



Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

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

Executive Headteacher
Maxim J Kelly

Head of School
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 (10) THURSDAY 31st MAY 2018 - THIS IS THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

Message from Mr Kelly

In a one-off break from tradition, this newsletter, which is the June edition, is coming home today – Thursday - rather than the first term-time Friday of June, which falls on the 15th June and felt far too late in the month. We shall revert to our usual newsletter timetable for July.

Tomorrow (Friday 1st June), whilst schools are closed to children, teachers are still at work for a full day of training – attending the Department of Education, Sport and Culture’s “Essentials 4 Learning” symposium.

The symposium is an Isle of Man learning conference and marks a further development of the Island’s curriculum. A group of around 60 staff from across the Island’s schools and learning community will share the best of what they do by delivering over 50 learning workshops in five locations around the Island on the day.

Guy Claxton, Emeritus Professor of the Learning Sciences at the University of Winchester, will launch the event with a keynote speech on how teachers can shape learning and education for the next generation.

E4L, which was launched in 2011, sets out the priorities for primary and secondary education in the Isle of Man. It details the Department’s aspirations for young people, what is taught, how pupils learn, and the outcomes and impact teachers strive to achieve.

A new E4L website – designed to appeal to pupils, parents and other stakeholders with an interest in learning can be seen at <https://e4l.sch.im>



This newsletter is very full – there is so much going on between now and the end of the school year! As such, I’ll keep this section of the newsletter brief and draw to a finish at this point. If I could just end my message by wishing everyone a really enjoyable TT week and issue a plea – please be safe on the roads, and please take extra care when walking out and about. I look forward to welcoming you all back safe and sound for the final half-term of the academic year!

With very best wishes

Important dates

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 has written separately to Y5)

15th June – Class photographs by Steve Woodley (details below)

18th June – Crucial Crew Day at University College IOM for Y6 (details in accompanying letter for Y6)

19th June – Ian Bland (visiting poet from the UK) working with all children (details below)

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 in accompanying letter for Y5)

30th June – Children in Song at Villa Marina (initial details below + slip at end of newsletter)

30th June – Laxey Fair (details below)

30th June – Millennium Football Tournament (details to follow)

3rd & 4th July – Taster days at RGS / SNHS for present Year 6 pupils (details below)

3rd & 4th July – Taster sessions for new starters in the 2018 Reception class

3rd & 4th July – “New Class” Transition Days for Laxey pupils in Y1 – Y5 (details below)

5th July – Tynwald Day – school closed for one day only

6th July – End-of-year reports + open afternoon (details below)

9th July – Summer disco **organized by parents** (initial details below!)

10th July – Sports Day (details below) – *reserve date 13th July*

17th July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 2pm (details below)

20th July – Final day of the academic year

Year Five Overnight Trip to Ardwhallan Outdoor Pursuits Centre – 14th June to 15th June

I am a great believer in the benefits offered by outdoor activities and residential trips, and in the benefits of such trips being organized outside of the immediate proximity of where the children live and go to school. To that end I'm pleased to say that Year Five are being offered the opportunity of an overnight residential learning experience at Ardwhallan in West Baldwin. The benefits of a residential experience were clear to see when we took our Year 6's away to Shropshire in May – and now we'd like to give the Year 5's the chance to travel that little bit further from home for their first residential experience!

Mrs Dudley, our Head of School, has already written to our Year 5s with all the details: children should arrive at school at the normal time on the 14th June. We will be picked up by Ardwhallan staff that morning and returned to school on the Friday morning. The children will engage in a variety of activities such as rafting, pioneering and archery which are all planned, led and supervised by the Ardwhallan staff team. All food and drinks will be provided.

The children will be accompanied by Miss Hastings on the trip, with Mrs Dudley, Mr Kelly and Mrs Ward popping along a various times to offer additional support.

Class Photos

Steve Woodley will be visiting school on Friday 15th June to take class photographs of every class in Laxey School. These will then be made available for parents to look at and order copies of. Details of how to order copies will be forwarded to parents once the photos have been taken.

Federation Event – Ian Bland Workshops on Tuesday 19th June 2018

Following the success of our World Book Day event in which junior pupils from both Dhoon and Laxey came together to work with published author Peter J Murray, the Federation is pleased to announce another very special workshop has been arranged for **all** the children in both schools! The children from Dhoon School will be transported to Laxey in the morning where everyone will gather in the sports hall for a presentation by children's poet Ian Bland who will talk about his work as a children's writer and bring some of his poems to life.

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.

Y6 Transition Days to Ramsey Grammar School or St Ninians High School (Bemahague)

On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th July, Year Six will not be attending Laxey School. Instead, they will be based at either Ramsey Grammar School or Bemahague (depending on which school they have selected), working with their new tutor groups, meeting their new teachers and experiencing some lessons to give a flavour of what to expect from secondary school. **There is no requirement for Y6 pupils to come to Laxey School first on either of these days** – pupils should use the days as an opportunity to practice how they will get to and from secondary school, using the bus service if intended. We send good wishes to Y6 for these two taster days and hope that they prove interesting, enjoyable and exciting!

"New Class" Transition Days

School will be informing parents and children of classes for September on Friday 29th June in a letter which will be sent home with the children. Children will have the opportunity to work in their new rooms, and for some, with their new class and teacher, on Tuesday 3rd July and Wednesday 4th July. We believe this is a successful way of allaying any anxieties that the children may have about these changes.

Children in Song – opportunity for children in Y2 upwards

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.

The event showcases schools from the vast majority of schools in the Isle of Man, and is performed in front of a packed Villa Marina Royal Hall in the evening (with several VIPs including MHKs and His Excellency, The Lt. Governor in the audience) but there is also a full run-through in the afternoon of the 30th; so on the day itself there is a lot going on!

Mrs Shimmin, Head of School at Dhoon, will be leading the choir. If your child would like to take part in this fabulous all-island event, please complete the slip at the bottom of this letter and send it back into school on Monday or Tuesday in the first week back after TT. (*We will use the information collected purely to work out which children would like to be in the Children in Song Choir, after which we will destroy the slips in accordance with our data retention schedule.*)

It is important to note that the Children in Song event clashes with Laxey Fair and children will not be able to participate in both events. Therefore if your child would like to rehearse with our Federation choir and take part in Children in Song, they must realize that there is a commitment involved and understand that they can't also practice for and perform in Laxey Fair.

Ticket information for parents of participating children will be given to those who return their slip to confirm their intention to join in!

Laxey Fair

Laxey Fair will be held on Saturday 30th June. Year 6 children, the Fair Queen and her page boys are invited to travel to the fair by tram. If your child is involved in this (**more information nearer the time**), please meet Mrs Dudley at the South Cape tram stop at 1.10 p.m.

All other children will meet as usual at the Rose Gardens at 1.15 p.m ready to parade at 1.30 p.m. Teachers will join the children and then supervise them whilst they wait to go onstage and during the singing. Please collect your child from the stage afterwards.

Children are encouraged to dress as Victorian gentlemen or miners. We have a limited number of costumes available at school which will be distributed after TT week.

Sports Day

We have planned to run our annual sports day on Tuesday 10th July and will follow the traditional format for sports day, arranged on the Glen Road Football Pitch field.

Parents, family members and friends are welcome to come along and watch! Seating will be put out, but you are equally welcome to bring your own, or bring a blanket and a picnic! The Junior event starts at 9.30am – you are invited to turn up from 9.00am onwards. The Infant event starts at 2.00pm – you are invited to arrive from 1.30pm.

We have arranged for every child to receive an ice-lolly (or something very similar!) at the end of sports day as an extra treat.

In the event of poor weather, a decision will be taken at **8am** as to cancelling the sports day. If we have to cancel, an announcement will be made via our **Facebook** page and **Twitter** feed. We will also send a text message to mobile phones where we have these numbers on our records. Please do **not** ring the school to enquire. *NB Our reserve date is the following Friday – 13th July.*

Summer Disco – Monday 9th July

School really couldn't do everything it does without the wonderful support of the parent community – and I really must extend a genuine and sincere thank you to the fabulous parents who formed a committee to organize and run some wonderful events this year, including the Christmas Fair, gathering support for the dining room refresh and a spring term disco in early March. I'm already hearing that they're in the early throes of arranging a summer disco for the pupils after school on Monday 9th July. More details on that to follow as and when they become available! But for now – make a note of the date!

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

SRE lessons are provided in the final half-term of the school year to children in Year 6. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from these lessons if they so wish. Mrs. Ward will be writing to all parents of Y6 children after TT with details of the SRE programme for this year, and this will include an opportunity for parents to withdraw their child. Our SRE policy is available should any parents wish to see it.

Year 6 "Leavers Assembly"

The Year 6 Leavers Assembly will take place on Tuesday 17th July, and will be a reflection and celebration of the Year 6's time at Laxey School. Year 6 children will also be presented with some special mementos to honour and remind them of their time at Laxey. The assembly will be to an audience of all of the other pupils of the school, and all parents of Year 6 children are invited too. We'll be able to accommodate others too, such as grandparents of Y6 children – just let school know so that we can plan for numbers. The assembly will commence at 2pm, and will include some refreshments in the Y6 classroom following the assembly. We ask that the Y6 children bring in cakes / biscuits etc for this and school will provide tea and coffee. It is a lovely time for everyone to gather together and share memories of their time at the school. Full details will come to Year 6 parents in due course, but at least you now know the date and details and can plan that in to your diaries.

As Laxey School encourages and celebrates children's success on an ongoing and continual basis through display, marking and feedback of work, weekly "Learning Hero" assemblies, weekly opportunities for children to bring in and share "out of school" success, press coverage, Facebook posts and special roles such as representing the school on a team or as an ambassador, to name but a few (!), there will no longer be a prize-giving aspect at the Leavers Assembly.

Reply slips > -----

✂-----
I would like my child to participate in the Children in Song Choir. This involves a commitment to rehearsals in school time and an evening performance at the Villa Marina on Saturday 30th June.

Signed.....
