

# Orphir Community School Newsletter

11 January 2022

## CERTIFICATES

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

Luke Clouston	CI	Having a confident attitude to all his work
Danny Watson	CI	Sounding out words and writing on his own

## Head Teacher's Headline

Happy New Year! I can hardly believe that it's 2022. I hope you have all had a healthy, relaxing and comfortable holiday and are recharged for the long term ahead. Although this term is lengthy, we can look forward to the start of the lighter nights and the spring months in the not too distant future.

### Hi-Vis Waistcoats

I am really impressed how good the children are at wearing the hi-vis waistcoats. We do this for all our children's safety; these must be worn to and from school regardless of their means of transport. If your children do come home with 'spare' waistcoats, please pop them back to school as soon as you can to keep our supplies topped up.



### P1-2 Snack

Please remember that P1-2 get a piece of fruit from Christine as part of a Scottish Government funded initiative on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only. Mondays and Fridays, if the children want snack, they need to take something in from home. We have had some cases of children being a little upset when they discover there is no snack in their bag.

### Timely Reminders

### Pupil Contact Details and Absences

Do ensure that you keep us updated with your current contact details. This is important all year round but especially important during this term if there are early closures.

If your child is going to be absent, please do call the school by 10.00am that day. We don't always have access to the groupcall/texting facility so sometimes those messages do get missed.

## COVID Update

I have no doubt that the following months are going to bring more uncertainty as the new variant makes its way across the country. At this moment in time, we have no new restrictions in school and for the foreseeable we will continue to operate in the same ways as before. I would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of our school community is something that we take very seriously and will continue to do so. Should there be a confirmed positive case in your child's class you will still be issued with the 'warn and inform letter' and should remain vigilant as always. We will not issue a second letter in a seven-day period to the same class. Thereafter if a new case is confirmed the process will be repeated.

### What we do in school to reduce the rate of transmission:

- Enhanced handwashing protocols are in place.
- Enhanced cleaning in school that focusses on possible transmission points.
- Classes remain in bubbles whilst inside and there is no inside cross-class mixing.
- Our Nursery remains as one bubble and they have their own entry and exit directly into the Nursery.
- Children sit in class groups at lunch times.
- Visitors to school are still limited (but gradually increasing)
- Staff participate in the LFD testing programme.
- We work closely with Orkney Islands Council and NHS colleagues in the event of any positive case to ensure that these are managed appropriately.

### How you can help us:

- Continue to be vigilant around COVID-19 symptoms.
- Go by the current guidance - link below:  
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection>
- Consider testing twice a week (if you do not already do so) with free lateral flow devices if you are socialising.
- Do not send additional items into school with your child that are not required.
- Keep communicating with us and keep us informed. We are here to help and support you as well.

Lots of the above I am confident we are all aware of, but the reminder does no harm. If anything, the reminder gives us the reassurance that we are doing everything that we can to run as smoothly as we can and give the children under our care the most comfortable and stress-free experience as possible.

## 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

### Orphir Community School Parent Council

The Meeting minutes are attached from the last meeting in October.

The papers for the next meeting will be out next week - if you would like anything on the agenda, please contact the school by Monday.



### School Calendars

You will see on the next page, OIC School Term Dates for the next school year (and the end of this one) - please use these when planning your next holiday! 😊

### Finally from me...

Look after yourselves and each other. I fully appreciate your support with everything that we do here at school and feel lucky to be part of such a kind and positive community. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions as to how we can make things better then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of Term 3	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Orphir Parent Council Meeting Papers will follow next week	All welcome
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Schools closed	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Schools closed	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff In-Service training	Schools closed to pupils
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day	Info to follow
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Term 3	

## 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.

## Education, Leisure and Housing

### School Term Dates 2021 to 2022

All dates are inclusive.

<b>Term 1.</b>	Tuesday 17 August to Wednesday 6 October (37 days).
October holidays.	Thursday 7 October to Friday 22 October.
<b>Term 2.</b>	Monday 25 October to Tuesday 21 December (42 days).
Christmas holidays.	Wednesday 22 December to Tuesday 4 January.
<b>Term 3.</b>	Wednesday 5 January to Friday 1 April (60 days).
Schools closed.	Friday 11 February to Tuesday 15 February.
Spring holidays.	Monday 4 April to Monday 18 April. (Easter Monday 18 April).
<b>Term 4.</b>	Tuesday 19 April to Thursday 30 June (51 days).
Schools closed.	<del>Monday 2 May (May Day holiday).</del> <b>2-3 June</b>
Schools closed.	Monday 6 June.

Staff only, in-service days are:

- Monday 16 August 2021.
- Thursday 7 and Friday 8 October 2021.
- Tuesday 15 February 2022.
- Monday 6 June 2022.

# Orphir Community School Parent Council

## Minutes of Meeting including Friends of Orphir Thursday 28 October 2021, 6.30pm via Vscene

### 1 Present:

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

### 2 Apologies:

Sarah-Jane Gibbon

### 3 Welcome

Mark started with a welcome to Grant Thomson as the new Head Teacher of Orphir Community School and Liz Johnston joining us for the first time as a parent.

### 4 Previous minutes:

The minutes of 9 June 2021 were approved as an accurate record

Proposed	Mark Edmonds
Seconded	Katy Beaton

### 5 Head Teacher's Report – as discussed at meeting

#### Extra items from report –

- i. The post for Flotta Acting Principal Teacher has been confirmed that it will soon to be advertised.
- ii. Parents appointments will only be available via telephone with the current situation, it would not be sensible to have folk in the school. The dates on the report sent out have been amended to be 2-4 November (Tuesday-Thursday). With the unreliability of video calls experienced already by parents and schools for certain meetings, in order to ensure appointments run smoothly and to time, it will only be available by telephone and not video.
- iii. Grant will try and visit Flotta School every 3-4 weeks and will schedule these into his diary.

### 6 Treasurer's Report

There is £1,234.34 in the bank account at present.

### 7 Matters arising

#### Playpark Update

John will brief Grant tomorrow at their meeting and Grant will try and progress further with the maintenance

#### Weatherproof Clothing Update

Shona to write to Orphir Community Council to thank them for their generous donation towards the waterproofs and will liaise with Katy to get a cheque for the school fund.

### 8 AOCB

#### Halloween Party

Shona read out an email from a parent who expressed how happy their child was with the Halloween party during school time and how less anxious they were about it. They asked that it be considered that the Halloween party continue be during school time. Grant explained to members present about the anxiety levels of children and how with just the staff there children were allowed back through the

school to get items or drinks or go to the toilet that it would indeed be less stressful for some of the children.

No decision was made on whether it remains in school time or revert back to evening in the future.

### **Tree Lighting**

Sarah briefed members present on the Orphir Community Association's Annual Tree Lighting ceremony. Orphir Community Association have booked it for Friday 3 December 2021 and will wait till closer to the time (and liaise with the school) to decide if it will be a community event after school or again, get the school to keep control during the school day.

### **P4-7 Children in Need/Christmas Plans**

John explained that we are aware of the lack of parental involvement so we are trying to put together some fundraising for Children in Need that will include (technology allowing!) private links to some fundraising ideas and some to the wider community too.

The P4-7 class are also looking at producing some Christmas communications from the school to those more vulnerable in the community. More details will follow as plans are firmed up.

### **Residential Trips out of Orkney**

Grant explained that it is very unlikely that there will be residential trips for older children out of Orkney in the current climate due to lack of insurance cover and non-refundable deposits.

OIC are guiding us to look at outdoor education provision within Orkney either at school and/or in Hoy.

Costs for a 5-day residential are looking at about £300 per head and this would normally be offered to only P7 but Grant would like consideration to be given to smaller schools with composite classes of say P6-7 going.

This will be discussed at future head teachers' meetings, and he will keep parents updated when we receive clarity, and we can then look at fundraising.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Liz explained that a fellow GP goes into schools to talk to the children about different aspects of health and wellbeing and she would be happy to do likewise for Orphir when it was appropriate.

## **9 Correspondence**

None

## **10 Date of next meeting**

Thursday 20 January 2022, 6.30pm