

Orphir and Flotta Community Schools' Newsletter

Tuesday 14 Mindful March 2023

Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect Flourishing

Flourishing	Edith	Fantastic focus in whiteboard spelling
	Magnus	Respecting others and having a positive voice in class
	Sophie	Focussed effort in writing

News from me...

If it's not snow it is wind and now back to snow! Mother nature has sure been testing our powers of patience lately by throwing all the elements at us. It has been lovely to see the children outside playing in the snow (when it hasn't been too icy) and heart warming to see how well they all club together and play with each other regardless of their class or age - this is most definitely one of the things to treasure about belonging to such a peedie school.

Staffing Update

Interviews for the Early Years Lead Practitioner post in the Nursery are due to be held next week. All being well and we appoint a suitable candidate I will aim to inform you shortly after that.

Rachael Dunnett begins her placement in P1-3 on Monday 17th April and is with us until the 26th May. Rachael is a student at the University of the Highlands and Islands. We look forward to working with her during her time here at Orphir.

Parents Evenings

Our parents evenings are rescheduled for Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Many thanks for your understanding last week when we made the decision to postpone them. These are never easy decisions to make and we greatly appreciate your understanding.

P4-7 Swimming

Swimming for our P4-7 children has begun in earnest! Some feedback from the first week from the swimming teacher was great - she was amazed at how quickly the children settled in and just got on with swimming! John and Shona also reported how well the children were able to get ready for swimming and afterwards. Well done that class!



17/03/2023
24/03/2023
31/03/2023
21/04/2023
28/04/2023
05/05/2023

Comic Relief 2023 Friday 17 March 2023 - From Mr Dearness

My my, where is this term going, it is Comic Relief time again. The P4-7 class usually like to mark the event with a funny, fun filled Friday however with swimming on this year we have to modify things a little.

Dress up

All children are very welcome to dress up (anything that will make them and others smile). Please do not put the P4-7 children in any kind of hair colour or face paint - we are still going swimming.....

Coin collection

Any pennies that have been gathered in jars or found down the back of the sofa would be greatly appreciated. We hope to collect them all and make a big piece of art from them on Friday.

P4-7 Challenges

When we return from swimming I have agreed that the P4-7 class to do some challenges, if you would like to put a donation in with them please feel free to do so.

Communication - sorry - a long one!

- It has been brought to our attention that some families have not been receiving messages from the Groupcall messaging service. It might be worth having a look in your email junk or spam folders to see if anything has been landing in there and click the button that lets your computer know it isn't spam (that's not a very technical explanation but I think you get the idea!).
- The other points to be mindful of is that if you have been receiving info from the school and it suddenly stops, check your junk/spam folder. Sometimes glitches do happen that change these settings.
- On these snowy and bad weather days, keep an eye on your preferred method of communication, we always send messages out by email and Xpressions (as they are free!) and very occasionally by text message. We often put out info first thing in the morning (between 8-9am) depending on the state of the weather and how accessible it is making our doors into the school and nursery.
- And finally, if your contact details do change, please let us know at your earliest convenience - it is very important all year round but especially this time of year when we have the occasional weather related closure.
- Shona will be in the office on Wednesday night for parents evening so if you need to update details or check on forthcoming events, etc - do drop by and say hello.



Mindful March

We will be embracing Mindful March again this year so please look out for letters coming home after the weekly assembly on Thursday which will give you more information. We are a bit slow getting off the blocks this year so Mindful March will extend into April - I guess we could call it Active April!

Strings Visit

We have an exciting day happening here in school next Tuesday 21st March. We are welcoming children from North Walls, Stenness & Stromness Primary Schools for a 'Bowed Strings' event/workshop.

For our Orphir children, this means they arrive at school as normal (with their fiddle) and they will join the other children around 11.00/11.15 am, returning to class between 1.30/2.00pm. **A slight change to the previous arrangements - the 8 Orphir children involved in this day will need to have a packed lunch with them please.**

P7 Residential Fundraiser Bingo

A reminder that the above event is scheduled for Friday 21st April. Donations for bingo and raffles prizes are still welcomed. Please pop anything to Shona in the office - all donations will be gratefully received. Doors open at 6:45 PM for a 7:30 PM start.

World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success here at Orphir. The children participated with great enthusiasm and showcased a wonderful selection of wooden spoon puppets, hand puppets and shoe box scenes from their favourite books. Extra congratulations to all those who went the extra mile and dressed up too! Great effort folks. A selection of pictures are attached.

Term 3 Diary Dates

Orphir: Friday 31st March. Last day of term 3.

Orphir: Monday 17th April. First day of term 4.

Finally from me...

When it comes, have the most wonderful holiday. This has been a super long term (it isn't over yet) but it's key to take some time to wind down and relax. This term I have fairly noticed how much the children have been growing both physically and in terms of maturity by getting themselves ready for the key term in the year - term 4. Before we know it, we will be wishing our lovely P7's off on their next education chapter and getting ready to welcome a new bunch of tiny humans into our Nursery so enjoy these next few weeks and have loads of fun.

Kind regards as always.

Grant Thomson

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

Expressive Arts

Monday	Fiddle Art
Tuesday	Guitar
Wednesday	Music
Thursday	PE
Friday	Swimming from 3 March 2023 - 5 May 2023

Education, Leisure and Housing

School Term Dates 2022 to 2023

All dates are inclusive.

Term 1.	Tuesday 16 August to Wednesday 5 October (37 days).
October holidays.	Thursday 6 October to Friday 21 October.
Term 2.	Monday 24 October to Wednesday 21 December (43 days).
Christmas holidays.	Thursday 22 December to Wednesday 4 January.
Term 3.	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).
Term 4.	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.

Light supper provided

Home bakes

Fabulous Prizes to be won!

PRIZE BINGO!

Friday 21st April 2023

Orphir Community School

Doors open 6.45pm
Eyes down 7.30pm

Raising funds for Orphir Community School's Primary Seven Hoy trip

World Book Day Pics!

