

# Orphir and Flotta Community Schools' Newsletter

## Tuesday 8 November 2022

**Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect**

Creativity	Elsa	Creating a game to play with her class
	Kiana	Creating some fantastic pieces using art skills
Kindness	Jacob	Sharing his Harry Potter World chocolates with others
	Jessica	Supporting others wonderfully with their learning
Respect	Daisy	Showing respect for her school by tidying up (unprompted) other peoples' belongings in the cloakroom area
Teamwork	Fraser	Fantastic teamwork and focus when coming back to Primary 4-7
	Danny	Listening to the people he was working with and allowing others to have their say
	Ruben	Listening to the people he was working with and allowing others to have their say
	Erland	Taking on a tricky piece of reading so the team could read through the play

### News and welcome from me...

Well we had our Halloween party and what fun it was! It was great to see you all there and making the effort in the dressing up too! It took a while for me to get my glitter off!

We uploaded our photos to the facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.614872323759673&type=3> and we have included photos here of our fab winners of spooky lanterns.....Well done, Sahana, Tarik and Fraser!

Thank you to all our helpers throughout the evening and I think it is safe to say the children enjoyed themselves too.

We had a visit from Kirstyn Cameron from Epilepsy Scotland who gave a talk/workshop with the children in Primary 1-7 about epilepsy to increase their awareness.

We had some super feedback from families about how well received the training was which we passed to Kirstyn.

Now that there is less issue of people 'mixing', could I ask that all Nursery parents revert back to using our car park and coming in through the playground to the Nursery fire exit that way. This will be easier for folk to park and save any rerouting and messaging if it gets very wet again!

### Parent Council & AGM

Orphir Parents and Carers - please remember that the rescheduled date for our Parent Council AGM and next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November here in the school at 6.00pm. We would love to see as many of you there as possible to help have a say in the fun things that we can do to help our school continue to be a fun place to be.

# Halloween 2022



## **Aladdin**

The script readings have started, the magic carpet is being rolled out and that genie is getting ready to grant those wishes as we have all started to prepare for this year's production of Aladdin. Do ask your children about it and the Primary 4-7 children have all been added to a Microsoft Teams group so that they have access to the Aladdin music to practise.

## **National Standardised Assessments**

Over the rest of the term all pupils in the school will be completing National Standardised Assessments for Scotland (NSA). The assessments help to identify children's progress, providing information to support teachers' professional judgement.

Children do not have to revise or prepare for these assessments and there is no pass or fail. The assessments are as inclusive as possible to accommodate the needs of children who require additional support with their learning; done on the ipads/computers, they are relatively quick and easy to complete. We don't make a big fuss of them in school.

## **Parent Evening Appointments**



### **Wednesday and Thursday 23-24 November**

Your appointment time is home with the children today (Wednesday) - if there are problems attending at that time, do get in touch with Shona at the School Office and we can look at alternative times where possible, and dates if not.

## **Festive Fridays & Santa's Swap Shop**

As the month of December looms near this can only mean one thing - it's time to dust off those Christmas jumpers and get all your Christmas sparkles out again in preparation for Festive Fridays. Festive Fridays are celebrated every Friday in December where we can come to school in our finest Christmas/festive jumpers.

We will shortly be running a Swap Shop on Christmas jumpers/shirts - if you have any that are too peedie or no longer needed, please consider donating to our swap shop where hopefully we can build up a collection of Christmas clothes to save people buying different ones as their children grow. Start looking them out now if you can.

This year we plan to add another festive twist into these Friday's by getting together and not only completing our annual paper chain challenge but by having special Christmas themed Golden Time activities. Can you tell that I  LOVE  Christmas!

## **Nursery Request**

The Nursery are looking to set up a workbench with real tools and equipment. We were hoping to source some wood to get started. Please if you have any of the following going spare, we would really appreciate it.

We are looking for dressed pine, any light packing wood and strips of plywood.

## **Old Trainers for Football Request**

The children are still keen to play football on the pitch even when it is wet! They would prefer to play in trainers so if they have a pair of old trainers they don't mind getting dirty, please could they bring them to school (to stay) to use when they want to go on the pitch for football. They would also need some spare pairs of socks too! If they don't have a suitable pair, they are always allowed on with wellies (but no reinforced toe caps).

We heard about a lovely trip that the Parent and Toddler Group took to Hamnavoe House and we thought you should all know about it!

## Orphir Parent and Toddler Group Visit to Hamnavoe House

It was a brilliant trip out both the toddlers and the residents interacted so well with one another! The mummy's and daddy's even felt it needed to be done again with how successful it was. A really beneficial and fun trip out. 😊



Lots of fun here.....



Lots of concentration here.....

## Home and School Communication

With the (hopefully) temporary stopping of the use of Seesaw, it is maybe a good time to remind families of the Xpressions App.

A free app called Groupcall Xpressions can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet downloaded from the normal places. (I'm hoping the links below work!)

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.groupcall.emerge.parental&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.groupcall.emerge.parental&hl=en_GB&gl=US&pli=1)

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/groupcall-xpressions/id787308623>

If you have children in different schools and those schools also use Groupcall Xpressions, you will be able to view information regarding multiple children within the same app keeping all schools' communication together.



### What do you need to do now?

- Download the free app and following the instructions for set up. Please ensure you use your main contact mobile number and email address when registering the app.
- If you have any problems with downloading check the online help at [www.parents.groupcall.com/faqs/](http://www.parents.groupcall.com/faqs/). You may also need to contact school to make sure your email and mobile contact details are up to date to ensure you can access the service.

### Many benefits include:

- No cost for home to school communication!
- Communication can be done from home at a time suitable to you.
- Our mode of choice is to sent information via Xpressions and Email so using the app means the majority of school communication is in one place (the exception is short -notice time critical info which may be sent by text message). Using Xpressions means you are not having to wade through the many emails that are sent to folk nowadays.
- Once installed and set up, you will immediately be able to receive and respond to information sent by school directly through the app.
- Helpful in rural areas where mobile signal is not the best and you have wifi.
- More than one parent/carer can log in to the account (must the pupil's main contact's details) and get the information.
- One of the common themes around communication is either "I didn't get that info" or "it came a while ago and I couldn't find it". There is a facility on Xpressions to 'flag' important messages or communications from the school and these can be found easily in a separate section.

An interesting breakdown of who has our app:

Of our 66 contacts (parents and carers), only 19 use this fantastic tool for communications to/from the school.

Of those 19, there are 16 Mums and 3 Dads who use this app.



If you have any questions, do ask Shona in the School Office.

## Finally from me...

The second newsletter seems no smaller!

Anyone lucky enough to have tickets for the Harvest Home, do enjoy that on Saturday and have lots of fun dancing and catching up with folk you maybe haven't seen for a while. Even though the nights are longer and seem darker, it's good to find time to enjoy events and things outside the home as well as staying cosy by the fire in quieter times.

Kind regards

*Grant Thomson*

Grant Thomson  
Linked Head Teacher  
Orphir, Stenness and Flotta Community Schools

## Term 2 Timetable

My timetable for this term is as follows:

	AM	PM
Monday	Stenness	
Tuesday	Orphir	
Wednesday	Stenness	Orphir
Thursday	Stenness	Orphir
Friday	Stenness	Orphir

## Diary Dates

Orphir: Parent Council & AGM: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Orphir: Children in Need - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November - info will come out shortly.

Orphir: Parents Evening 1: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November & Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Orphir: Fluoride Varnishing: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Orphir: Dental inspections Nursery to P7: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Orphir: School Show: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December & Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Orphir: Christmas Service @ Orphir Kirk - PM.

Orphir: Last Day of Term 1: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Orphir: First Day of Term 3: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Orphir: Parents Evening 2: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March & Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Orphir: School Bus Trip: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Orphir: Sports Day: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Orphir: Reports Issued: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Orphir: Curriculum Showcase Afternoon: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

We have started to include the calendar for school year 2023-24 as often people plan for holidays far in advance.

## Education, Leisure and Housing

### School Term Dates 2022 to 2023

<b>Term 2.</b>	Monday 24 October to Wednesday 21 December (43 days).
Christmas holidays.	Thursday 22 December to Wednesday 4 January.
<b>Term 3.</b>	Thursday 5 January to Friday 31 March (59 days).
Schools closed.	Friday 10 February to Tuesday 14 February.
Spring holidays.	Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April. (Easter Monday 10 April).
<b>Term 4.</b>	Monday 17 April to Wednesday 28 June (51 days).
Schools closed.	Monday 1 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed.	Monday 5 June.

#### Staff only, in-service days are:

- Monday 15 August 2022.
- Thursday 6 and Friday 7 October 2022.
- Tuesday 14 February 2023.
- Monday 5 June 2023.

## Education, Leisure and Housing

### School term dates - 2023 / 2024 (all dates are inclusive)

<b>Term 1</b>	Tuesday 22 August – Wednesday 11 October (37 days).
October holidays	Thursday 12 October – Friday 27 October.
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 30 October – Friday 22 December (40 days).
Christmas holidays	Monday 25 December – Friday 5 January.
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 8 January – Friday 29 March (57 days).
Schools closed	Friday 16 February – Tuesday 20 February.
Spring holidays	Monday 1 April – Friday 12 April (Easter Monday 1 April)
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 15 April – Wednesday 3 July (56 days).
Schools closed	Monday 6 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed	Monday 3 June.
<b>Staff Only, In-service days are:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monday 21 August.</li><li>• Thursday 12 – Friday 13 October.</li><li>• Tuesday 20 February.</li><li>• Monday 3 June.</li></ul>	

