

Orphir Community School Newsletter

Tuesday 19 April 2022

Head Teacher's Headline

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a great holiday - it certainly seemed like a loooong break. We were lucky with the weather and the vitamin D was most welcomed. I absolutely love this time of year in Orkney because of the light mornings and light nights - please make sure you take full advantage of this and get out and about and do things - it's amazing how wonderful it makes you feel. I have set myself the challenge of getting my 10,000 steps in every day this term!

This is an 11-week term and sure is going to be a busy one. It is also a special one for our P7 pupils as they round off their primary school career and get ready for the move to secondary school.



Bag The Bruck

Bag the Bruck is back!

As in previous years, pre-Covid, we (all staff and Primary 1-7 children) are 'bagging the bruck' in and around the Orphir Village within the 30mph signs.

We are planning to do this the first week back so please ensure that if the children have their wellies home with them over the holidays they are back the first week to allow them to take part.

Weather and staff permitting we will be planning this on Thursday 21 April.

Parent Appointments

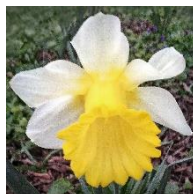
These will now take place on Wednesday/Thursday 27-28 April.

With restrictions easing, we look forward to welcoming you all back into the school. I almost feel we should roll out a red carpet and cut a ribbon as the first person walks through the doors!

We will re-issue appointments later this week.

Poorly Photocopier

We are trying to nurse our photocopier along at the moment and rather than overload it with printing newsletters, we will only be offering electronic newsletters until we get the photocopier repaired or replaced.

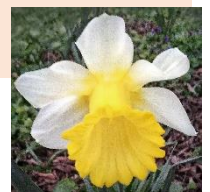


COVID Update - this one is a biggie!

You will all be aware of the easing of various restriction as of yesterday (Monday 18th April 2022). This is welcome news after what we have all gone through over the past while and starts to pave the way for more 'normal' school life. We are going to begin our journey to normality slowly and steadily as to make too many radical changes too quickly would be irresponsible. So, what does this mean for us in school and you as parents?

- We are no longer required to test twice weekly if asymptomatic.
- Anyone who develops symptoms should take a lateral flow test.
- You (child or adult) need to isolate if you display a positive lateral flow test result. You may end your isolation early if you present negative lateral flow test results after days six and seven (24 hours apart). If not, continue isolating until day ten and continue as normal on day eleven. Seek further advice if you still have a high temperature.
- You should then pause testing for 28 days from the date symptoms started or the date of the positive lateral flow test result.
- We will no longer send out the low risk warn and inform letters (but will always be at the end of the phone to help you if you have any worries or concerns and will be as open and honest as we can).
- We will continue with our increased hand washing and hand sanitising.
- We will continue with our enhanced cleaning.
- Parents, carers, and visitors are welcome into the school for planned visits and appointments, but we will continue with our start of day (drop off) and end of day (pick up) procedure as this is working well.
- If visiting the school or coming in for a planned appointment we will ask you to kindly comply with any safety measure we have in place (hand sanitising, being distance aware etc).
- In school we will begin the process of class mixing (should it be necessary and relevant).
- In school we will begin the process of class mixing in the dining hall (at a natural pace).
- There is now no legal obligation to wear a face mask, but we will fully respect the wishes of those that wish to do so.

Should we find ourselves in the position where we are in another outbreak, we may revert back to some of our previous in-school mitigations to limit the rates of transmission. For many of you (and our staff) this slow return to normal may cause more uncertainty or angst as we have been bound by so many rules and regulations; I can assure you that any decisions we make or procedures we decide to follow will be done with the ultimate aim of keeping us all as safe as possible and giving the children the best experience possible. But remember, we are always at the end of the phone and if we do not have the answer you are looking for, we will do our best to find it out.



Clothes Recycling

Our clothes bin at the bus stop is very soon going to be open again for the recycling of clothes which goes to the Salvation Army. We have requested new advertising material for the bin and some information and collection bags too for families. Once we get that all, we will let you know when the clothes bin is ready for use.

BE PART OF SOMETHING GREAT,
JOIN US AS WE...
**RECYCLE WITH
MICHAEL**



Term 4 Timetable

Please see my planned timetable for Term 4 below. This is subject to change at short notice but you are always welcome to contact me at either school.

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



Finally, from me...

Take some time to churn over the COVID update and get in touch if you are unsure of anything or feel we have missed something out. We are always open to your comments, suggestions, ideas, and feedback and by working closely together is the quickest and best way to move forward. Enjoy the sunshine!

Kind regards,

Grant Thomson

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

D A T E S
FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Notes
Tuesday 19 th April	First Day of Term 4	
Thursday 21 st April	Bag The Bruck	
Thursday 5 th May	Orphir Parent Council	All Welcome!
Thursday 2 nd June Friday 3 rd June	Schools Closed	Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Monday 6 th June	Schools Closed	In-Service Day
Monday 13 th June Tuesday 14 th June	KGS Transition	P7 pupils only
Thursday 16 th June Friday 17 th June	P6/7 Wellbeing Festival P6/7 Wellbeing Festival	This is in replace of a residential trip
Wednesday 22 nd June	Sports Day	Provisional date
Thursday 30 th June	Last day of Term 4	Happy holidays!

School Term Dates 2021-2022. All dates are inclusive.	
Term four	Tuesday 19 April to Thursday 30 June
Schools closed	Thursday 02 June & Friday 03 June
Schools closed	Monday 06 June



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."