

Orphir Community School
Newsletter 1
Tuesday 17th August 2021

Welcome Back!

I hope you have all had a happy, healthy and well-rested holiday and are fully charged ready for the year ahead. I am excited about the fun filled year we have planned and look forward to meeting with you all in due course once restrictions allow.

I would firstly like to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils. In the Nursery joining us is Donald. Our new Primary 1 pupils are Layla, Jonah, Danny and Wolfy; they will be made to feel very welcome by the other children in the P1-3 class. Good luck to the new P4 children who have joined the P4-7 class – what an exciting time the start of a new school year is. We hope you all enjoy your time here with us at Orphir Community School. Another big welcome goes to our new staff members Rebecca and Brian.



Staffing 2021-2022: Term 1

Teaching Staff

Head Teacher	Grant Thomson
Principal Teacher	John Dearness
P4-7 Class Teacher	John Dearness
P1-3 Class Teacher	Dawn Williams (Monday to Wednesday)
P1-3 Class Teacher	Lynn Rendall (Thursday & Friday)
COVID Recovery Teacher	Lynn Rendall
Support for Learning Teacher	Katherine Diaper TUESDAY
Early Years Practitioner	Patricia Foulis
Early Years Practitioner	Moira Green
Support for Learning Assistant	Rebecca Carbery
Support for Learning Assistant	Brian Darby
Support for Learning Assistant	Jacqueline Scott

Visiting Itinerant Teaching Staff

Art & Design	Kirsteen Murray	MON AM
Instrumental Tutor (Fiddle)	Karen Griffith	TUES PM
Physical Education	Leyla Gunn	WED PM
Music	Kirsty MacLeod	THURS AM

Non-Teaching Staff

Clerical/Auxiliary	Shona Garson
Janitorial/Playground Supervision	Claire Smith
Kitchen/School Cleaning	Christine Anderson

School Vision, Values & Aims

These are enclosed with the newsletter as a reminder of our existing vision, values and aims. A school's vision, values and aims are core to how they best function and should be an ever evolving piece of work to help meet the needs of our ever evolving and changing children. As a result, over the course of the year we will aim to re-visit our vision, values and aims to best fit Orphir Community School moving forward from 2021. We would very much welcome and value your input into this so watch this space for further information on how you can help us and have your say.

Primary One Whole Day Attendance

Our Primary 1 children are in for full days from the word go and my gosh this must be tiring for them! If you feel at any point your child is in need of a 'medicinal long lie' then please just give us a ring to let us know they will be a little late.

Free Fruit

Christine will hand out free fruit (yummy!) to our Primary 1 & 2 children on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday every week just before break time. Do not feel you have to add in a snack for these days if you would prefer not to.

Newsletter

You will receive three school newsletters per term. One at the start, one at the end and one in the middle. In our bid to help save planet earth you shall receive the newsletter electronically to the oldest child in each family attending the school. Should you wish a paper copy then please complete the attached sheet to request this.

School Safety & Security

As it stands we are following the same safety and security procedures as we were in June so at the moment parents and carers are still unable to enter the school building. If, however, you need to pop past and collect your little one for an appointment then please phone ahead, warn us, wait at the door area and a member of staff will collect them for you. If there is nobody about, please push the silver marked button and we will get them to you as quickly as we can.

Please also make doubly sure that when entering and leaving the playground that you close the gates behind you. Do still be mindful of COVID distancing guidelines when you are dropping off and collecting your child(ren) in the car park.

School Meals & Clothing Allowance

Please see attached sheet from Christine regarding school meals.

If you would like any information regarding free school meals and the available clothing allowance, please use the following link which will take you to Orkney Islands Council website where the application forms are located. If you cannot access the website for whatever reason, do contact Shona in the school office who will be happy to help.

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/School-Meals-and-Clothing-Allowances.htm>

Xpressions App

This is our communication tool useful for sending out important information to all parents at the same time. If you do not subscribe to the Xpressions App then school communication will be sent to your email address. Please make sure you have some way of receiving important information so that you are never left out of the loop.

Annual Update and Pupil Consent Forms

Please return by Friday 20 August

At the start of the new academic year we always like to get the consent forms sent out and returned back as quickly as we can so that we can ensure our procedures and checks are as rigorous as they should be. Please make every effort to ensure you return any consent forms sent to you so that we can ensure your wishes and needs are best met.

Absences/Changes to Arrangements

If for any reason your child will be absent from, or late to school, then I urge you to let us know by 10.00 am at the latest. Similarly, if you have made an alternative arrangement for leaving the school at the end of the day then we need to know by 3.00 pm. Both of these requests simply avoid confusion, worry for your child and most importantly puts their safety first.

Labelling Belongings

The nemesis for all teachers – 15 jumpers all the same size with no names on them! Please try and make sure all your little one's belongings are clearly labelled with their full name. This includes uniform items, hats, boots, scarves and anything else that you would like returned home. Children often do not recognise their own belongings so at least if their name is on it we can bundle it in their school bag and it can make its way back to the comfort and safety of your linen cupboard.

School Events

Hopefully as COVID restrictions ease and life starts to get a bit more 'normal' looking, the doors of Orphir Community School will start opening to you all again and we look forward to the day this happens. We will keep a close eye on all our yearly events and do our best to work within any limits set to make sure all our pupils have the most fun times but in the very safest way possible. We always appreciate your understanding in times like these and it's that sense of togetherness and community spirit that makes Orphir Community School such a special place to be.

Flu Vaccines

Consent forms for the upcoming flu vaccines will be issued on, or slightly after, Wednesday 18th August. We kindly ask that these get completed and returned to the school office by Tuesday 31st August at the latest. The provisional date given for the flu vaccine administration is Friday 24th September but this is subject to change.

Scottish Milk & Healthy Snack Scheme (Nursery)

The Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme has replaced the UK Nursery Milk Scheme in Scotland. This means that all children in our Nursery setting will be provided with a free portion of milk and a piece of fruit or vegetables per day. For children who are in the Nursery all day, more information will come out with Moira and Pat's termly letter.. Please see Moira & Pat if you have any further comments or queries.

P6/7 Outdoor Education

P6/7 embark on an exciting two days of Outdoor Education on the 23rd and 24th August (next week). More information will follow this week. Please contact Mr Dearness should you require any further information. Let's hope the sun shines! If not, they will all still have a roaring good time!

Contact Details

My timetable for term 1 is as follows and may look different in the upcoming terms. Please find the relevant contact details below.

	am	pm
Monday	Stenness	Orphir
Tuesday	Orphir	Stenness
Wednesday	Stenness	Orphir
Thursday	Stenness	Orphir
Friday	Orphir	Stenness

Orphir
01856 811265
admin.orphir@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Stenness
01856 850212
admin.stenness@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Enclosed

- Vision, Values & Aims
- Newsletter request sheet (paper copy)
- School meals information

Finally from me...

Please remember that should you have any comments, queries, concerns or suggestions which you feel would better meet your child's/children's needs then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Enjoy the lighter nights whilst they are still here as before we know it we will be thrust into winter! Do fun things together as a family as much as you can, come away from technology for a blink now and again and look after yourselves.

Kind regards,

Grant Thomson

Grant Thomson
Linked Head Teacher
Orphir & Stenness Community Schools

Orphir Community School

School Meals Information

Menus

- Options are offered to encourage healthy choices and are as follows:

Option 1

Soup, any main course, fresh fruit

Option 2

Any main course with soup or pudding

Option 3

Soup or fruit, sandwich, pudding

Ordering

- Please complete the sheet home with your child for the whole term if possible.
- All orders are placed with Finstown School the day before, eg, Monday's order placed on Friday, Tuesday's order placed on Monday, etc
- If no menus are in for your child, a school meal main course and dessert will be ordered in preparation and a charge will be made.
- Should your child take a packed lunch in when a meal has previously been ordered, you will be charged for the school meal ordered.
- Please ensure that all the menus are named.
- In order to save time and texting, do ensure that your child(ren)'s menus are returned by at least the Thursday of the preceding week. Once your child knows the items on the menu, feel free to complete the menus in a block, eg, all term, and return, keeping a note at home of the choices made. Some people take a photo of the menus before handing them in.
- There are times when the children come to counter not knowing what they have ordered/has been ordered for them. It may be useful to discuss with your child their dinner order that morning, or the previous evening.
- Even if your child takes a packed lunch every day, please mark HPL (Home Packed Lunch) on the menu per day or for all week and return the sheets to the school by the date shown.

Dinner Tickets (P5 upwards)

- Books of 10 dinner tickets cost £26.00 each. These are retained in the school kitchen by Christine and a note is put home with your child(ren) when they run out. At the moment we are emailing them out to save too much paper going back and fore.

Christine Anderson
School Meals

Orphir Community School Vision

Our children are the heart of our school and our school is the heart of our community

Our Children



Orphir Community School

Orphir Parish

Orphir Community School Values



Orphir Community School Aims

Give each pupil the opportunities to fulfil their potential as lifelong learners by providing them with:

- a safe environment which meets the emotional, physical and social needs of all members of the school community
 - a balanced, holistic and progressive curriculum
 - dynamic learning experiences which make provision for individual's learning styles
 - the skills and confidence to access and process knowledge
 - literacy and numeracy knowledge
 - the values, skills and knowledge to be responsible citizens and effective contributors
- staff who are committed to, and supported in, striving for excellence

Paper Copy of Newsletter

Tick one box:

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically only

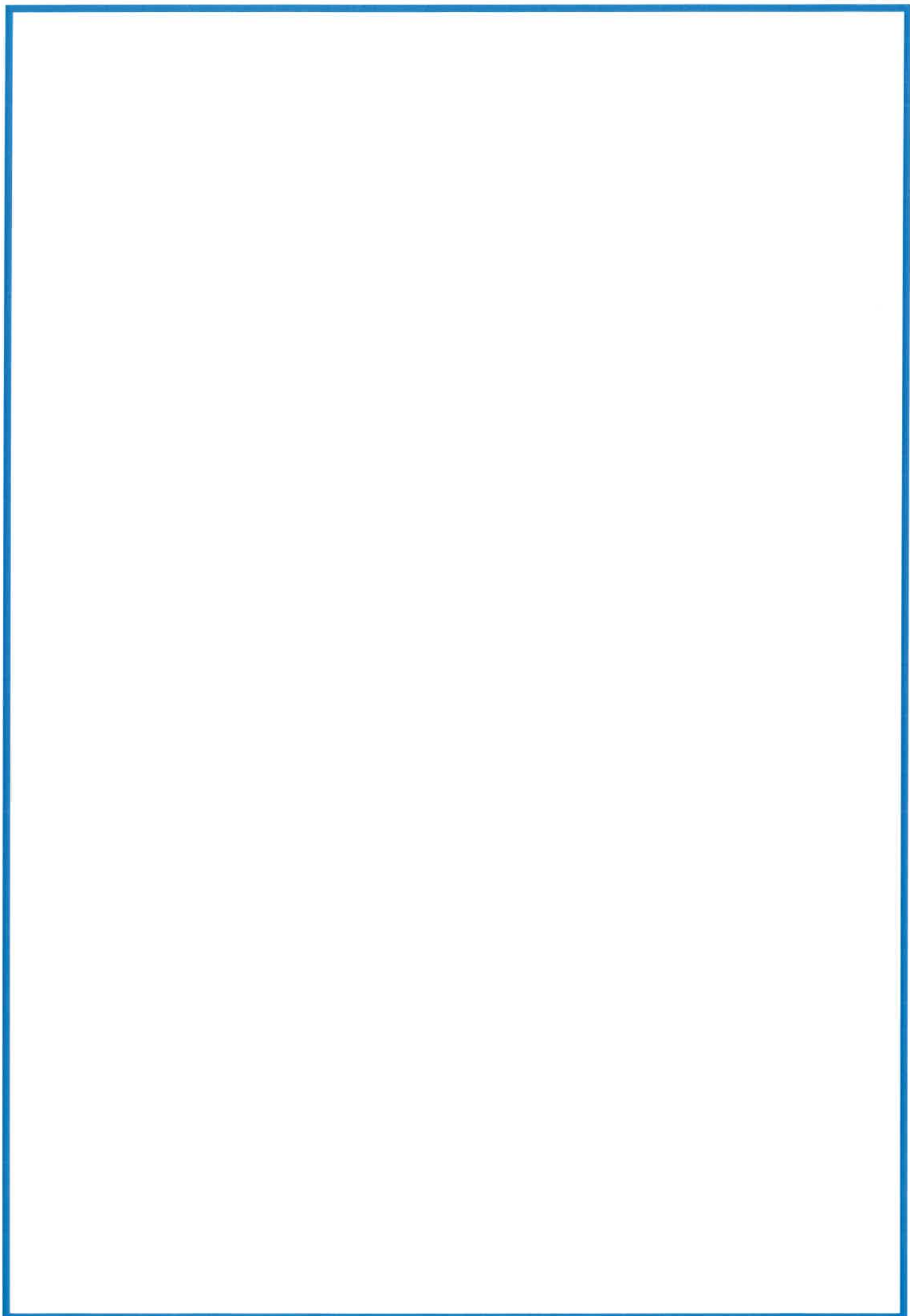
I would like to receive the newsletter on paper

All the children's details will be updated with the information provided via the paper copy of the annual update and excursion forms. Do remember to update the school further if they change.

Note - at this stage, all trip consent forms will still be sent out on paper regardless.

Please return this form by Friday 20 August to the school office with one box marked.

Child's Name _____





FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

Date	Event	Notes
Wednesday 18 th August	Flu Vaccine consent forms out	Please return ASAP
Monday 23 rd August	P6/7 Outdoor Education Day 1	Enquiries to Mr Dearness
Tuesday 24 th August	P6/7 Outdoor Education Day 2	Enquiries to Mr Dearness
Tuesday 31 st August	Flu Vaccine consent forms due	
Friday 24 th September	Flu Vaccines scheduled	
Wednesday 6 th October	Last day of term 1	
Thursday 7 th October	In-Service day	School closed for pupils
Friday 8 th October	In-Service day	School closed for pupils
Monday 25 th October	First day of Term 2	



School Term Dates 2021-2022. All dates are inclusive.	
Term 1	Tuesday 17 August to Wednesday 06 October
October holidays	Thursday 07 October to Friday 22 October
Term 2	Monday 25 October to Tuesday 21 December
Christmas holidays	Wednesday 22 December to Tuesday 04 January
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 May (May Day Holiday)
Schools closed	Monday 06 June

Print me out and put me on the fridge!



