

Orphir Community School

Friday 10 October 2025

NEWS

End of Term Today!

Hi folks - we have put as much 'stuff' home with our young people as we could. Please check school bags for art work, clothes, hi-vis waistcoats, PE bags, wellie, etc. Refresh the bags and yourselves, have a great couple of weeks and we will see you back in school on Wednesday 29 October 2025.

Family Quiz Night

The Parent Forum want to thank all those that came along to take part in the quiz on Friday night. Extra thanks to all parents and staff who helped with raffles, baking, sandwich making and helping on the night etc., your support was much appreciated.

We raised just over £700 to put towards outdoor education and school trips which is great. And a special thanks to Rachel and Kathryn for a brilliant quiz.

Thanks,
Liz

Spy Dog Books

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cder1klxjxjo>

We have removed the books referred to in this article from our library shelves and will only return them when advised. If you have any of them accessible to children at home, the advice is not to access the website mentioned in them.

Wider Achievement

As per previous newsletters/emails, please use this form [Wider Achievement Term 1](#) to let us know if your child(ren) have had any successes outside of school that we could share and celebrate together.

These wider achievements can include anything they have accomplished in a particular hobby or club and it is always lovely to hear about the wide range of skills we have amongst us. Please feel free to send me any photos that we could add to our board here in school as we would love to share some images alongside the success themselves. Photos can be emailed directly to me on grant.thomson@orkney.gov.uk. We will have our first celebration assembly of the year during the first week back so get those good news stories shared!

Winter Newsletter

OIC have issued out their Winter Newsletter and it is on the website this year. It gives good advice on

- Weather disruption to schools
- School Transport and Parental Responsibilities
- Where to find up-to-date information
- Be Safe, Be Seen, Be Warm this winter
- Coughs, colds, sneezes, COVID and Winter Vomiting Bug

You can find it on the following link: [OIC Winter Newsletter](#)

Photos

Toddler to Secondary School Pupils Photo Opportunity

Orphir Community School Forum have organised Kirstin Shearer to take Class Photos, Individual and Family Photos in the school on Monday 3 November 2025.

Parents will have a choice of the photos they wish taken of their child/children so we would like you to indicate on an electronic form what format you would like. Photos will be put in an on-line gallery (password protected) and parents can purchase from there. This will be part of our school fundraising for 2025-26. It is on a Monday to tie in with toddlers and KGS siblings should be able to be accommodated at the end of the day if demand requires it.

The form will be available to be completed up to and including Thursday 30 October 2025.

[School Photos](#)

Hi-vis Waistcoats

The waistcoats were given out this week and pupils are expected to wear them to and from school daily to keep them safe by being seen. Please support us from home with this initiative as our car park is a busy place at morning time and 3.30pm. As you know we do make sure bairns have a hi-vis on when they leave the building so if you have a build up at home of hi-vis, do put them back regularly too. The bairns aren't given a hard time for taking them back so there is no need for them to feel embarrassed or reluctant to drop them to the school.

EVENTS

Halloween Disco - Thursday 30 October, 6.00-7.30pm

This is a drop off event for P1-7 children and nursery and toddler children are welcome to attend too if parents stay with them.



Prizes for neeepy lanterns or pumpkins

Format:

Drop off event

Helpers for kitchen

Paula

Louise

Emma



Supper

Hot Dog Roll

Cheese Roll

Vegan Alternative

Ketchup

School Office to organise:

Ice cream cone or wafer cup

Apples for dooking

Juice for supper



Football - Message from Erland Johnston and Nicky Watson



We are planning for football to start back on Friday 31 October for this season. This will be after school as before till 4.30pm. Forms will go home with the bairns on the Wednesday when we come back, P4-7 boys and girls. Please return them so we can gauge interest and numbers. Thank you.



Education, Leisure and Housing

School term dates - 2025 / 2026 (all dates are inclusive)

Term 1 2025	Tuesday 19 August – Friday 10 October. (39 days)
October holidays	Monday 13 October – Tuesday 28 October.
Term 2	Wednesday 29 October – Friday 19 December. (38 days)
Christmas holidays	Monday 22 December – Friday 2 January.
Term 3 2026	Monday 5 January – Friday 3 April. (61 days)
Schools closed	Thursday 12 February – Tuesday 17 February.
Spring holidays	Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April. (Easter Monday 6 April).
Term 4	Monday 20 April – Thursday 2 July. (52 days)
Schools closed	Monday 4 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed	Monday 1 June.
Staff Only, In-service days are:	
- Monday 18 August. - Monday 27 – Tuesday 28 October. - Tuesday 17 February. - Monday 1 June.	

Peedie Harvest Home

Thursday 6 November 2025

Advance notice of Peedie Harvest Home

This will be our inter-generational event for 2025-26. This will take a similar format of other inter-generational events with invites going to older family members, family friends and neighbours. There will be some food/refreshments provided and once we get it absolutely finalised, there will be invites to all families to pass around but there will be an rsvp attached to ensure we know how many folk need to be catered for. Please keep an eye out for this right at the start of next term.

Children in Need - Nursery to P7

Oops! We had the date wrong! 🧡

Children in Need will be on Friday 14th November and will consist of a bake sale only.

We are looking for donations of home baking and the children can take in a penny and buy a cake for break time. Parents will also be welcome to come in for 11.25am but we would make sure that the children get first choice. 😊



Community Events

Yarnin' is a friendly social group meeting in the Orphir and Stenness Kirk Hall in the Orphir village every second Wednesday from 7-9pm. - there is an event on Facebook [Yarnin'](#)

Take along your yarn project (knitting, crochet, cross stitch, etc) to work on and have a yarn with fellow like minded folk. £1 donation towards tea and a biscuit.

Entrance via the side door.



Information on bowls is on the next photo (what it hasn't said is that there is a cup of tea and a biscuit at that too! 😊) and entrance is normally through the kitchen door.





Free

Binscarth Woods

Family Learning Activities

Mon 27 and Tue 28 October

Session 1 - Monday - 2pm to 5pm
Session 2 - Tuesday - 10am to 1pm
Session 3 - Tuesday - 2pm to 5pm



Orkney Islands Council

🌲 Free!! Family Learning Activities in Binscarth Woods 🌲

Join us this October break for exciting outdoor activities including: 🍂 Nature walks & tree identification 🎨 Arts & crafts 🗺️ Orienteering 🔥 Bushcraft & archery 📖 Daily storytelling (1-1.45pm)

Sessions available: Mon 27 Oct (2-5pm) and Tue 28 Oct (10am-1pm or 2-5pm)

For children aged 5-11 (must be accompanied by an adult) - Free fruit & drinks provided!

📞 Book now: 01856 879200 - Spaces limited - first come, first served!