

Orphir and Flotta Community Schools' Newsletter

Wednesday 23 November 2022

Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect

Creativity	Vaila	Sharing wonderful creative ideas on the stage in the classroom
Respect	Wolfy	Listening to instructions and waiting quietly in the taxi line
Teamwork	Leia	Enthusiasm and leadership during Children in Need planning and preparation
	Aimee	Enthusiasm and leadership during Children in Need planning and preparation

News from me...

The weather might be yucky but it didn't stop P1-3 visiting the Kirk Post Office yesterday to learn what happens when we post a letter. In an age where so many things happen electronically it is wonderful to remind the children of what the more traditional ways of sending mail and communicating were. Thank you to Mrs Williams for arranging the trip and Mrs Scott and Shona for accompanying them.

Orphir Community School Parent Forum (formerly Parent Council)

The AGM was held last Thursday and the draft minutes are attached for your perusal. It was great to see some new faces there too along with our regular attendees.

Children in Need

Many thanks to those of you who contributed a donation towards Children in Need this year and also massive thank to the Pupil Council who took on the leadership of the event this year. They did a sterling job and if they keep going like this I will soon be out of a job! We raised a grand total of approximately £170 this year and this will go towards helping so many that are not as fortunate as ourselves. The Children in Need day was a wonderful day to remind ourselves of what we are grateful for in our lives and was the perfect example of the 'Give' way to wellbeing.

Strike Action & Parental Appointments

School and Nursery will be closed on Thursday 24th November due to the proposed strike by EIS members. This is a fluid situation and we will do our best to keep you as well informed of any changes as possible. The parental appointments planned for Thursday 24th November will be rescheduled to the following Thursday if the strike goes ahead.

Staffing Update

I would like to wish farewell to Pat who sadly leaves us on Friday 2nd December to begin the next exciting chapter in her life. On behalf of all the staff and families at Orphir (present and past) we wish her well and certainly hope she comes back to visit if ever back in Orkney on holiday.

Nursery Decorating Night

The annual decorating night in the Nursery is back this year now that all COVID regulations and mitigations have been lifted. We look forward to welcoming as many of our Nursery families as possible on Friday 2nd December from 6:30 to 7:30. Remember your Christmas jumper!

Santa's Top Shop & Festive Fridays

From our Parent Forum meeting our Core Group decided on running the Top Shop as a collection point too for anyone needing a Christmas Jumper/top so if we had a size to match, they can have it. A reminder that we would very much appreciate donations of outgrown Christmas jumpers or clothes that we can put in our Santa's Top Shop. Please hand all donations to Shona in the office. Happy to collect any time and there will be a box outside the office on parents' evenings too.

A reminder that our first Festive Friday is on Friday 2nd December.



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served in school this year on Thursday 15th December. This has already appeared on the Menu Orders you have done.

Finally from me...

This is a busy time of year with the lead up to Christmas. There are lots going on and time can sometimes feel lacking. Make sure you all slow down as best as you can and look after yourselves. In the lead up to Christmas, remember the things that are important too- family, friends, loved ones and doing things together that you enjoy. The rising cost of living will undoubtedly make it hard for many families across Orkney but please take advantage of the organisations that can offer help. We are here to help and advise too so if anyone ever needs signposting to support then please, please reach out.

Kind regards
Grant Thomson
Linked Head Teacher

Grant Thomson

Orphir, Stenness and Flotta Community Schools

Term 2 Timetable

My timetable for this term is as follows:

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

Diary Dates

Orphir: Parents Evening:

Wednesday 23rd November & Thursday 24th November or Thursday 1 December.

Orphir: Fluoride Varnishing: Wednesday 30th November.

Orphir: Dental inspections Nursery to P7: Thursday 1st December.

Orphir: School Show: Wednesday 14th December & Thursday 15th December.

Orphir: Christmas lunch: Thursday 15th December.

Orphir: Christmas Service @ Orphir Kirk: Wednesday 21st December PM.

Orphir: Last Day of Term 1: Wednesday 21st December.

Orphir: First Day of Term 3: Thursday 5th January.

Orphir: Parents Evening 2: Wednesday 8th March & Thursday 9th March.

Orphir: School Bus Trip: Friday 9th June.

Orphir: Sports Day: Thursday 15th June.

Orphir: Reports Issued: Friday 23rd June.

Orphir: Curriculum Showcase Afternoon: Friday 23rd June.

**Finstown Post Office Outreach Service and the
Orphir Kirk Community Café Visit
Primary 1-3 Class, 22 November 2022**

What a fantastic trip we had across the road to the Kirk to have a visit with the Finstown Post Office Outreach Service. And as well as that the Orphir Kirk Community Café provided us all with a drink and a fancy!

We were able to post and stamp our own letters, pass around £1000 pounds in cash as well as see how the Post Office fits into the Kirk Vestry.

The Orphir Kirk Community Café ladies reminded us too that the Café is open every Thursday from 10-12noon so we should try and come in the holidays!

A huge thank you to Mark, Susan and Ian from the Finstown Post Office and Kathryn and Liz from the Café.
(more photos on our Facebook page)





The next few pages relate to the Aladdin performances coming up next month and will be printed out and sent home - one per family.

COSTUMES

We are looking for each child to have:

- a costume of joggy bottoms (the baggier the better) in neutral colours (black, grey, brown, yellow)
- a self-coloured colourful t-shirt (long-sleeved if possible)
- either a waistcoat or an old shirt of someone's that we can cut the sleeves off to make into a waistcoat.

While we are not expecting every child to be able to provide this, if you do have all or some of these items please send them in with a plastic bag we can store them in.

We don't want anybody to go out and buy anything, therefore we ask that you only provide what you can (and if that is nothing that is fine). If you don't have things that fit your child but would fit someone else or have spare items you don't need we would gratefully receive them.

If you want anything returned to you please make sure you put your or your child's name on it, otherwise we may cut it up to add to other costumes.

If anyone has pieces of cloth that may be suitable for making into princes' outfits (think shiny, bright and colourful) and you no longer need them we would be delighted to have those too.

Also if you have a particular interest in this type of thing we would always appreciate helpers to get them all together. Please make your interest known to Shona or class teachers.

Please bring in what you can offer as soon as possible, we would like all costumes ready to wear by 7 December.

Tickets

Orphir Community School Parent Forum have decided for this school year that there will not be a set price on the tickets for any ticketed event in school - tickets are required for numbers but entry is then by donations for those who feel able to contribute at this time.

A form for each family to complete requesting number of tickets will go home with the children on Friday 25 November. Once family tickets have been issued, tickets will go on general release and can be collected in advance from the school office. They cannot be reserved for collection on the night.

Tickets will be printed shortly for the shows. These are as follows:

Wednesday 14 December	Doors Open 6.30pm Show starts 7.00pm
Thursday 15 December	Doors Open 6.30pm Show starts 7.00pm

There will be a dress rehearsal to which folk can attend only if they can't attend either of the evening performances. Wednesday 14 December, doors open 1.30pm, show starts 2.00pm. Again tickets would need to be requested for these for sake of numbers. Donations at the door as with the other performances.

There is an expectation that all children (Nursery-P7) will be on stage for all 3 performances - if that is not possible, do let the child(ren)'s class teacher know asap.

The children are studying the lines so that (on the whole) there are 2 children playing each of the main parts in case of illness. Both evening performances will be recorded. Where there are 2 siblings in 'main parts' they will perform the same night.

Raffle Prizes

Earlier in the year the Parent Council kindly made the generous decision to not charge for ticketed events in school this year. This is a gesture that we very much appreciate and is incredibly generous and ensures that all of our events are open and accessible to all. We would however welcome any donations of raffle prizes for both our evening performances of Aladdin to help us raise a peedie bit of money to pop back into our school fund. If you can spare anything that could be raffled off then please hand this into Shona in the school office by Friday 9 December. If you are donating foodstuffs, please do be mindful on the dates. 😊

There is a calendar of events and timings attached to the newsletter detailing when children need to be at the school on performance days and what is happening and when.

Orphir Community School - Aladdin Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21 st November	22 nd November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backdrop painting 	23 rd November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costume requests for families in Newsletter • Calendar out • Whole school rehearsal PM with music • Parent Appts 	24 th November Strike (assumption)	25 th November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day for costumes in • P1-3 and Nursery singing in the hall LR
28 th November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art staff outline backdrop • Tickets available SG 	29 th November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backdrop and props painting by volunteers • PM Costume Team 	30 th November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole school rehearsal PM with music P1-7 • Make up trial 	1 st December Parent Appts (if not on 24 November)	2 nd December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1-3 and Nursery singing in the hall LR Festive Friday
5 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickets General Release • Radio Orkney • Stage up PM 	6 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backdrop and props painting by volunteers 	7 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full run through N-P7 • Invite all front of house, costume helpers and face painters volunteers 	8 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full run through N-P7 	9 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raffle prizes in by today • Programmes printed by today SG (Steness if copier poor) Festive Friday
12 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound equipment arrives JD 	13 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal PM with sound, light and video trial LJ and EJ 	14 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress Rehearsal Doors open 1.30 Performance 2.00 • Evening Doors open 6.30 Performance 7.00 • Bairns at school by P4-7 6.00pm P1-3 (with no older siblings) 6.15pm 	15 th December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xmas Lunch - dinner hall • Evening Doors open 6.30 Performance 7.00 • Bairns at school by P4-7 6.00pm P1-3 (with no older siblings) 6.15pm • No PE in hall 	16 th December Stage down AM Festive Friday

Please complete and return both sections by
Wednesday 30 November - thank you.

Tickets

Child(ren)'s name(s)

Performance	Tickets required (number)
Wednesday evening	<input type="text"/>
Thursday evening	<input type="text"/>

We will try our very best to honour all requests, but please note that if we are oversubscribed, we will limit numbers where necessary.

Volunteers

We are needing volunteers for the following areas. (Some of this will be during the school day and some will be on performance days only - please tick where you think you will be able to help if you can.) Once we have a list of volunteers, we can be in touch when we need folk.

	Tick where you can help
Run up to Show	
Painting backdrop/props	
Costumes	
During performance days	
Lights	
Curtains	
Tickets/raffle	
Face painting	
After Show	
Put away stage on Friday	
Put away furniture on Friday	