



SCHOOL BULLETIN 5

January 2015

A Happy New Year to all in our School Community!

STAFFING UPDATE

We start the staffing update with lots of baby news - what a start to 2015! Mrs Yvette Barr is expecting a baby in June. Mrs Laura Marcus and Mrs Corrine Ward are both expecting babies in July. As yet we don't know when these staff will be leaving but we will work hard to find replacements for all of our expecting staff in the timeframes needed.

We have appointed Ms Sandra Irvine from Shetland to the staff team on a temporary basis as part of the vacancy created by Inga Falconer's secondment. However, Ms Irvine is not available to start just yet and to provide greater consistency to P1/2/3, we have shuffled staffing a bit and Mrs Charlotte Johnston is now teaching P1/2/3 full time. Ms Irvine will pick up a role as part of the P5JC class when she starts.

Supply remains a problem and you would have been aware of different teachers teaching some classes to cover teacher absence last term. We will continue to work hard at minimising the disruption to children's learning at these times but sometimes we can only cover classes with many different staff including Mrs Miller, Mrs Muir and Ms McElroy.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - UPDATE

At the beginning of this term we are going to learn more about the changes expected through the new Children's Act which came into force in 2014. We are going to focus on the expectations of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' and how we can build on what we already do to support our children in developing their resilience. This will follow on nicely from the session we ran for parents of children in P3,4 and 5 last term.

GLAITNESS SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Our next meeting of the council is on Tuesday the 27th 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.

PE KIT

We are very short of spare PE kit at the moment, if you have any old shorts or gym shoes that you could donate to the school these would be very gratefully received.

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK 12th – 16th JANUARY

Winter weather can increase the risk of road traffic accidents, and so classes have been working on road safety awareness this week.

Families can keep safe by:

- Planning safe walking and cycling routes to and from school with bairns. This includes planning where children are dropped off and collected and safe use of the car park next to the front playground. Reminder about the safe path which runs behind the school, onto Pickaquoy Loan and past the Supermarkets to Junction Road.
- Practising road safety skills, including road crossing.
Lots of information and activities on the streetsense2.com website
- Attaching Hi-vis vests (or other hi-vis items) to winter coats and school bags so that they are used every day.
Hi-vis vests (£2) and armbands (£1.70) are available for sale at school, in sizes to fit all bairns.

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

Wed 11 th and Thu 12 th Feb	Staff In-Service - school closed to pupils
Friday 13 th February	Mid-Term Break - school closed
Mon 16 th - Fri 20 th Feb	OIC Pre-School Enrolment Week
Mon 23 rd Feb to Sun 8 th Mar	Fair Trade Fortnight
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10 th March	Parents Evening 6-8pm
Thursday 12 th March	Parents Evening 6-8pm
Friday 20 th March	Sport Relief
Monday 23 rd March	Easter Service, East Kirk, 2.15pm
Friday 27 th March	Pre-School Spring Fair, 9.30 - 11am
Friday 27 th March	Pre-School New Start Visit, 12 - 1pm
Friday 27 th March	Last Day of Term
Monday 13 th April	First Day of Term 4