

# Term 1 Update

## 20 September 2024

**Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect Flourishing**

### Certificated Congratulations!

Clara	Kindness	Being very helpful and noticing when things need tidied away
Oskar	Creativity	Creating wonderful games with the animals an dinosaurs
Vaila	Teamwork	Being helpful and supportive in class
Jamie	Kindness	Being polite and kind throughout the school
Ernest	Head Teacher Award	Starting the year with a smile!
Freyja	Flourishing	Getting stuck into P2 work SO well!
Emily	Respect	Always sitting round the board ready to listen
Henry	Flourishing	Taking great care to do the most beautiful handwriting in his new handwriting book
Oran	Creativity	Enjoying creating his Captain Underpants comic at home and at his computer at the writing table
Fraser	Teamwork	Helping tidy up after a very busy and messy lesson
Luke	Teamwork	Helping tidy up after a very busy and messy lesson
Sophie	Kindness	Always being kind and considerate to others
James	Flourishing	Working hard in class and taking time to share his understanding and knowledge with others
Balfour	Respect	Great attitude towards learning at the teaching table
Elara	Flourishing	Trying really hard to use 'froggy fingers' when holding her pencil

#### Welcome

A warm welcome to Freddie who joins us in Primary 4! Welcome back to Mr Dearness who you may have noticed had a special birthday by the flag on the flagpole recently. Thanks go to Miss Dearness who stood in at short notice and was a great start to our school year.

#### Thank you! - consent forms

Thank you to you all who sent back consent forms recently - Shona will chase up any still missing over the next week or so. If your details do change over the course of time, please remember to update us at the school with any new contact names and/or phone numbers.

#### Class Newsletters

The children all have paper copies of the class newsletters for this term. Shona has asked for some feedback via Groupcall to help improve the information we send home from the classes - please answer those questions when you can.

## Orphir Community School Forum (AGM)

Our first meeting will be an AGM.

Please see below a message from our current Chair, Liz Johnston:

Hello,

Hope your children are settling in to the new term well.

We have a Parent Forum meeting planned for Thursday 26th Sept at 6pm at the school, an online option can be made available. Kids that don't need direct supervision are welcome to play in the playpark/outdoor space if needed.

This will be the AGM; after a couple of parents moving on this year, we are really keen to see some new faces at the meetings in order to make this sustainable for those of us already involved.

Thanks to those who already come or volunteer their time for netball/football and at events.

For those that are new to the school,

I have attached a document which explains the role of the Parent Forum and our constitution.

There are 4 meetings a year, usually no more than 1.5 hours.

These meetings include:

- A head teacher's report, which gives useful updates on activities in the school and what is planned.
- Discussion on how parents can help with any planned events.
- An opportunity to discuss any school policies/projects
- Input on how additional funding is spent by the school.

It really isn't a lot of work and I find it enjoyable but it is too much for only 3 people. Please consider coming along next week to find out more, we would love to see you. As Katy Beaton will be leaving next year, we are particularly keen to recruit a treasurer to ensure an easy handover process.

A quote from the previous chair, Mark Edmonds, on what it meant to him to be involved:

" I found being a part of the Parent Forum really rewarding. It gave me a chance talk with staff and other parents/carers, to find out how things worked and where we could help. It was really positive and often great fun. Getting involved can make a real difference".

Thank you,

Liz Johnston

(Papers for the meeting will come out at the start of next week.)

## First Term Reminders

All children should have a change of clothes with them in their PE bag. We don't keep a huge wardrobe full of spare clothes and often children are particular with what they will wear. Please help them by providing a spare full set of clothes in case of any mishaps.

Welly boots - please ensure all the children have pair of wellies at school to wear outside.

Waterproof coat - all children should come to school dressed for the weather and if they don't like the school waterproofs, should bring a waterproof coat from home.

Tuesday	PE Free Fruit	Bring PE Kit and long hair to be tied back Free Fruit for <b>all</b> P1-2 at break time - no need for snack that day
Wednesday	Fiddle Music Free Fruit	Bring fiddles! Free Fruit for <b>all</b> P1-2 at break time - no need for snack that day
Thursday	Art Free Fruit	Art shirt if necessary Free Fruit for <b>all</b> P1-2 at break time - no need for snack that day

## School Meals

We try and encourage the children to taste the food every time they have a meal rather than just bin it without tasting which also happens. Please try and go through the menus with the children as often they speak about not having a choice about what they have for lunch. We are hopeful that there will be a new ordering system in place within the first couple of weeks of next term. Please complete these menus though and should there be any teething problems, we have these orders to make sure the bairns get fed!

Links for ordering for P1-7 for the next 4 weeks:

[w/c Monday 30 September 2024 \(wk1\)](#)

[w/c Monday 7 October 2024 \(wk2\)](#)

[w/c Monday 28 October 2024 \(wk3\)](#)

[w/c Monday 4 November 2024 \(wk1\)](#)

## Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal

We have started gathering items for the Rotary Club of Orkney Shoebox appeal this term (2 shoeboxes). The attached poster lists what is suitable. The Nursery and P1-3 class, could we ask that you collect items for the child box and the P4-7 class collect items for the young people up to age 18. The boxes will be held in school and items can be handed in to the school office. If you would like to donate a boy or girls toy to be distributed to children in Eastern European countries then please hand these to the school office before the end of term 1. All donations will be warmly welcomed no matter how big or how small.

**Reminder - School Gates - A small health and safety plea.**

Could I kindly ask you all for your continued vigilance when entering the school grounds via all our gates. Please ensure these are fully closed and secured once you have passed through them. Given that our gates are so big and heavy, please where possible adults operate the gates and not children. Your help with this matter will be very much appreciated.

Thank you all for your support this first few weeks while we all get back into routines! I am looking forward to a great year with you all and the staff at Orphir and as ever, if you have any queries, or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school. We are happy to meet with parents as required to work together for the best of the peedie folk we all love and care about.

Kind regards as always

*Grant Thomson*

Grant Thomson  
Head Teacher  
Orphir and Stenness Community Schools

**Education, Leisure and Housing**

**School term dates - 2024 / 2025 (all dates are inclusive)**

<b>Term 1 2024</b>	Tuesday 20 August – Friday 11 October. (39 days)
October holidays	Monday 14 October – Tuesday 29 October.
<b>Term 2</b>	Wednesday 30 October – Friday 20 December. (38 days)
Christmas holidays	Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January.
<b>Term 3 2025</b>	Monday 6 January – Friday 4 April. (61 days)
Schools closed	Thursday 13 February – Tuesday 18 February.
Spring holidays	Monday 7 April – Monday 21 April (Easter Monday 21 April)
<b>Term 4</b>	Tuesday 22 April – Friday 4 July. (52 days)
Schools closed	Monday 5 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed	Monday 2 June.
<b>Staff Only, In-service days are:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monday 19 August.</li><li>Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 October.</li><li>Tuesday 18 February.</li><li>Monday 2 June.</li></ul>

# Rotary Shoebox Scheme

[www.rotaryshoebox.org](http://www.rotaryshoebox.org)

## Advice on filling your shoebox

**Border Customs are now demanding  
ALL Toys & Clothes donated are NEW  
All items with a 'Expiry Date' should have at least 6 months left.**

### Child ~ For young children

Cars, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, colouring books, pens, crayons, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

### Teenagers ~ up to 18 years age

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, roll-on deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

### Household Goods ~

#### For older folk & families

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T-lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

### Baby ~NOW DISCONTINUED

*We are finding there is less demand for them now*

**Do not seal your box as items will need to be checked for suitability and if box is filled**

## WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE IN ANY BOX

**Do not include any sweets, chocolate, drinks or food of any kind**  
*(They are against Customs regulations at country borders)*

Battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (eg: deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders

Please securely sellotape tops of liquid containers.  
Protect anything sharp and do not put anything sharp into a CHILD box



- It is important to indicate on the box lid, who the box is for.
- The contents are of good quality.
- The box should be completely filled.
- Remember that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for a very long time.
- Do not sellotape the lid down

***“Spreading a Little Happiness”***

February 2024



