

Orphir Community School Newsletter

Tuesday 25 January 2022

Head Teacher's Headline

If you have set any, I hope all your new year resolutions are going well. Recently in assembly we have been talking about the importance of having a Growth Mindset and I have been super impressed by the positivity shown by the children on this topic. At times in life when things don't go to plan it can be tricky but by seeing challenges as a way of learning helps us all improve over time. Ask your child/children what they can remember about having a Growth Mindset and see if they can recount to you a time when they have shown this.

Term 3 Timetable

My timetable for Term 3 will be as follows:

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

Wellbeing Survey

Recently in school the children have been completing wellbeing surveys. The purpose of these surveys was to gather information about how each child feels about being at school. They had a set of questions and recorded their responses by picking one of three options (see example below) which they felt best fitted how they felt generally.

Over time these responses will be used to help us make tweaks and changes to how we do things and ultimately make their experience here as good as it can be. Feel free to get in touch if you would like to know more about this survey - there might even be one coming your way to fill out as a parent/carer!

Question 1	I feel safe in school.	
		

Website Feedback

<https://www.orphircommunityschool.co.uk/>

Many thanks to those of you who contributed feedback to our website survey. As a result of this we want to share the following bits of information with you.

Aspects of the website you like:

- It is easy to navigate and well laid out.
- It is good having the newsletters and other documents there for reference.
- It is useful having contact details displayed.
- The photos are good.

Aspects of the website you would perhaps like to see improved:

- Staff photos up.
- Parent Council information displayed.
- Term time calendars up.
- The formatting for viewing the website on mobile devices.
- Information on class learning.
- Electronic surveys and forms.

We loved looking through your feedback and as a result would like to now share with you things we have already done or plan to do:

- Staff photos are a work in progress as we want to respect everyone's right to privacy as our website is for public viewing. As a compromise I am happy for my mugshot to be displayed on behalf of all the staff and we will ask our children to create portraits of our team for the website.
- We can add a Parent Council tab to the website and share any relevant information here.
- We can easily add calendars, holiday dates so will do that moving forward.
- Shona has already been tinkering with the formatting to make it more viewable on mobile devices.
- As a staff we will discuss ways we could share planned termly learning with you over the webpage.
- We can add a tab with links to any relevant letters, surveys or forms.

We hope you find this useful.

Please remember we are not website designers and things may not appear how we imagine they will - we are always happy to have feedback if you see something on our website that isn't quite right!



Toothbrushing Supervisor

Since April has moved on to pastures new, there is a vacancy for a toothbrushing supervisor - link below if you know of anyone that is interested!



https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/orkney-islands-council/jobs/toothbrushing-supervisor-2-posts-255951?fbclid=IwAR0GgU6NbsTzvmOWOA_AkMJkgBJZS2Ab0gRvHCjJFdgXKFyqaGJX7f5ND4I

School Calendars

You will see on the next page, OIC School Term Dates for the next school year (and the end of this one) - please use these when planning your next holiday! 😊

- Monday 2nd of May is **no longer a holiday**.
- Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of June **are now holiday days** making that a long weekend as the schools are closed on Monday 6 June too.

If you are booking online, please remember to go through the following link if you can. 😊

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/foorphir/>



Finally from me...

Enjoy the rest of January - I can't believe how fast time is passing us by.

Kind regards,

Grant Thomson

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

Print me out and put me on the fridge!



Date	Event	Notes
Friday 11 th February	Schools closed	
Monday 14 th February	Schools closed	
Tuesday 15 th February	Staff In-Service training	Schools closed to pupils
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day	Info to follow
Friday 1 st April	Last day of Term 3	

Education, Leisure and Housing

School Term Dates 2021 to 2022

All dates are inclusive.

Term 1.	Tuesday 17 August to Wednesday 6 October (37 days).
October holidays.	Thursday 7 October to Friday 22 October.
Term 2.	Monday 25 October to Tuesday 21 December (42 days).
Christmas holidays.	Wednesday 22 December to Tuesday 4 January.
Term 3.	Wednesday 5 January to Friday 1 April (60 days).
Schools closed.	Friday 11 February to Tuesday 15 February.
Spring holidays.	Monday 4 April to Monday 18 April. (Easter Monday 18 April).
Term 4.	Tuesday 19 April to Thursday 30 June (51 days).
Schools closed.	Monday 2 May (May Day holiday). 2-3 June
Schools closed.	Monday 6 June.

Staff only, in-service days are:

- Monday 16 August 2021.
- Thursday 7 and Friday 8 October 2021.
- Tuesday 15 February 2022.
- Monday 6 June 2022.

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.

Message from Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney:

As a nation, we are moving towards learning how to live with COVID.

The Council and NHS Orkney are continuing to encourage parents to ensure their children attend at school unless they are unwell or have tested positive for the virus. Schools across the country are continuing to face COVID-related challenges since the return this term and, unfortunately, Orkney is no exception. There have been and, no doubt will continue to be, instances of positive cases within some of our schools – this is a reality of life now.

NHS Orkney and the Council, who have been working together closely since the pandemic began, are continuing to monitor the situation in schools and this is backed up by support from OIC Environmental Health and Safety and Resilience teams to ensure that schools are as safe as they can be for pupils and staff. Unfortunately, there has been some unhelpful national publicity surrounding the Omicron variant and the hospitalisation of young children, aged 5 and under. Although not unheard of, it remains extremely rare for a young child to have COVID complications.

The Council is seeking to reassure parents and carers that there have been and will continue to be a host of mitigations in place within schools.

These include:

- Increased ventilation through keeping windows and doors open;
- Hand washing and sanitising;
- Wearing of face coverings when appropriate;
- Distancing.

The Environmental Health team are also visiting all schools to ensure all measures are in place.

Maureen Swannie is interim Head of Children's Health Services at NHS Orkney. She said: "The education sector has worked tirelessly to ensure protocols are in place for education settings to be as safe as possible and to allow our children to have a normal childhood.

"Unfortunately, over the last two years, children have had to miss out on many academic and social events due to COVID. As we continue to navigate the pandemic it's imperative that our children are one of our top priorities and this includes their health and wellbeing. The NHS continues to work with colleagues in Education, ensuring protocols are being followed to allow children to continue to safely attend school, learning their core skills and of course, socialising with their peers.

"Additionally, the COVID vaccination uptake has ensured teachers and support staff are also playing their part to help keep children safe and soon, children will also be offered vaccines as an important, extra layer of safety. We will continue to work in partnership to ensure that children and young people are fully supported."

OIC Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, James Wylie, said: "When we have witnessed positive cases within a school, the initial reaction among some parents is to keep their children off school. While we understand everyone's family circumstances are different and there may be a vulnerability aspects and anxiety amongst some, we continue to stress how important it is for all children and young people who are well to attend at school for academic, social and wellbeing reasons.

“Our staff are working incredibly hard to try and ensure that our schools remain open when that is at all possible because we all recognise just how vital this is for our children and young people. They have already missed out on so much. Far from not taking a child’s health and wellbeing into account when keeping schools open, it is at the very core of our decision-making based on Public Health advice.”

Please remember that everyone should continue to take regular lateral flow tests and register the results, whether positive or negative, here: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) made an official comment last week (13 January) on media reports of increased admissions of under 5s in hospital with COVID-19
In a statement RCPCH said:

“Children’s wards are experiencing a busy winter, as is usual for this time of year. As expected, this means paediatricians are seeing lots of babies and young children with fever and respiratory conditions.

“We know that Omicron is much more transmissible than previous COVID-19 variants and results in a higher rate across the community. It is therefore to be expected that there will be more children and young people testing positive for COVID-19. It is important to note that paediatricians are not reporting Omicron to be a more serious or severe disease in children and young people in the UK. We are also reassured to hear that very few children and young people admitted to hospital with Omicron are needing paediatric intensive care. While this is reassuring, we cannot be complacent and will monitor the situation.

“Parents and carers will understandably be anxious if their child falls ill, and it can be confusing to know what to do if your child is ill during the pandemic. Importantly, the NHS is open and continues to provide safe care for children and young using national guidance. We encourage families to follow the advice on nhs.uk if their child has a fever or to contact 111 or their GP.”

Hmmmm.....
interesting opportunity
to be involved in.....

Let us know
what matters to
you about the
PLACE you live



By letting us know what
matters to you, it will allow us
to shape our work to ensure
your community aspirations
and ideas are included

- Education
- Learning
- Development



- Countryside
- Playgrounds
- Sports and Leisure

- Shops
- Services
- Activities



- Connectivity
- Economy
- Involvement

Calling all Orphir, Firth and Stenness residents!

Orkney Matters consultation virtual
community meeting on Thursday 27 January
– Orphir, Firth and Stenness

The Orkney Matters – Your Place, Your
Future consultation has moved online to the
next stage of virtual community meetings.
Thursday 27 January is the turn of Orphir,
Firth and Stenness and folk are being
encouraged to attend.

Isles meetings have been attracting large
turnouts, while Mainland representation has
been smaller – this is your chance to have
your say.

Community Councils, Development Trusts
and other community groups will be invited
to participate, and members of the public
can attend too.

To book a place email
communitycouncils@orkney.gov.uk.

During the sessions, which start at 7pm, key
members of those involved in the
consultation will be on hand to outline the
story so far, to answer questions and log
feedback.

www.orkney.gov.uk/matters