30th June – Laxey Fair (details to follow)
3rd & 4th July – Taster days at RGS / SNHS for present Year 6 pupils
3rd & 4th July – Taster sessions for new starters in the 2018 Reception class
6th July – End-of-year reports + open afternoon (details below)
17th July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 2pm (details to follow – but make a note of the date!)
20th July – Final day of the academic year

Reports and open afternoon

A new report format will be introduced this summer. The information you receive will be the same as always and will give you an insight into your child’s learning habits and academic attainment and achievement. I am also introducing a new way of distributing the reports.

Reports will be made available on Friday 6th July 2018 from 2pm onwards. Parents are invited to come into school anytime between 2pm – 4pm, where they can go to their child’s class, collect their child, samples of their child’s work and their child’s report. They are then welcome to go to the dining hall with their child and take their time looking at their child’s work and reading their reports. Obviously if a parent has more than one child in the school, they can collect the work and reports for all their children at once before heading to the hall. Once parents have had a chance to look through everything, they can leave – taking their child(ren) with them if they so wish.

Any parents who do not wish to come into school to do this, or are unable to, will receive their child’s school report in the traditional way – the report will be enveloped and sent home in the child’s bag at the end of the school day.

I hope that this new arrangement will mean that parents feel they can look at reports alongside their child’s work and that any questions arising from the reports can be addressed straight away.

Staffing and classes for September 2018

As a parent myself, I completely understand the anxieties and worries we all experience at this time of year, when schools appear reluctant to share plans about class structures for the next academic year. Decisions about teacher allocations are made by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture and are done so in a fair and equitable way which takes into account many factors, including pupil numbers. This is a huge, island-wide exercise, and as I’m sure you can appreciate, there is still a lot to be sorted out between now and next term. It would not be appropriate for me to enter into a running commentary of how things are progressing or to start speculating with parents about possible scenarios and situations – and neither myself nor my staff will be doing so. Similarly, I would like to make a polite request that parents refrain from making speculative conversation themselves as this can fuel rumours which often turn out to be misinformed and incorrect.

Please rest assured that this matter is being progressed in the appropriate ways, and do take my assurances that parents will be informed of classes / teachers for September towards the end of the Summer Term, which is entirely in keeping with our usual timescale for organising for the next academic year.

Children in Song

Laxey School is delighted to be participating in the Children in Song concert at the Villa Marina on Saturday 30th June. For this event the choirs from Dhoon School and Laxey School will be joining forces to create a “federation choir.” We felt that working with a larger choir would be a great opportunity for the children of both schools and would add a new dynamic to the singing and the performance.

Mrs Shimmin, Head of School at Dhoon, will be leading the choir and details about the event, including ticket information, will be given in due course so watch this space!

**** ENDS ****
