

# Orphir and Flotta Community Schools' Newsletter

## Thursday 20 April 2023

**Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect Flourishing**

Kindness	Erland	Fantastic kindness over the last few weeks
Creativity	Leia	Wonderful creativity in both the music task and technical drawing
Creativity	Lily	Wonderful creativity in both the music task and technical drawing
Kindness	Daisy	For always being kind and helpful to others in class
Creativity	Helga	A very creative wonderful talk
Flourishing	Jamie	Superb commitment and focus in writing
Flourishing	Aimee	Super commitment and accuracy in Maths and Maths homework
Respect	Magnus	Noticing/cleaning up others' spills, without being asked or looking for glory
Creativity	Ernest	Making a great story book and sharing with all the P1-7 children
Flourishing	Henry	Writing a story all by himself and sharing it with the school
Flourishing	Layla	Writing a storybook and reading it confidently to others
Flourishing	Elsa	Completing lots of independent work this week
Flourishing	Jonah	Having a super attitude to work at the start of the term
Respect	Finlay	Sensible and helpful input in transition discussions
Flourishing	Jessica	A wonderful confident talk.
Kindness	Fraser	Enthusiasm and kindness with his stickbots including others in excellent play.
Creativity	Jack	Creative problem solving in Maths

### News from me...

Hello all and welcome back. I hope you all had a fantastic, fun filled holiday and are ready and charged for the final term of this academic year. It seems like no time at all since I was writing this opening paragraph at the start of the academic year. This is a very special term for our six P7 pupils (Aimee, Finlay, Leia, Lily, Magnus & Skyla) as they begin their last chapter in their primary school career and prepare to make the step to secondary - we all hope they have a memorable final term and it is filled with memories that will stay with them for years to come.

### Staffing Update

Lorna Macintosh is due to start her post in the Nursery on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and we look forward to welcoming her with open arms to the Orphir team. We thank Ingrid Nicolson for all that she has done in the interim and wish her well for her next move.

Rachael Dunnett is underway with her placement in the P1-3 class and has settled in beautifully. Rachael is with us until the end of May and this forms part of her final placement in her training.

### **School Closure Days**

School is closed on the following dates this term:

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May (May Day).
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (King's Coronation).
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June (In-service training).

### **Mindful March**

So far Mindful March has been a roaring success and the engagement from the children has been quite impressive. We are extending Mindful March until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April to give more children the opportunity to complete their Wellbeing Warrior challenge. We encourage as many children as possible to engage with this and send in their evidence that proves they have been doing so. There is a display board in school brimming with examples of how our little humans have been taking control of their own wellbeing and this is encouraging. If you are taking part in the Wellbeing Warrior challenge it is a good idea to take photographs then copy and paste them onto one piece of paper for them to share. Some of the adults in school have been doing it too and we look forward to seeing all the different ideas on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Vikings**

This term sees something very exciting happening in school - a whole school learning project based on The Vikings. This project is going to take a slightly different approach to our usual 'teacher planned' learning experiences. This term the children (and you as a family) are going to lead the direction of the learning and the entire project is going to be pupil led and pupil directed and will follow their interests. This is something exciting as at this stage who knows what interesting things we will all learn. The teachers of course will make sure that everything is completely appropriate and the focus will be on learning new skills and trying to apply these skills and knowledge in new areas. A brave step but something that has already generated a good buzz about the school.

### **P7 Residential Fundraiser Bingo**

Eyes down for our residential fundraising bingo event which is being held this Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April here at the school. Please see attached flyer.

## Bag the Bruck

Bag the Bruck is back and we were 'oot n about n aroond' the village yesterday making sure any unwanted debris was safely disposed of. Having taken part in this, it's surprising how much can be collected and is always a stark reminder of why we shouldn't drop litter and do our part to look after our environment and local area. Another perfect example of the 'Give' way to wellbeing.



## Term 4 Diary Dates

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Bag the Bruck.  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Swimming P4-7  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Club Golf (in school for P4-7).  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Swimming P4-7  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. KGS teachers to visit the P7 pupils.  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Parent Council (Agenda  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Swimming P4-7  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. P7 Hoy residential trip.  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Fluoride varnishing.  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Library Van.  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Sports Day PM.  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June. P7 KGS transition day 1.  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. P7 KGS transition day 2.  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. P7 KGS transition parental open evening.  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. P7 leavers assembly.  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. End of year reports out.

## **Orphir Community School Forum (OCSF)**

Please find attached the draft meeting minutes of the OCSF and our next meeting is on Thursday 4 May 2023 at 6.00pm. We are going to trial a hybrid meeting to see how that works moving forward.

### **Finally from me...**

It's a busy old term and no doubt it will absolutely fly past. Before we know it we will have a batch of new P1's in the school and we will be ready to tackle a new academic year. For now though, let's enjoy every day, savour the good moments and try to find positivity and happiness and the things that bring us the most joy in the present moment.

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 - 5 May 2023

## Education, Leisure and Housing

### School Term Dates 2022 to 2023

All dates are inclusive.

<b>Term 1.</b>	Tuesday 16 August to Wednesday 5 October (37 days).
October holidays.	Thursday 6 October to Friday 21 October.
<b>Term 2.</b>	Monday 24 October to Wednesday 21 December (43 days).
Christmas holidays.	Thursday 22 December to Wednesday 4 January.
<b>Term 3.</b>	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).
<b>Term 4.</b>	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.

*Light supper provided*

*Home bakes*

*Fabulous Prizes  
to be won!*



**Friday 21st April 2023**

**Orphir Community School**

**Doors open 6.45pm**

**Eyes down 7.30pm**

**Raising funds for Orphir Community  
School's Primary Seven Hoy trip**

# DRAFT

## Orphir Community School Forum (OCSF)

### Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 23 February 2023, 6.00pm in person

#### 1 Welcome:

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Present:

Grant Thomson (Head Teacher), Mark Edmonds (Chair), John Dearness (Principal Teacher), Katy Beaton, Sarah Finn, Liz Johnson, Graham Bruce, Shona Garson (Minutes)

#### 2 Apologies:

#### 3 Previous minutes:

The minutes of 17 November 2022 were approved as an accurate record

Proposed Mark Edmonds

Seconded Katy Beaton

#### 4 Matters arising

Playpark - we will review where we are at in the Spring, no report received from the playpark inspector as yet. The new person looking at playparks has made a start and has been really helpful at getting some maintenance done around the play park, eg, fence

Sarah Finn explained that the Community Association would like to spend some money on the school grounds, maybe looking at some alternative playpark type things up on top of the hill perhaps?

The following actions were agreed:

Grant to get contact details of the person driving the Stenness Playpark Refurb for Sarah.

John to look out plan of grounds for Sarah

#### 5 Head Teacher's Report - attached

#### 6 P7 Residential Experience (2023)/Bingo

The decision was made by the OCSF members present that once the bingo fundraising had been concluded, that any difference from the costs to the fundraising will be covered by OCSF funds.

The Bingo organising is well underway and the event is on Friday 21 April. Fundraisers will meet on Wednesday 22 March at the school and Shona will attend also to plan out the supper and some finer details.

## **7 Treasurers Report**

There is £1,580.01 in the bank account at present.

The school is still querying some of the costs for Outdoor Education. Once clarified, will get a cheque from Katy.

Discussion was held about the fundraising activities of the OCSF and should the money be in the School Fund account or the OCSF account.

As the fundraising activities have been done in the past gone to the School Fund account, it was agreed that this should continue to be the same to allow the school to access the money easily for such school activities as they see fit.

## **8 Burns Supper Feedback**

Thanks from the OCSF for John for organising the music and also thanks to Highland Park for the whisky and wee glasses.

Discussion was held about the usage of the large cooker and feedback given to Sarah Finn to take back to the Orphir Community Association.

James Alexander visited today and was able to get the buttons to work on the oven of the cooker with some force used he did say for that. He did express concern though that the age of the appliance would mean that spare parts would not be readily available if at all.

Mark did explain thought that himself, Claire, Shona and Christine all had a go and we could not get it to operate.

## **9 Aladdin Feedback**

Having the show and the Burns Supper so close together was hard going for staff and volunteers and maybe look at alternating them every second year and use of the Burns Supper money for residential trip fundraising as a start.

## **10 Photos Feedback**

Members present were mixed on usage of photos taken in school.

Action decided was for school to anonymously survey parents to see if it is a useful event for the school to hold.

Suggestions were for group photos to be taken by perhaps a parent or community person and then sold/donations requested to families annually

## **11 Sports Day Format**

Members present agreed that last year's sports day format was lovely and would be happy to support a similar event in June - date pencilled in is Thursday 15 June.

More face painters would be required and hold a raffle?, sell ice cream?, ask ice cream van to attend?

## **12 Future Forum Members**



Lots of young families at the Burns Supper which was great to see.  
Look at getting OCSF members to talk to parents at future events  
Term 4 meeting to be a hybrid meeting if we can look at better video camera technology to allow better coverage of lots of members  
Shona to check with IT if they have such a thing  
Mark to check with Orkney College

**13 AOCB**

Move last meeting as Grant will be in Hoy - check with Grant if 4 May is ok?

**14 Correspondence**

None

**15 Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 4 May 2023, 6.00pm, hybrid

Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

# Orphir Parent Council Head Teacher Report

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

## Staffing Updates

Ingrid Nicolson has joined us in the Nursery on a part time basis to cover for Pat's afternoon sessions which remain vacant. Ingrid is enjoying her time with us here at Orphir and has settled well and will continue to cover until the vacancy is filled.

As you may or may not be aware Moira is retiring in June. Moira has taught many children over her 16 years here at Orphir and will be greatly missed. Moira is looking forward to spending more time with her three grandchildren and we will miss her dearly. We plan to have some type of send off to Moira in the final term and the parent council or a representative of would be more than welcome.

An advert has gone out for a full-time, permanent Early Years Lead Practitioner to start in the Nursery in August so we are hopeful that this will attract a range of curious and suitable candidates to help cover Moira and Pat's sessions.

Megan has another year left of her contract as Early Years Practitioner so it will be good for the children to have some continuity in the Nursery whilst the new staff member(s) settle.

Rachel bunnett starts working in the PI-3 class on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. Rachel is a PGDE student at the University of the Highlands & Islands and joins us for her final primary education placement. Rachel is currently completing a placement in Stenness (P5-7) and will fit in perfectly here.

## Child Protection Policy

Christine Tulloch (Acting Principal Teacher - Flotta) has been working hard to develop a school Child Protection policy that is bespoke to our school. This policy takes into account what law, national and local policy dictates to us in term of child protection and keeping our children as safe as possible and explains clearly our systems and processes. Staff are currently in the consultation process of draft 1 and we would then like to take it to consultation with the parent council before sharing with the wider parent body. We hope to do this either before, or at the next meeting in preparation for a final version being ready to launch in August.

## P7 Residential

This year takes place at Hoy Outdoor Centre from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May. Our PTS will be joining up with Stenness, Westray, Papa Westray and Sanday. The cost of the trip works out at €250 max per pupil and huge thanks go to the P7 parent group who clubbed

together and have already started planning for the bingo fundraiser to help reduce costs as much as possible. Opening up the fundraising to the solo P7 pupil at Stenness was an incredibly kind gesture and was well received. Once the experience has been completed we will need to arrive at some decision as to whether or not we continue with that model or revert to the traditional model of travelling further south.

## Thanks

I have some thanks that I would like to express from myself and on behalf of the school staff.

To all parents who mucked in and helped with Aladdin. We would have been lost without our helpers and the show would not have been possible without our scenery painters, face painters, costume makers and front of house crew.

To all parents who brought the Burn's Supper to life and ensured it was such a success. Events like these are no easy task but the entire team of helpers absolutely nailed it. In general, I am very grateful to be part of such a wonderful parent council team who genuinely have the best interests of the children at heart.