

Orphir and Flotta Community Schools' Newsletter

Tuesday 7 February 2023

Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect Flourishing

Kindness	Kiana	Noticing and helping when others need help
Teamwork	James Layla Vaila Elsa	Excellent teamwork in Project and PE
Flourishing Learner	Noah Teagan	Amazing improvement in handwriting
	Luke	Brilliant engagement in reading
	Sahana	Dealing with all the challenges of having a broken arm yet still improving in reading and writing
	Jake	Exceptional focus in Maths

News from me...

It's official - the nights are most certainly lighter! Hooray! I want to start off this newsletter by giving a whopping well done to our football team, the Orphir Torpedoes, who absolutely smashed their games at the weekend and won their football league. The team, and coach, should be exceptionally proud of this achievement and I was delighted to arrive to work on Monday morning to hear the news. Torpedoes by name, torpedoes by nature!



Burns Supper

I want to say a massive, and I mean MASSIVE thank you to our Parent Council and parent helpers for the Burns Supper. What a great night it was and special thanks have to go to our Parent Council Chair, Mark Edmonds, who co-ordinated our bank of parent helpers and made sure the entire evening ran smoothly.



Guitar Lessons

We are delighted that guitar lessons are starting back today. These will be taking place every Tuesday afternoon for the remainder of term and are offered to our older pupils only. The sessions will be delivered in small groups of 4 pupils and each group session will last approximately 25 to 30 minutes. Forms went home with relevant pupils today so we ask you to please complete and return them next week.

Primary 7 Residential Trip

A meeting for P7 parents is scheduled for 6 PM on Wednesday 15th February to discuss the residential trip offer for P7 pupils. This initial meeting is for P7 parents only and will be held in Mr Dearness' room.



Mid-Term Holiday

Please notes that the school will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

- Friday 10th February.
- Monday 13th February.
- Tuesday 14th February (staff in-service training).

Early Learning and Childcare and Primary One Registration 2023/24

Please see the attached letter for Nursery and Primary 1 registration for session 2023/2024 which opens on Friday 17th February until Friday 24th February at 5 PM. Please pay particular attention to the section on Primary 1 registration as changes in legislation now means that your child may be eligible for an additionally fully funded year of Early Learning and Childcare in our setting. If this is something you are considering then I recommend speaking to one of the Nursery members of staff who will be happy to field any questions.

School Meals

Thank you very much for ordering the school meals so promptly - it makes it much easier for us to keep the kitchens up to speed.

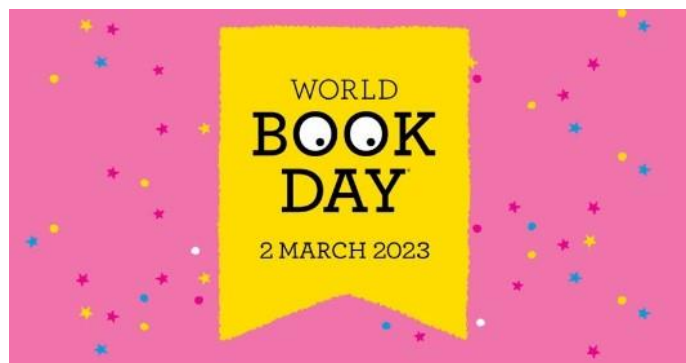
World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 2 March this year. We are planning a competition for all the children themed around characters and scenes from books.

Nursery-P2	Wooden spoon character (spoons are ordered and will be home soon for each child of that age category)
Primary 3-4	Puppet - children's own choice
Primary 5-7	Shoebox scene from a book

These are to be completed at home as homework and we can provide some resources from school where necessary. Children could also be given some time in school to complete their entries. All the entries will be on show for the whole school to see on World Book Day and we ask that the children take in, borrow from the main or school library the book from which their character or scene is from. The children have also asked about dressing up which is completely optional!

We have included the World Book Day vouchers earlier this year to allow families more time to purchase the books they are after before World Book Day itself. The vouchers are valid from 16 February.



Swimming

Swimming is due to start this term for our P4-7 pupils. At the moment, it is scheduled to be in the morning on Fridays from 3 March at the Pickaquoy Centre and we will keep you updated of any changes.



Term 3 Diary Dates

Friday 10th February. Holiday - schools closed.

Monday 13th February. Holiday - schools closed.

Tuesday 14th February. In-service training - schools closed to pupils.

Thursday 23rd February. Parent Council @ 6 PM.

Thursday 2 March. World Book Day

Friday 3rd March. Swimming

Wednesday 8th March & Thursday 9th March. Parents Evening.

Friday 31st March. Last day of term 3.

Monday 17th April. First day of term 4.

Bookbug Bags - Feedback please if you are able

The Scottish Book Trust are gathering feedback of last year's P1 Bags. They have a survey for both practitioners and parents; the parents' survey is linked below. The surveys close at the end of February. There is the option to be entered into a prize draw for taking part and you can win a £100 book token.

Parent Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LRBYVCN>

Thank you very much for your help.

Kind Regards

Mary-Louise Karius
Bookbug Coordinator

Finally from me...

Enjoy the long weekend - what a welcome little treat it is. I always think that after this break, summer is never far away.

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

Community News

Yarnin meets Wednesday 8 February in the Orphir Kirk Hall, 7-9pm - link below to event.

https://www.facebook.com/events/686304099616410/686306892949464/?active_tab=about

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.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE REGISTRATION 2023/24

Registration opens Friday 17 February at 9am until Friday 24 February at 5pm.

If your child turns three years old between 1 March 2023 and 29 February 2024, they become eligible for their first year of funded Early Learning and Childcare place the term after their third birthday as below:

Children born between	Eligible to start	
1 March 2020 – 31 August 2020	22 August 2023	(the Autumn Term)
1 September 2020 - 31 December 2020	8 January 2024	(the Spring Term)
1 January 2021 - 28 February 2021	15 April 2024	(the Summer Term)

You need to complete the online registration form during registration week accessed in Education/Learning from the OIC website www.orkney.gov.uk. where information on all local settings and childminders in partnership will also be available. Online registration forms can be accepted after this deadline but please be aware that in some settings, spaces may be oversubscribed.

In the Papdale catchment area there are two settings, Papdale and the Strynd. Glaitness is also available to Papdale catchment parents. When registering, parents will be asked to indicate their first choice, followed by their second and third in the event that their first choice is oversubscribed at the time of registering. Once registration opens, places are allocated in the order they are received.

If your child is three or four years old and is currently attending their first year of Early Learning and Childcare they will automatically be carried forward for their second year of Early Learning and Childcare in their current setting. They do not need to complete a registration form unless they are requesting to change setting for their second year in the Papdale catchment area. A Change of Setting form should be submitted during registration week accessed in Education/Learning from the OIC website www.orkney.gov.uk.

Children aged two years old may be eligible for a place the term after their second birthday if parents/carers are in receipt of certain benefits or care experienced (born between the 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2022). Registration for a two year old place is continually open, an application form can be completed by accessing Education/Learning from the OIC website www.orkney.gov.uk. Forms should be completed no earlier than three months prior to the date of the child's second birthday.

PRIMARY ONE REGISTRATION 2023/24

Registration opens Friday 17 February at 9am until Friday 24 February at 5pm.

If your child is five years old on or between 1 March and the first day of school term, Tuesday 22 August 2023, your child will start school this August.

If your child is five years old on or between Wednesday 23 August and the last day of February 2024, your child can start school on 22 August 2023. However, you have the option to defer your child's entry to school.

From August 2023, a change in legislation means that all children who are eligible to defer as above, will automatically be able to access an additional year of funded Early Learning and Childcare.

Parents and guardians who wish to enrol their child(ren) for Primary One are required to complete the online registration form during registration week. P1 Registration forms can be accessed under 'Schools' in Education/Learning from the OIC website www.orkney.gov.uk, where information on starting primary one will also be available. Online registration forms can be accepted after this deadline.

If you choose to defer your child, please confirm this with your Early Learning and Childcare setting and your child will automatically be carried forward for an additional year. You will not therefore be required to complete a registration form for Primary One.

If you have any queries or require any further information or assistance in completing the registration form, please contact the Early Years Team, Education, Leisure & Housing on 01856 873535 ext 3220/2458 or email elc@orkney.gov.uk.

