



Laxey School, Quarry Road, Laxey, Isle of Man

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

Executive Headteacher
Maxim J Kelly

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NEWSLETTER (5) FRIDAY 11th JANUARY 2019

Message from Mr. Kelly

Can you believe it is now 2019?! Allow me to extend my best wishes for a prosperous, successful and healthy new year to everyone. The children have settled back into school routines quickly and eagerly and there have already been lots of super learning activities taking place in each of our classes. New learning themes are being explored with great enthusiasm and I'm sure you'll hear further details about these from your children in the coming weeks. Keep your eye out for our "Learning at Laxey" parent information sheets which will detail the topic / theme being studied in each class as well as giving a flavour of the key objectives covered in each of the subjects.

It was an incredibly busy and productive end to the last term, and I hope that you all enjoyed our Christmas Productions. I thought the children were magnificent and it was a real privilege to watch all of the various performances.

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 organized and ran our wonderful Christmas fair towards the end of last term. The fair, together with our raffle, raised just over £1000 which we intend to put towards improving the playground facilities for our children.

Don't forget that this newsletter can be accessed on our website, where there is a whole wealth of information and links. The various sections are constantly being updated to include any changes. Policies as they are revised, and key events / information will continue to be uploaded. Please do keep an eye out for our social media presence too – "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter! We're just a "google" away.

We are looking forward to what promises to be a positive, happy and busy term at Laxey and thank you all for your continued support.

With best wishes,

Important dates

- 8th January – Swimming lessons re-commence for children in Key Stage 2
- 10th January – MSR Sports Club commences for children in Years 3 and 4 (details below)
- 17th January - Open Evening at St Ninian's for Y6 pupils and parents (details below)
- 25th January – Nominations for Parent Governor close (details below)
- 1st February - MSPCA Dress-Up Day (details below)
- 4th February – Election of new Parent Governor
- 5th February - Open Evening at Ramsey Grammar School for Y6 pupils and parents (details below)
- 6th February – Y6 Parents Information Evening at Laxey School re St. Ninian's @ 4pm (details below)
- 8th February – Meeting to explore the possibility of a breakfast club at Laxey School @ 3pm (details below)
- w/c 18th February – Half-term

After School Club – Information

Manx Sport and Recreation (MSR) will hold a Sports Club (a variety of different sports, games and activities will be offered over the weeks) after school on Thursdays. The club will commence on Thursday 10th January 3.30 – 4.30. Last term the club was offered to children in Year Five and Six, so this term we are offering the club to children in Year Three and Year Four only. Places were filled at the end of last term – interested parties were asked to register for a place so if you did that please assume a space is available for your child unless you have heard differently.

Matt Creer's drumming sessions have started up again this week and will continue on Mondays.

Reception children for September 2019

If you know of any families who have a child due to start at Laxey School next September, please would you ask them to contact the school ***as soon as possible*** to register a place with us.

Year Six Transition to Secondary School

There are a number of upcoming special events for children in Year 6 to help them prepare for moving on to secondary school in September. As children have not yet made their choice of secondary school "official" all the transition events listed on this newsletter apply to all children in Y6, and include events with both St. Ninian's High School and Ramsey Grammar School.

On Thursday 17th January there is an open evening at St Ninian's High School for prospective pupils and parents. I would urge as many of you to attend as possible to help you when you make your final choice as to which secondary school to attend. St Ninian's will be writing to all prospective parents in the coming days with more details.

On Thursday 5th February there is an open evening at Ramsey Grammar School for prospective pupils and parents. I would urge as many of you to attend as possible to help you when you make your final choice as to which secondary school to attend. Ramsey Grammar School will be writing to all prospective parents in the coming days with more details.

On Wednesday 6th February there is a parents information event with regards to St. Ninian's High School. This event takes place at Laxey School from 4pm and will be led by Jo White, the Deputy Headteacher for St. Ninian's High School, and her team. The event is informal and allows you to gain some information about St. Ninian's – buses, lunches, curriculum etc - and provides you with a chance to ask them any questions that you have at the time. It lasts approximately an hour – depending on how many questions they get! There is no need to let us know whether or not you are attending, but I would certainly encourage as many of you as possible to take advantage of this meeting and to make every effort to come along. We'll be meeting in the Year 6 classroom, and obviously it is absolutely fine to bring your child with you!

In addition to all of the above, Laxey school will be working closely with staff from both St. Ninian's and Ramsey Grammar School to make sure that all pupils are carefully catered for during the transition process, and we will be inviting staff from both schools to visit children in Laxey to introduce themselves and begin the familiarisation process.

Exploring the possibility of a breakfast club

I have been approached on more than one occasion now by parents who are interested in establishing a breakfast club at Laxey School. After the first enquiry, Mrs Dudley and I contacted all other primary schools in the Island to ask if any ran a breakfast club, and we went to visit the only one we could find. Based on our findings we decided against proceeding with such a venture at Laxey. Since then we have been approached again and we feel it is worth re-opening our interest in this and exploring the potential of such a facility at Laxey School.

It is highly likely that a breakfast club would have to be run on a voluntary basis by willing parents and other helpers. I'm suggesting that anyone who is interested in looking into this proposal in more depth comes along to a preliminary meeting at Laxey School which I'm happy to host on Friday 8th February 2019. Clearly this is not yet a commitment to set a breakfast club up, but if the appetite is there and we can all find a way to make it work, I'm sure that can only be a positive thing.

There is no need to let school know whether or not you can attend the meeting. I hope those of you who are interested can make it and I look forward to seeing you there.

School governors

Kevin Quirk's term of office as the parent governor has now come to an end. Kevin has held this role for two years and has made a very significant contribution to the school. I would personally like to thank Kevin for all of the support and advice he has offered to me and to the school, especially during the formation of the Isle of Man's first and only federation arrangement. I know that everyone associated with Laxey would share my appreciation of the work he has done, not least the parents who he has represented so well.

The instrument of Government for Laxey School provides for the inclusion of a Parent Governor on the School's Governing Body at all times. It is now necessary to hold an election and you will find accompanying this letter a nomination form which contains all of the relevant details. This position will be effective from Monday 4th February 2019, for a two-year period. Kevin has indicated that he intends to stand again for a second, and final, term of office. However, other parents may wish to put themselves forward too.

To stand, propose, assent or vote in the election a parent must be the parent of a child who is a registered pupil at the school at the date of the election. For the purposes of the election, the term "parent" includes any person who has parental responsibility for a child and any person with whom a child is living and who has care of him or her. Within a family each parent may vote but parents do not have extra votes because they have more than one child in the school.

As Executive Headteacher of the school, I am the Returning Officer for the election.

Any parent who wishes to stand as a candidate should have the nomination form duly completed and returned to me by midday on Friday 25th January 2019. Candidates are also allowed to submit information about themselves and a short manifesto (all information to fit on one side of A4 paper).

Should there be only one candidate, no election will be required and the candidate shall be announced as the new Parent Governor (unopposed) on the afternoon of Friday 25th January 2019.

Should there be more than one candidate, manifestos will be circulated to all families on Friday 25th January with the election to be held in school on Monday 4th February 2019. Details about voting arrangements would be circulated in advance. The elected candidate would be announced on Monday 4th February with the first Governors Meeting at which the newly elected Parent Governor would be expected to attend being Thursday 28th February at 4pm.

Joint Fundraiser between Laxey School and MSPCA - Dress Up Day – Friday 1st February 2019

To celebrate 121 years of animal care in the Isle of Man, Laxey School is participating in the island-wide MSPCA Dress Up Day. Children are asked to bring into school an optional donation of £2 and to come dressed in their own clothes, or, better still, dressed as an animal! You can either really go for it with fancy dress costumes, or accessorize your own clothes with a tail, a face-painted nose, an alice-band with ears attached etc.

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 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 underwent its external validation last term on Wednesday 7th November. You should have received a copy of the summary of the outcomes just before Christmas. Needless to say, we are all very happy with the outcomes of the process, and I trust you feel proud of your school. It's a team effort and that includes families, pupils and the wider community. Thank you everybody!

Thank you!



In this election the Returning Officer is Mr M Kelly (Executive Headteacher).
To be valid the fully completed nomination form must reach the Executive Headteacher by
If more than one completed Nomination form is returned, a ballot will be held on Monday
4th February 2019. Voting arrangements will be communicated to parents.



Isle of Man

Friday 11th January 2019

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LAXEY SCHOOL

Election of a Parent Governor to serve from February 2019 to February 2021

NOMINATION FORM

| | |
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| Name of Candidate (Please Print) | |
| I agree to stand in the above-named election | |
| Address | |
| | |
| | |
| Tel No E-mail | |
| Name of one child who is a pupil at the School | |
| Signed Date | |
| Signature of Proposer Pupil's name | |
| Signature of 1st Assentor Pupil's name | |
| Signature of 2nd Assentor Pupil's name | |