



# Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

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

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## NEWSLETTER (2) FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018

### Message from Mr. Kelly

It's been a really busy month in school since I last wrote to you all. The children have all settled into their classes and there are some fabulous displays of work starting to emerge, reflecting the topics that are being studied by the children.

Learning Hero assemblies have recommenced and play an integral part in the way we promote – and celebrate – children's learning. Recently our staff team have been working on a project to map out what a Laxey pupil will ultimately become if they attend our school, acquire our learning habits and experience our curriculum. This has resulted in our "Laxey Learners" initiative which celebrates the growth mindset and learning power culture that is so established in our school and makes clear the outcomes it aims to produce: Laxey Learners are fit for the future; Laxey Learners are successful; Laxey Learners are compassionate; Laxey Learners are leaders, and Laxey learners are inclusive.

Coming to Laxey School means a commitment that no child is left behind, as we develop in them the skills to tackle the challenges of the 21st century and create tomorrow's leaders amongst others. We believe our Laxey Learners statement is an important strand to our school that helps mark us out as clearly and identifiably inclusive in nature because it seeks to build character in everyone. *In everyone*. Regardless of age, stage, background, culture or gender. It accepts no excuses in its belief that every child can succeed and deserves to be taught to the very highest standard.

Each week, we have launched a new "Laxey Learners" statement with our pupils and I hope you have enjoyed finding out about them through our social media channels. We have a couple more statements to unveil this side of half-term, so keep your eye out for them. We are planning to display these statements in and around the school too, so I hope you will enjoy seeing our messages in visible places and will feel able to talk about them with your children at home.

**Outcomes**  
Laxey Learners are compassionate because:

- They are empathic
- They believe in diversity
- They consider the needs of others and work together
- They are respectful and will help those in need
- They are responsible for their actions and will apologise when they have done something wrong
- They are able to resolve conflicts peacefully

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**Outcomes**  
Laxey Learners are fit for the future because:

- They are resilient
- They are confident
- They are curious and love to learn
- They are creative and innovative
- They are able to solve problems
- They are able to work independently
- They are able to work in a team
- They are able to take responsibility for their actions
- They are able to take responsibility for the actions of others
- They are able to take responsibility for the actions of the school

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**Outcomes**  
Laxey Learners are leaders because:

- They are confident
- They are resilient
- They are curious and love to learn
- They are creative and innovative
- They are able to solve problems
- They are able to work independently
- They are able to work in a team
- They are able to take responsibility for their actions
- They are able to take responsibility for the actions of others
- They are able to take responsibility for the actions of the school

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**Outcomes**  
Laxey Learners are inclusive because:

- They are confident
- They are resilient
- They are curious and love to learn
- They are creative and innovative
- They are able to solve problems
- They are able to work independently
- They are able to work in a team
- They are able to take responsibility for their actions
- They are able to take responsibility for the actions of others
- They are able to take responsibility for the actions of the school

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With best wishes,

### **Important dates**

5th October – School photographs day

10<sup>th</sup> October – Garff Commissioners will be planting daffodils with infant children for the Spring Competition  
w/c 8<sup>th</sup> October – Sponsored Autumn Walks (details below)

w/c 15<sup>th</sup> October – Cycling Proficiency Lessons for Y6 (details below)

23rd October – Parents evening

26<sup>th</sup> October – School closes at 3.20pm/3.25pm for half-term break

5<sup>th</sup> November – School re-opens at 8.50am for second half-term

7<sup>th</sup> November – External Validation of Laxey School (details below)

9<sup>th</sup> November – Laxey School Remembrance Service (see accompanying letter)

### **New procedures for the start and end of the school day**

As reported in the September newsletter, I have asked teachers to lead their classes out at the end of the day. Reception class come out of their classroom doors onto the bottom playground, and all other classes have been led out of the entrance by the car-park so they can walk along the front of the school to the usual collection point. It is my belief that having the classes led out at the end of the day will encourage our children to exit the building in a smart and sensible way and will enhance the visibility of our teachers to parents.

We've also introduced a new system for the children to come into school at the beginning of the day. Just before 8.50am, Mrs Dudley, or another teacher, will come outside and ring a hand bell to signal that the children need to line up on the top yard. The children will line up in year groups, and at 8.50am, the class teachers will come outside and will lead their class in through the top doors by the car park. I hope parents will agree that this new system is working well and encourages our pupils to begin the day in a smart and sensible way, ready for learning.

(Reception class will continue to go in via the classroom doors on the bottom playground.)

Any parents who have school business will need to continue to use the main entrance where they will be able to find Mrs Quane in her office. In the very near future, Mrs Quane will be moving out of her existing office and into a new "reception desk" space which should improve the occasional long queues that form outside her room in the mornings.

I trust these are welcome improvements, but as with any changes, I expect there may be some teething issues along the way so I would kindly request your patience with any minor difficulties at this early stage.

### **Parent Information Sheets**

Having listened to the views of parents, it was clear that many of you would like to know more about what your children are learning each term so that you can offer support and encourage wider learning in the home, augmenting that which goes on in school.

To that end, Laxey School introduced a Parent Information Sheet which details the topic / theme being studied in each class as well as a flavour of the key objectives covered in each of the subjects.

Parent Information Sheets for this term were published on Friday 21st September – I hope you have enjoyed finding out about what is planned in your child's class – if you have not yet received a copy, please speak to Mrs Quane who will arrange for one to be sent home.

### **Parents evening**

Laxey School is pleased to inform you that on Tuesday 23rd October we shall be holding our first Parents' Evening of the year. In keeping with the format introduced last year, this first Parents' Evening is an informal "open" evening for you to visit your children's classrooms and, if you wish, to have a chat with the teachers about how your children are getting along and see some of the work they have been doing. No appointment is necessary, and you are encouraged to bring your children along so that they can show you their learning and talk to you about school. 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 6.30pm onwards, with the parents evening closing at 7pm.

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### **Staff Car-Park**

Another reminder for everyone and an important message for parents and families new to our school concerns car parking. I appreciate that parking can be difficult at the start and end of each school day. This is a common issue across many schools. **Unfortunately, I will have to ask that parents /carers /relatives do not make use of the staff car park. There are very real safety reasons for this: reducing traffic congestion in this area is part of how the school manages the risk of on site traffic.**

Please do not be surprised or offended if you are challenged by a member of staff if you are seen in the school car-park – you will be asked to leave. We are also introducing notes which we will be giving to drivers who are making unauthorised use of our carpark and will be logging registration numbers in order to record information regarding people who repeatedly ignore our request. These details will be passed on to the Police.

I really appreciate your co-operation in this matter, and I realise that the vast majority of parents are not using our car-park.

### **Y6 Cycling Proficiency Lessons**

Cycling proficiency lessons for the children in **Year 6** will be taking place w/c Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October and lasting until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October. 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. Additional information, including the consent forms, has been sent home separately with the Year 6s. Failure to complete and return the form will mean that your child will be unable to receive the cycling proficiency lessons.

On **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October**, 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 19<sup>th</sup> October**, after school. Please note that bicycles should not be ridden across our car-park or on our playground.

### **External Validation of Laxey School**

All schools in the Isle of Man are required to undertake on-going self review and evaluation and this requirement is defined within Articles of Government for schools, especially Articles 5, 6 & 7. This involves a programme of monitoring of all aspects of their own work and to reach judgments about the quality of that work.

This process is validated, on a time scale agreed by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture by a team led by an external validator appointed by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture. In undertaking this activity, the Department is exercising its responsibility (clause 1(a) of Section 50 of the Education Act 2001) to 'cause inspections to be made of every school and college at such intervals and such standards as appear to it to be appropriate'.

Laxey School has been notified of its external validation which will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. A full report and summary will then be made public shortly afterwards.

### **Autumn Walks**

Laxey School has a proud tradition of fundraising through participation in an annual "Autumn Walk". Each class takes part in a walk, and these are taking place next week (w/c 8th October.). In previous years we have asked children to collect sponsorship for doing the walk – this year, to ease the process somewhat, rather than collecting sponsorship we are asking children to bring in a small "donation" in return for completing the walk. This year, the money we raise will be used to improve the outside grounds of our school, which do require some TLC. Please give as much as you can – all of our children will benefit from the donations we receive.

Class teachers will be sending home flyers with the day and time of your child's walk. On the day of your child's class walk they should wear appropriate footwear. A warm coat is also essential, as is a water bottle. There is no need for your child to wear school uniform on the day of their walk.

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Please send your donation into the school office during the week in an envelope labelled "Autumn Walk." **Such a donation is entirely optional and children can still complete the walk without making a donation.**

**Maternity Leave**

I'm sure everyone will join me in sending best wishes to Mrs Gale as she begins her maternity leave before the end of this half-term. Mrs Gale currently works across the school releasing teachers for their paperwork time, and we will make a further announcement shortly as to who will be covering her from next half-term.

**Parent Questionnaire - 2018**

At the end of last term, Laxey School conducted a Parent Questionnaire to find out your views about the school and its provision. Your responses will help us to consider future developments and improvements in the light of your feedback. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete a questionnaire.

The return rate for the questionnaires was 22%. For your interest, here is a brief summary of the responses received:

	<b>YES</b>
1. Children enjoy going to Laxey School	<b>95%</b>
2. Teachers enjoy being at Laxey School	<b>85%</b>
3. Parents enjoy their association and relationship with Laxey School	<b>85%</b>
4. Children develop learning habits as well as 'academic levels'	<b>93%</b>
5. Children learn skills as well as a facts	<b>93%</b>
6. Morals and values are focused on and exhibited daily by all members of the school community	<b>80%</b>
7. There is an inclusive atmosphere where all children are valued for who they are and what they bring	<b>93%</b>
8. Key issues like bullying and other social and emotional aspects of school life are discussed and addressed positively	<b>56%</b>
9. The ability to think for themselves is encouraged and developed in all children	<b>98%</b>
10. As well as being a place for learning, the school has a sense of fun	<b>100%</b>
11. Aspects like wonder, curiosity, adventure, bravery, resilience and resistance are actively encouraged and celebrated	<b>98%</b>
12. Teachers are open to new ideas and keen to do things with – and not to – the learners	<b>75%</b>
13. The school keeps up to date with new advances in learning	<b>68%</b>
14. The school keeps up to date with new advances in learning technology	<b>73%</b>
15. High expectations of the children are matched by high expectations of the staff	<b>75%</b>
16. The executive headteacher is visible	<b>83%</b>
17. Children are taught that being their best doesn't have to involve being better than others	<b>88%</b>
18. Children get to think about, interact with and seek to change life outside the school walls	<b>78%</b>
19. The school is aware that learning is something that children can do at any time, anywhere, and only part of it needs to be within the school walls	<b>85%</b>
20. The school community extends beyond the school	<b>83%</b>
21. Lessons incorporate a variety of learning opportunities and possibilities	<b>95%</b>
22. The children have the opportunity to be responsible for something and take decisions that make a difference	<b>85%</b>
23. Children's results are sufficient enough to allow them to go to the next stage of their life, whatever that may be	<b>78%</b>
24. People who work at Laxey School smile at visitors	<b>90%</b>
25. Overall, Laxey School is a good school	<b>93%</b>

0% - 20% NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION    21% - 50% NEGATIVE FEEDBACK    51% - 74% NEED TO IMPROVE    75% - 100% POSITIVE

Further analysis of question 8 showed that many respondents noted that as their children haven't experienced bullying at Laxey School they were unable to comment as to how the school had addressed it.

We also received lots of comments which we are using to help us plan further improvements to our school. For instance, I hope you have seen that we have started to tidy up the outside grounds and make the general appearance of the building smarter. This work will continue, and we hope the Autumn Walk fundraising will enable us to progress with this even more so.

**\*\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\*\***