



SCHOOL BULLETIN 4

Thursday 4th December 2014



STAFFING UPDATE

Ms Ruth Thompson is our temporary art teacher at the moment and will continue into the New Year. We are delighted with this as it maintains the continuity for the children's learning. We are continuing to work through other vacancies including that of P1/2/3 teacher and some support for learning posts.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR P1-P3 FROM JANUARY 2015

As you may be aware, all P1-P3 pupils will be entitled to free school meals from January 2015. No applications need to be made to the Education Service unless the pupil has an older sibling in P4-P7 who would also be entitled to free school meals. There is a choice of a main course or baked tattie with salad bar fillings or soup and a sandwich, followed by pudding or yoghurt or fruit.

Current menus are available on the school website: <http://www.glaitness.orkney.sch.uk>

Dinner tickets will still be used for P1-P3 and be in a different colour from P4-P7 and will be available to collect from Monday 15th December.

You will continue to be required to put the following information on the back of the ticket:

- your child's name
- class
- choice of meal (if your child is taking a packed lunch with them, please note this instead). If only the name appears on the ticket, it will be assumed that your child is taking a hot lunch.

Lunches can be provided for 2 year olds on:

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday up until Christmas;
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until Easter;
- 5 days from Easter

Free entitlement for 2 year olds depends on eligibility - see the Orkney Islands Council -> Education and Learning -> Schools Meals and Clothing Allowances webpage

<http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/School-Meals-and-Clothing-Allowances.htm> for more details and to download a copy of the application form which can also be picked up from the School Office foyer.

CHILDREN IN NEED - FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER

We had a fun day on Friday the 14th November for Children in Need. It was great to see all the superheroes in school for a day. We raised £524.19 through dressing up and selling Children in Need goodies. Thanks to you all for your support.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - UPDATE

We have been working on learning and teaching in science in the last 2 terms. We have been focussing on skills the children will develop as they progress through the school. We have also been reviewing our curriculum in relation to the topics the children learn at school. You may notice some changes in how we teach topics across the school over this session and beyond. There may be changes in the actual topics studied and we may not necessarily follow a topic for a whole term now. Some topics may be longer than others and some may be quite short. Topics may change more regularly depending on local, national and international events. This enables us to ensure that the learning for the children continues to be relevant and meaningful. In the past many topics have covered a large number of other curriculum areas within them and now we are reviewing this to ensure that the learning, when it is joined up through the topic, fits with the expectations of Curriculum for Excellence by taking a closer look at the experiences and outcomes we deliver through the topics.

GLAITNESS SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

The Glaitness School Parent Council have had a successful fundraising term with the Halloween disco and fireworks night festivities only a week apart. The two events raised £268.09 and £226.17 respectively. We would like to thank everyone who came along to these events and supported us.

We have also had a great return on the festive cards and mugs with so many parents ordering up lots of their children's art work. We made a total of £361.90. It has been such a success that we thank we may roll this out next year again. Monies raised are going towards the on-going upgrading of the playground.

Our next meeting of the council is on Tuesday the 13th of January at 7pm in the staff room, anyone is welcome whether it's just for a one off to see what we do or if they would like to become a member of the council.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Our Christmas Service this year will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 11am in the Cathedral. A letter has gone out asking for parents to walk with us to enable us to fulfil the requirements of the excursion policy. Please help out if you can. All parents and family members are welcome to join us at the Cathedral for this service. Please note that the children will be sitting in the middle seats youngest to oldest and we would ask adults and other visitors to sit behind the children or along the sides. The classes have been preparing their songs and carols for this service and you are welcome to go to the class seats when your child is performing so that you can see them more clearly if you would like to.

SWAP SHOP

We have a swap shop in the main entrance foyer for old school uniform. If you have unwanted uniform please feel free to donate it, or if you want to take anything from the rail please help yourself. Any donations to the school fund can be made to the honesty box at the school reception and would be much appreciated.

PLASTIC BAGS

Due to the new plastic bag charges it may be less likely that the school will have a surplus of plastic bags to give to pupils for things like muddy clothes or glittery artwork etc. Please could we ask that you keep a plastic or re-useable bag in your child's school bag for taking these items home in so that they don't make a mess of their school bag.

PE KIT

Please can parents make sure that pupils are bringing in their kit on days that they have PE. Also, if your child has taken home PE kit borrowed from the school please can you make sure that it is returned. We only have a very limited amount of spare PE kit in the school and cannot afford for it to go missing. Any donations of old PE kit that is no longer needed would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

BADMINTON

Glaitness School's badminton players had another good showing at the Primary Singles/Doubles Competition on Sunday 23rd November.

Charlie Corsie won the boys singles and also won the boys doubles with Tommy Ballantine. Keira Stevenson won the girls singles, and finished runner-up in the girls doubles with Maddie MacDonald. There was further success for the girls in the doubles as Cady Shearer and Caitlin Gray won the plate competition.

There were other notable performances from Erlend Ballantine, Aidan Foubister, Kalle Shearer and Fraser Bruce. Well done to everyone who took part.

IMPORTANT - SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

Please remember to listen to Radio Orkney in times of bad weather. Orkney Islands Council now has a facebook page for posting notices of bad weather and school closures - you can find a link on the OIC website. <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/>

The Radio Orkney Facebook page provides updates as well. We will endeavour to keep the school open where at all possible, weather, transport and staffing permitting. If the school is open and the buses do not run, parents can make their own arrangements to get their children to and from school. Equally, parents can choose to keep their children home if they feel it is unsafe for them to be out. Please let us know if you keep your children off due to the weather as part of the usual procedures.

If the school is going to close early parents will be alerted through the school text system and parents/carers are expected to come and collect their children. Children are not released to walk home independently if the conditions are so bad that we have to close the school early.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 16 th December	P1 - P2 Christmas Party 2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Carol Service 11am, St Magnus Cathedral - all welcome
Wednesday 17 th December	P3 - P4 Christmas Party 2pm
Thursday 18 th December	P5 - P6 Christmas Party 2pm
Friday 19 th December	Pre-school Christmas Party 9.30am
Friday 19 th December	P7 Christmas Party 2pm
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term 2 - school closes at 3.30pm
Monday 5 th January 2015	First day of term 3

SEASONS GREETINGS!

On behalf of everyone at Glaitness School and Glaitness School Parent Council, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Merry.
Christmas

