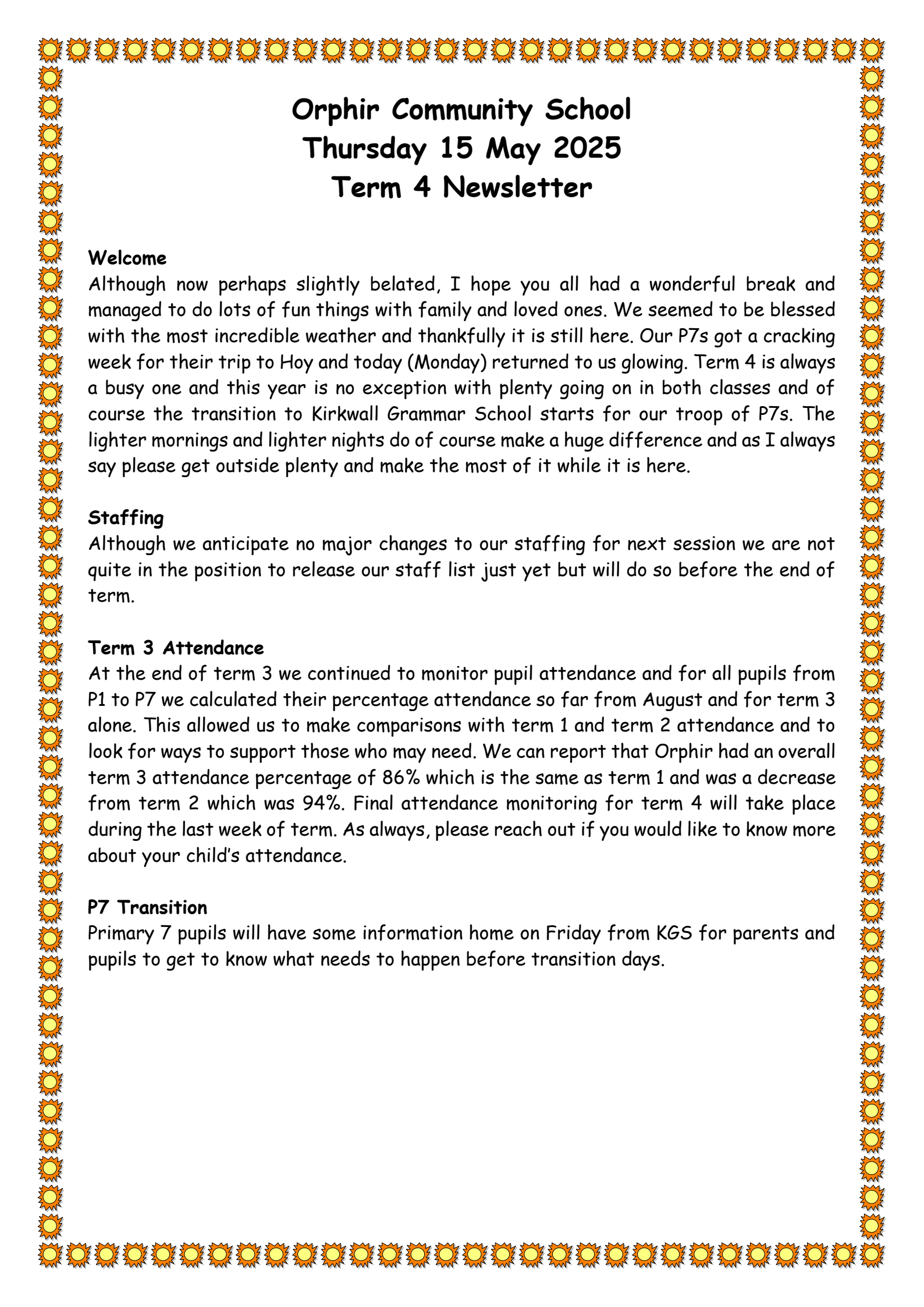




Orphir Community School

Thursday 15 May 2025

Term 4 Newsletter

Welcome

Although now perhaps slightly belated, I hope you all had a wonderful break and managed to do lots of fun things with family and loved ones. We seemed to be blessed with the most incredible weather and thankfully it is still here. Our P7s got a cracking week for their trip to Hoy and today (Monday) returned to us glowing. Term 4 is always a busy one and this year is no exception with plenty going on in both classes and of course the transition to Kirkwall Grammar School starts for our troop of P7s. The lighter mornings and lighter nights do of course make a huge difference and as I always say please get outside plenty and make the most of it while it is here.

Staffing

Although we anticipate no major changes to our staffing for next session we are not quite in the position to release our staff list just yet but will do so before the end of term.

Term 3 Attendance

At the end of term 3 we continued to monitor pupil attendance and for all pupils from P1 to P7 we calculated their percentage attendance so far from August and for term 3 alone. This allowed us to make comparisons with term 1 and term 2 attendance and to look for ways to support those who may need. We can report that Orphir had an overall term 3 attendance percentage of 86% which is the same as term 1 and was a decrease from term 2 which was 94%. Final attendance monitoring for term 4 will take place during the last week of term. As always, please reach out if you would like to know more about your child's attendance.

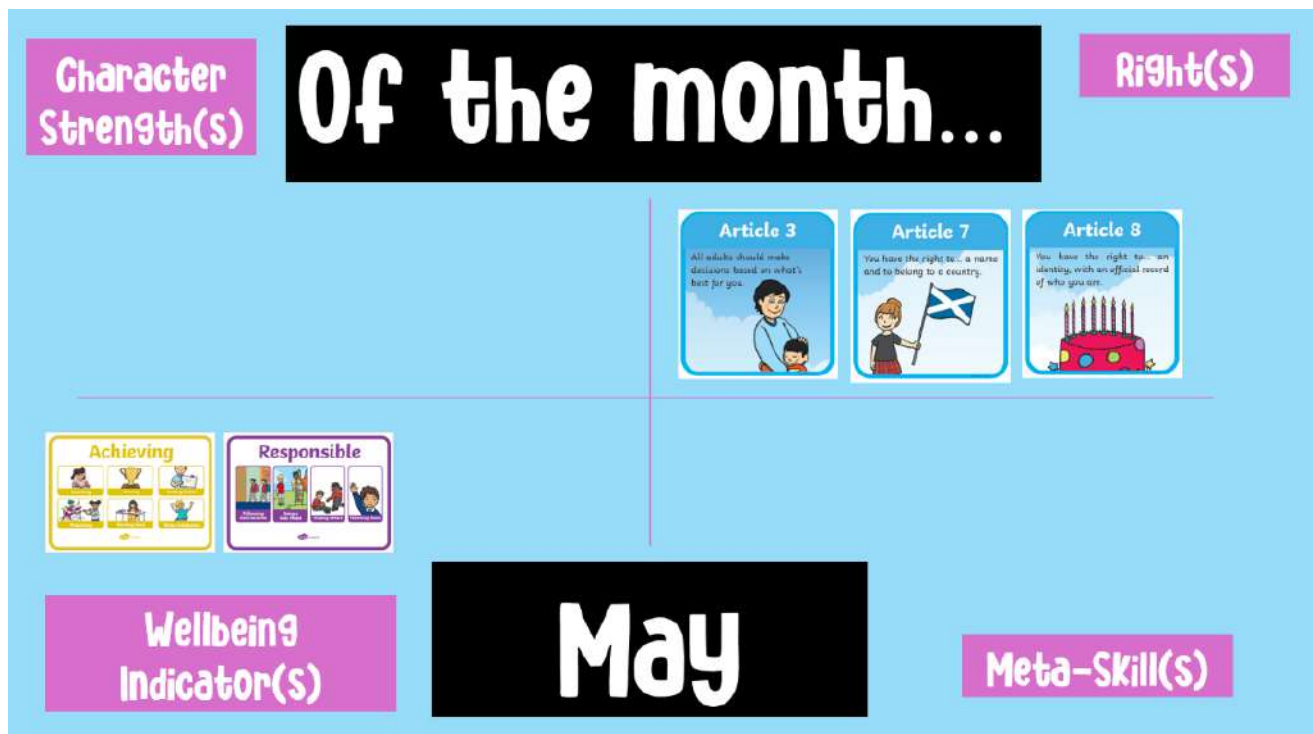
P7 Transition

Primary 7 pupils will have some information home on Friday from KGS for parents and pupils to get to know what needs to happen before transition days.

Of the Month

Our Wellbeing Indicator and Rights focus' for May are detailed overleaf. We discuss these in assembly, classes and talk about how these would be seen and demonstrated across our school. Wellbeing Indicator focus: Achieving & Responsible.

Rights focus: Article 3 (all adults should make decisions on what's best for you), Article 7 (you have the right to a name and to belong to a country) and Article 8 (you have the right to an identity, with an official record of who you are).



Four Contexts of Learning

Please find attached to this newsletter our class posters which exemplified how we have engaged with The Four Contexts of Learning during term 3. Initial information on The Four Contexts of Learning was shared in our term 2 newsletter.

2025-2026 School Improvement Planning

At this point in the year we begin brainstorming what our improvement priorities will be for the next session. This might be an area of the curriculum as staff we feel we want to change, improve or develop. It can sometimes be a project or initiative that might positively impact the experience that the children have here at our school. If any of you have ideas of what we could develop next year, please contact the school and share your ideas for us to discuss around the table. We are always keen to explore your voice so please reach out if you have something to share.

Wider Achievement

Our term 3 wider achievers were celebrated in assembly recently and as every it was wonderful to hear about all the talent we have here in our school. Not only the talents on show but the range of skill these talents are helping to foster in our children. Please look out for our term 4 nominations and get those achievements recognised. Our term 3 wider achievers were:

- Clara
- Jamie
- Freyja
- Ernest
- Oran
- Dylan
- Brynja
- James
- Donald
- Sophie
- Jonah
- Danny
- Oskar
- Roman
- Jack

Nominations are in the WOW Book and you are free to get your children to show you where it is and have a look through it.

School Meals

A peedie thank you from me for all your patience with the new school meals system. On the whole it has been working fine with the odd teething problem here and there. I have asked Shona to list some tips for using the system and about School Meals in general (just to help keep things ticking along smoothly).

ORDERING

- You can download the app which is easy to use!
- You can order well in advance as many weeks that are there dated to save doing so every week.
- You can double-check what you have ordered for your child(ren) any time you wish by logging in to your account.
- You can change what you have ordered for your child - if you have to change it on the morning of that school day, the absolute latest is by 10.00am but if it is that late, please phone the school to advise us too and we can get in touch with the school kitchen that prepares our meals.

School Meals

- Occasionally children do not come to school with a packed lunch when we have them listed as having one that day. We offer them a school meal that day of what we have (if we have enough) or a cheese or banana sandwich. Soup may be available sometimes too.
- Children can have more than one piece of fruit if they are hungry or extra vegetables if there are vegetables left after everyone has been served. We are not allowed to serve 'seconds' of anything else. 😞
- The current set-up for lunch service is that the children are allowed to leave if they have finished from just after 1pm when the adult in the dinner hall gives permission. Children are encouraged to stay until they are finished and we make sure they all know that, but it is up to them to decide when they are finished (this comes in

light of pupil self-evaluation and ways they feel we can make their school better - pupil voice at it's finest).

This Term

We have a range of diary dates ahead of us. Most of these you will be aware of but it never does any harm to hear them again: items in bold are where there is parental input.

- Island Games Roadshow (in school visit): Tuesday 20th May.
- KGS to staff to speak to P7: Tuesday 20th May.
- **Parent Council Meeting: Wednesday 28th May.**
- Primary Athletics (6 pupils to go): Thursday 29th May.
- **In-Service (school closed to pupils): Monday 2nd June.**
- **Sports Day: Tuesday 3rd June.**
- P6 Bikeability: Thursday 5th June.
- **New KGS S1 parents evening: Thursday 5th June.**
- Puppet show (in school event): Friday 6th June.
- KGS transition day: Tuesday 10th June.
- KGS transition day: Wednesday 11th June.
- Nursery trip to Shapinsay: Thursday 12th June.
- **New Nursery parents to visit: Tuesday 17th June.**
- Pupil Reports out: Friday 20th June
- Nursery beach day: Thursday 26th June.
- Leavers Disco: Thursday 26th June.
- **Leavers Assembly: Wednesday 2nd July.**
- Last day of term: Friday 4th July.

Forward notice:

- In-service (school closed to pupils): Monday 18th August 2025.
- **First day of term 1: Tuesday 19th August 2025.**

Finally from me...

The first thing I want to say is directly to Edith, Helga, Jack, Jamie, Rianne and Sophie - enjoy KGS and give it everything you have got. Set your dreams and goals and do everything in your power to reach them and let NOONE put you down. Life can be tricky at times but remember you have family and friends around you that love and care for you. Please pop back and visit us here at Orphir as you will always be welcomed back if you need us or even just want a visit to come back and play! To everyone else, when it comes have the most wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 19th August 2025. We will have a new batch of P1s joining the school and some new children in the Nursery and I can't wait.



Grant Thomson
Head Teacher

Learning across the four contexts at Orphir Community School P1/2/3 Term 3

Opportunities for personal achievement

- World Book Day - read to nursery class
- Mindful March - personal record of 5 ways to wellbeing
- Comic Relief - 40 laps of the pitch and over £900 raised



Interdisciplinary Learning

- Shops project - 50% split pupil/teacher led
 - Maths - money
 - Visits to shops
 - Role play shop in classroom
 - Research questions for shop visits
 - Thank you letters written
 - Mind map planning by pupils



The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

- Delivered an assembly to the whole school and parents about everyone being different but equally unique and special
- Class trips to Shapinsay, Trek and Travel and The Orcadian Bookshop and writing thank you letters
- Intergenerational afternoon - games and chat
- Bag the Bruck
- Parents' Evenings
- Plan, Do, Review with the nursery



- Project - Shops
- Maths - money
- Writing - letter writing, research questions
- CBBC - Newsround - current affairs
- RME - Easter
- HWB - Mindful March - celebrating difference/uniqueness



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

Opportunities for personal achievement

- As a class we supported the World Book Day activities ran by the Library Pupil Voice Group. The children had the opportunity to express their talent or skills while sharing their favourite book.
- Weekly review opens up opportunities for children to share not only what they felt they achieved in a week at school but also their wider achievement.



The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

- We designed and delivered an assembly with a focus on Orcadian dialect which was a development from the work we had done on Orkney folk tales and the Myths and Legends work.
- We went on a class wellbeing/litter collecting walk and shopping trip. We engaged with staff and shoppers while in Tesco and people were very impressed with our communication and manners.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Interdisciplinary Learning

- Harry Potter Myths and Legends was the topic the children chose with a 50% split on teacher/pupil led learning. Plans for activities included:
 - Escape room.
 - Mythical Creature stories.
 - Dobbie and Hedwig story planning.
 - Developing a Harry Potter (Orkadian dialect) class play.



Food Technology/ HWB diet cooking work

- We audited the HWB outcomes as a class.
- We identified gaps in diet, hygiene and food technology.
- We decided to plan a main meal as this had the most worthwhile risk and meta skill opportunities attached.
- We had a Literacy focus on instruction reading and writing.

Curriculum areas and subjects