

Orphir Community School Newsletter

Tuesday 7 September 2021

CERTIFICATES

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

Please note that these awards are over a few weeks which is why some children may be mentioned more than once.

Special mention for:

Kiana Herridge	EC	Making an extra special effort to help others
Ruben Desalle	SL	Being a good friend during Daily Mile
Fraser Morgan	SL	Good attitude to story writing and working hard writing a great story
Elsa Bremner	EC	Having a good attitude to Maths and choosing to do extra
Sophie Shearer	SL	A brilliant start to the term in reading, working so well
Jessica Finn	EC	Working hard to help make our classroom a nice place to be
Aimee Leslie	EC	Working hard to help make our classroom a nice place to be
Jake Armet	SL	Great focus and description during our writing lessons
Luke Clouston	RC	Being a kind, helpful and responsible member of P1-3
Daisy Hume	SL	Always working hard and trying her best

News

• Head Teacher's Headline

The first weeks have absolutely whizzed past and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Orphir Community School so far. The most challenging part has been learning all the new names but I am happy to report that I think I now have that nailed! The children have been extremely patient with me as I have sometimes called them 2 or 3 different names in my bid to get to the right one! I have also been extremely impressed by how hard-working, polite and thoughtful the children are here and the commitment and dedication show by all the staff to make their time at school enjoyable and fun really is remarkable.

• New Pupils and Staff

We welcome Harry, Sahana and Molly to our class P1-7 based in Flotta Community School. Rachael Suttie is their class teacher and we welcome her too!

• School Bells

We have discovered that the loud ringing of the school bell at various points throughout the school day can often make the children (and adults) jump. For many of us, this loud ringing can trigger lots of other emotions and reactions that can impact our ability to concentrate and engage positively with others around us.

In a bid to make our school as calm as possible the school bell shall now only ring at certain points during the day; 9.30am, 11.15am, 1.30pm. This is to alert any children and staff outside to come in and has taken away a lot of the bell 'noise' inside the school.



- **COVID Awareness**

- ⇒ Keep your child at home if you notice symptoms (more coughing than usual, high temperature, reports they can't smell or taste).
- ⇒ Inform school and book a PCR test. Siblings should also stay at home until the results of the PCR test are known.
- ⇒ If negative, then all can return to school.
- ⇒ If positive, then follow the advice from Test and Protect.
- ⇒ Always better to be extra cautious. Your child's safety and welfare is priority.

Instrumental Tuition

- Applications for instrumental tuition are now open for Primary 4-7 pupils.
- Closing date Friday 10th September.
- Electronic letters have been issued to all P4 and interested older pupils.
- Alternatively, a Microsoft word version of the application form is available on the Orkney Islands Council website; please type "Instrumental Music Service" in the search box on the www.orkney.gov.uk home page.



- **Car Park Awareness**

Thank you for your ongoing car park safety awareness. We really appreciate you collecting your children from the side of the school building and ensuring the car park is as clear of human traffic as possible.

- **Seesaw**

The Seesaw app will be used as the main communication tool to connect with your child's teacher. Seesaw has many benefits and ensures information can be shared with you as quickly as possible. Similarly, it allows you to share information with your child's teacher quickly too.

Please note that absences should still be notified to the school office as before. (Before 10am on the day of absence or by email/Xpressions for a planned absence.)

Do remember not to expect a response from a teacher in the evenings or at weekends. I need them to recharge for the following day and hold no expectations of them to respond during unsocial hours.





Don't forget to download the Groupcall Xpressions App!

(available on Apple iOS and Android) for free notifications from Orphir Community School. Any urgent communications would still be sent by text too, eg, school closures.



- **Waterproofs**

We are looking to allocate out to the children the school waterproofs—Shona will message out about this separately. Please keep an eye on email/Xpressions.



- **Reminders for School Routines**

9.30am **School starts**—phone the school if child is absent on the day or going to be late or email if a planned absence

Children should have with them (at school):

Water bottle

Snack if needed

(P1-2 get a piece of fruit Tues/Wed/Thurs so no snack needed then if you wish)

Home packed lunch if not having school meals

Change of clothes

(in PE bag is easiest place to store and be left at school)

Welly boots to leave at school

Waterproofs to leave at school

(only if they don't want to use the school ones)

Outdoor coat

School bag

Musical instrument on a Tuesday

Any forms/menus for Shona/Christine

3.30pm **School finishes**—collect child from staff area of car park (children are not allowed to cross the car park unaccompanied) or advise if there are changes to end of day arrangements by phone on the day or email if regular planned changes)



No Dogs on School Grounds

It has been brought to my attention that on a number of occasions we find dog dirt in and around the school grounds. Please can I stress to you the importance of not having dogs in school grounds at all times. It makes the grounds a safer and cleaner place for all our children which can only be a good thing. Thank you.

Grant Thomson

Grant Thomson

Head Teacher

Orphir Community School



A poster similar to this will be displayed on the outside noticeboard for everybody to see.

• School Website and Facebook

Our school website is undergoing some maintenance and review of how we can best use it as a tool for sharing information and the promotion of school life. We would welcome any input you have on what types of things you would like to see on our website and how useful you find it. We currently use it and Facebook and would like some feedback on both.

I have attached a sheet for you to complete and give us some valuable feedback on these two means of communication.

Links are below if you need to check them out.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrphirCommunitySchool>

Contact Details

My timetable remains as follows. 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
811 265
admin.orphir@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

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

Finally from me...

Please continue to be as vigilant as possible with regards to COVID symptoms, isolation and testing. This is a difficult time for us all but by being extra cautious we are able to keep as safe as possible and can begin to function within more 'normal' parameters.

Thank you for all that you do to support us here in school.

Enjoy the next couple of weeks before the holiday and as I said before, make the most of those light nights!

Kind regards,

Grant Thomson

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

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

Date	Event	Notes
Tuesday 14 th September	P1 Health Screening	
Tuesday 28 th September	Flouride Varnish	
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 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!



Orphir Community School Website and Facebook Page

Please circle your preferred answer.

Do you like the new website?

Yes

No

What bits of the website do you find useful?

What bits of the website would you like to see improved?

Is there more information you would like to see on the website (if yes, what kind of info would like to see)?

No

Do you use the school facebook page?

Yes

No

Do you find it useful?

Yes

No

Is there more information you would like to see on the facebook page (if yes, what kinds of info would like to see)?

No