



# SCHOOL BULLETIN 1

## Thursday 4th September 2014

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to everyone following the summer break. The children are settling in after their summer break and it is lovely to see all the new as well as retuning faces. **Please ensure all annual data check forms be amended and returned to the school office as soon as possible.**

### STAFFING UPDATE

We would like to welcome Ms Shirley Stuart who started with us as class teacher for P3/4. Ms Caro Stockan is our probationer this year and is teaching P2/3. Ms Valerie Eunson has started with us in the nursery covering lunch supervision and some afternoon sessions. Ms Leona Benston has extended her working hours on a temporary basis to cover afternoons in the nursery as well. Mrs Donna Reid is now the other part time teacher in nursery with Ms Helga Moss taking up the same position in St Andrews Primary. Mrs Shona Firth has been appointed to principal teacher of art at Stromness Academy for the session and as such we will have a temporary change of art teacher. This may change over the session as well. We are pleased to have Ms Holly Elson as our PE teacher this session as well as she started working with us last term. We are still in the process of recruiting some temporary support for learning assistants for the session.

### CHANGES TO SCHOOL ENTRANCES

Children from P4-7 come in at 9.20am in the morning to enable them to move through the school and get ready for class at 9.30am. Children from P1-3 come in at 9.30am. This also avoids a bottle neck at the school entrance. The old entrance is now used for nursery only as they now start and finish at 9.30am and 3.30pm as well. This has now settled down and is working well.

### CHALLENGER BUS

Please be aware that the Challenger Bus will be visiting us this week on Wednesday and Thursday. They will perform a 30-45 minute slot to some classes with stories or biographies relating to notable Christians or stories from the bible. We had the Challenger Bus last session and the children enjoyed the learning experiences offered. Please find out more at <http://www.challengereducation.com/>. Please be assured that this fits in well with Curriculum for Excellence and the expectations of the curriculum in Religious and Moral Education(RME). If, however, you do not wish your child to take part in these types of activities now or in the future, and you have not already notified us, please contact the school and we will work with you in relation to this and all aspects of your child's RME curriculum.

### ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

If your child needs to be given medicine in the school, please can you take it in to the school office and fill in one of our pink administration of medicine forms. We are not permitted to administer medicines to children unless one of these forms has been completed.

## OUTDOOR PLAYTIMES

Over the summer holidays there have been some developments in the playground including a new activity fence and a huge sand pit. The sand pit is enclosed by the high playground fencing to keep it clear from cats and other pests but allows the rain to wash through it to keep it clean. At all times we try to have children outside for their breaks and to allow this to happen, please ensure that you child comes to school with the appropriate clothing for playing outside. There will be occasional days when the children will be inside for breaks but for the most part they will be outside. If you do not want your child to be outside for any reason, eg illness, then please send a note to their class teacher.

## WATER IN SCHOOL

We encourage children to take a water bottle to school - preferably with a sports cap - to enable them to have access to drinking water during the school day. It is useful if your child's name is on the bottle. They can re-fill their bottle at school from the water fountain when they need to.

## AUTHORISED/UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

Please note that we can only authorise absence for children to be taken out of school during term time in exceptional circumstances. We need to know your reason for taking your child/children out of school so please let us know when you contact us. This enables us to make the best decision in relation to whether the absence is authorised or not and how to code the absence in relation to Scottish Government codes.

## BADMINTON

We would like to give you some information on badminton that is coming up, this is open to all age groups from Primary 3 to Secondary 6. There will be trials for the squad training during 3 Sundays starting on Sunday 21st September. All sessions will be held at Picky. Trials times below;

Beginners/ Intermediates - 11:00- 12:00, cost £2

U13's - 12:00 - 1:30, cost £3

U15's & U18's - 1:30 -3:00, cost £3

We are also very lucky to have Angela Bell up again to do a week long training camp in the October holidays in the KGS Games Hall. This will start on Monday 13th October and finish on Friday 17th. Each session will be approx 1 1/2 - 2 hours long, depending on numbers etc. Players will be put in groups of their own abilities. This is an excellent opportunity to improve your badminton skills with a top coach.

Please register an interest with Eion Ballantine if you would like to attend, at [eionballantine@btinternet.com](mailto:eionballantine@btinternet.com)

### **SCOTTISH LEARNING FESTIVAL**

Following on from our inspection visit in March on Technologies, we have been asked to attend the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow at the end of September with 6 children from P7 to showcase our work in the playground, especially the Scrapstore. I will be attending the festival as part of the local authority work on the Scrapstore and Valerie Thompson and Carmel McElroy will be accompanying the 6 children to and from Glasgow. This is funded by Education Scotland. This is a great opportunity to share with educational people from all over Scotland some of the work we are doing here.

### **FUTURE SCHOOL BULLETINS**

We aim to have a monthly bulletin ready for the end of the first week every month. For the remainder of the session all bulletins will be posted on the school website with a text sent out to let you know. If you are not able to access the internet and need a hard copy, please contact the office.

### **ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

We are hoping to have a hard copy of the annual school calendar out next week. The staff team are meeting next Monday to look at Christmas party dates etc and we will populate the calendar with them as well.