

Orphir Community School Newsletter

Tuesday 8 February 2022

CERTIFICATES

Confident Individual (CI), Effective Contributor (EC),
Responsible Citizen (RC) or Successful Learner (SL)

James Johnston	SL	Using excellent storytelling in his writing
Leia Wright	SL	Brilliant bridging work; trying a new skill
Finlay Edmonds	CI	Brilliant points in our writing planning
Layla Nourse	CI	Being confident to create a fabulous character in Writing
Fraser Morgan	CI	Being confident to create a fabulous character in Writing
Elsa Bremner	CI	Writing her whole story independently
Luke Clouston	SL	Creating extra characters at home and sharing them in class
Molly Wilson	CI	Fantastic contribution to P4C and our Dreams and Goals lesson
Aimee Leslie	SL	Consistently producing high quality writing and planning

Head Teacher's Headline

Happy Chinese New Year! Or in Cantonese - Gong Hei Fat Cho! In assembly last week we were busy learning about the ways this festival is celebrated around the world by those who celebrate it. I was incredibly impressed by how respectful the children were of this cultural celebration and how interested they were in learning all about it - recognising similarities and differences to the way we celebrate our own new year. The children here are incredibly accepting and respectful and we all should feel very proud of this. Click on the link below to watch the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YA9fwm4s8M>



Nursery Enrolment

Nursery registration for the academic year 2022/2023 begins on Friday 25th February.

The link to the OIC website is below and it also has a list of FAQs that may help answer any queries you may have. You are always more than welcome to contact us at the school (01856 811265) if you have any issues in the application process or if you have a question that isn't answered on the website.

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/P/Early-Learning-and-Childcare.htm>

Spare Clothes

Please make sure your child has a spare set of clothes in their bag should they need a replacement. We have had a few instances recently where children have gone down the slides outside and not realised they had puddles of water at the bottom of them - and what a surprise they got when they reached the bottom!

Whilst we do have spare sets of clothes many prefer to wear their own and we respect this. Also, little 'accidents' can still happen for many of our children and for those who get caught short the experience can be made less obvious when they have their own underwear and trousers to change into.



Public Health Visit

We recently had an inspection from Ceri Dare from Public Health who has been inspecting all schools to make sure they are as COVID safe as they can be. I am happy to report that she was pleased with everything that we have in place to help limit rates of transmission and the hard work and dedication of the staff to maintain safe standards needs to be acknowledged. Not only have all the staff made school a fun place to be but they have continued to make it safe.

I also need to thank you as parents for trusting us to do what we need to do and remaining calm when the odd positive case has cropped up and you have received your low-risk letter.

Staffing

We welcome Amy Malcolm to the staff team here at Orphir as she completes a six-week placement as part of her PDGE in Primary Education with the University of the Highlands and Islands. Amy is into her second week with the P4-7 class and has settled in perfectly.

Recruitment continues for the post of Principal Teacher of the Flotta class. I hope to be able to bring you news of this in the not-too-distant future.

Recruitment also continues for the post of Early Years Practitioner in our Nursery. Hopefully I can bring you good news of this soon too.

Re-use School Uniform

We have a large quantity of used school uniform that people can take away for a small donation to the school fund. The majority of the sizes are for the peedier bairns but do feel free to ask to see the stuff if you would like to get some for your children.

Work Portfolios

We are sending home the traditional portfolios of work that were usually sent home at the end of P7. A covering letter will accompany the portfolio when it comes home but please feel free to continue to fill it with primary school memories should you wish.

Term 3 Timetable

My timetable for Term 3 will be as follow:

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

Hoy Residential Trip

There will be no Hoy residential trip for our older pupils this year. Apologies for any confusion previously caused. We are already thinking about an exciting replacement so keep an ear out for more information from Mr Dearness.

Holiday Date Change Reminder

Please be aware of the following holiday date change:

- Monday 2nd of May is **no longer a holiday**.
- Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of June **are now holiday days**.

Quality Assurance

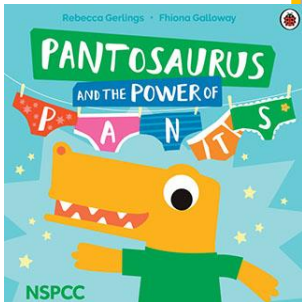
As part of the Quality Assurance process, I have recently been spending time in each class supporting and monitoring learning. Visiting classes is something I love doing and watching children have those lightbulb moments never gets old - it reminds me why I wanted to be a teacher in the first place all those years ago. As parents and carers your voice is important too so if you have any comments or questions regarding our learning then please do not hesitate to get in touch myself or your child's teacher. When asking the children about their learning and work they spoke very highly of their experiences. I will share a snapshot of their comments (confidential of course) below. When I asked them what they liked or enjoyed about their learning here are their words...

- 'I enjoyed finding things out about the rainforest.'
- 'I like looking at facts to learn new things.'
- 'Measuring capacity. How much something can hold. I liked that you could pour water into stuff.'
- 'My pictures and my writing.' 'I am good at writing what I did.'

Pantosaurus

A new resource has been made available for our Nursery, P1 and P2 pupils called the Pantosaurus. The Pantosaurus is a storybook for children that supports schools and families to have simple conversations to help keep children safe from abuse. It teaches children that their body belongs to them, they have the right to say no, and that they should tell an adult if they're upset or worried about anything. We are sending home an information leaflet with our Nursery, P1 and P2 pupils in advance of reading the Pantosaurus.

The story will be read sensitively but treated with great importance. Should you have any questions then please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Finally from me...

Have a fantastic long weekend. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we can get out and about in the fresh air. Remember that school is closed on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th February.

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	Schools closed to pupils	Staff in for training
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day	Info to follow
Friday 1 st April	Last day of Term 3	

School Term Dates 2021-2022. All dates are inclusive.	
Term 3	Wednesday 05 January to Friday 01 April
Schools closed	Friday 11 February to Tuesday 15 February
Spring holidays	Monday 04 April to Monday 18 April (Easter Monday 18 April)
Term 4	Tuesday 19 April to Thursday 30 June
Schools closed	Monday 02 June & Friday 03 June
Schools closed	Monday 06 June





Some pictures of recent activities in the Primary 1-3 class.