



## LET'S TALK GLAITNESS!

<http://www.glaitness.orkney.sch.uk>  
Head Teacher: Mrs Valerie Bleakley  
Issue 1: Friday 4th September 2009



### Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Mary Foubister and Lynn Mackay from maternity leave. We are delighted to see them back in school, although we know how hard it is to leave a peedie one.

We are also welcoming a new probationer teacher, Fiona MacNab who is teaching Primary 3/4 with Lesley Mackay, we hope she enjoys her year with us.

Following the retirement of Moira King, who is a great miss for the school, we will be interviewing for the new Support for Learning Teacher on Tuesday 8th September. We will be informing parents as soon as possible when the appointment has been made.

We also have a new Speech and Language therapist starting this term. She is Rowena Keane. She will be in touch with you directly before she starts working with any children. Please be patient as rather than seeing individual pupils on a weekly basis, she will be taking groups of pupils for blocks of six weeks.

### Fundraising/Charities



As a school, we have committed to supporting three charities this year - We will again be supporting The Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal, Children in Need and Sport Relief. We will also be collecting for the Poppy Appeal in November.

Children in Need and Sport Relief fundraising details will follow in due course, but we start off with the Shoebox Appeal.

In 2008 132,000 shoeboxes were sent to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, India, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Ukraine, bringing the total since Blythwood began the appeal in 1993 to 1,122,000.

You will be informed if your child's class will be creating a class box. You are invited to create one yourself (see instructions) and/or donate items for the class boxes.

These gifts brought much joy to the children and adults who received them. You can help us send even more this year. After checking the boxes, Blythwood Care will add a Bible storybook for kids, a diary with bible verses for teenagers or a Bible calendar for adults. It will then be sent to someone in need in time for Christmas.

**In order for us to ensure Christmas Delivery, your shoebox/items for shoeboxes should be delivered to school by Friday 2nd October.** Thank you to McAdie & Reeve who will collect the boxes on Wednesday 7th October and transport them free of charge to Blythwood.

## Pupil Groups



### Glaitness Green Swans

Our committee is ready to go with new challenges and ideas for everyone this session!

We would love to have some parents on board, especially on our committee so if you are willing to help in any way or want to find out more please contact us at school.

We have plans ready to start and are keen to get going!

One of our ongoing activities will be the development of the outdoor space round the school. We also have an exciting Safe Routes to School project and a number of great eco learning opportunities in classes too. International Education will be a focus for the whole school led by Ms Mackay.

Please remember to enter our logo competition and return the entries by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September - parents can have a go too!

Just think of the Glaitness Green Swans and what they are promoting - safe transport, health and wellbeing, waste minimisation, biodiversity, water, saving energy, sustaining our world, being careful with litter and enhancing school grounds.

Winners will be announced in the near future!



### Gardening Group

Mrs McRae

harvested a very successful crop of tatties and carrots with some of the Gardening Group last week. The carrots were sold in 'The Snack Shack' and the cooks turned the tatties into wedges and healthy version chips and crisps for the children to buy too! Delicious seemed to be the verdict - nothing like vegetables straight from the garden!

## Other News

### Family Learning Week - Family Drawing Competition

Family Learning Week takes place from Sunday 27th September until Saturday 3rd October.

It aims to strengthen communities and to create more opportunities for families to learn together, by encouraging organisations to offer special family learning events during the campaign week.

One of the events taking place is the family drawing competition. This year the family drawing competition is looking for you to draw with another member of your family what you like about your culture. For more information about Family Learning Week and the family drawing competition, go to [www.scotlandlearning.org.uk](http://www.scotlandlearning.org.uk)



### Orkney Horticultural & Industrial Association - September Show

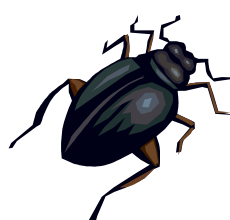
Entries are needed for the Juvenile Handicrafts sections at The County Flower & Vegetable Show and the Chrysanthemum Dahlia and Industrial Show, which takes place on Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th September.

If your child is interested in entering an exhibit, please contact Mrs Maureen Monkman on 874641 for further details and entry forms.



### Football Shirts

Just a reminder that football shirts of any description are not permitted to be worn during the school day unless during a PE lesson when a change of clothes should be brought into school.



### Parent Council

#### Free Fun Beetle Drive for all the Family

You are invited to come to the Parent Council Free Beetle Drive which will include the Parent Council AGM on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. All the family are welcome, there will be a brief summary of the Parent Council Activities for the past year, a financial statement and election of Chair and Treasurer of the Parent Council. This will be a great opportunity to welcome new parents to the school, have some fun and maybe win a prize!

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

## Other News



### School Link

The new School Link catalogue accompanies this newsletter. Orders should be given to the school office by Tuesday 8th September at the latest.

Please can cheques be made payable to Glaitness School. No credit or debit cards can be accepted, sorry!

### Water Bottles



Water is one of the most important nutrients for children. It improves physical and mental performance, and helps with a variety of health problems. We have several water coolers located around the school for the children to fill up from. Please ensure that your child is supplied with a named water bottle. We are still selling eco-bottles in school made from recycled plastic for £1.50 and replacement lids.

## Class News

### P3/4 Tourist Office Visit

Primary 3/4 visited the Tourist Information Centre as part of their Holiday Orkney topic. They interviewed tourist office staff, including Barbara Foulkes, Director of VisitOrkney, and collected some information leaflets which will be useful when the pupils set up their own tourist office in the classroom.



### P5 Outdoor Development Day

Class 5 have just enjoyed a fantastic day out in Hoy. Their team work skills were really put to the test when they had to work together to cross a giant spider's web and complete a blind folded obstacle course. They then created art sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy using natural resources found in the woods.



## Dates for your Diary

Date/Time	Event	Notes
18th September	INSET ACFE	
9 <sup>th</sup> October - 2.30 pm	Harvest Festival	In school hall
9 <sup>th</sup> October	End of Term 1	
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Learning Festival	
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Learning Festival	
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Start of Term 2	
TBA	P5 Class Assembly	
3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> November - 6.00-8.00pm	Parents Evenings 6-8pm	
TBA	P7M & R Class Assembly	
TBA	Christmas Service	Carols around the tree at the Cathedral - possible evening event
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	End of Term 2	
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	Start Term 3	
TBA	P3 Class Assembly	
9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents evening	
26 <sup>th</sup> March - 2.30pm	Easter Service	At the Cathedral
26 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term 3	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Monday	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Start Term 4	
W/c 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Nethybridge P7 residential trip	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mid Term Break	
TBA	Class Assemblies for P1,2,3/4 and 6	
TBA	Hoy Trip P6	
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Reports to Parents	
11th June	Sports Day	
25 <sup>th</sup> June - 2.30 pm TBC	Leavers Service	Pickaquoy Centre
25 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Term 4	
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Autumn Term 2010	

## School Closure Procedures



Information about school closures will be available from 7.30am every morning by phoning the Council's main switchboard number on 873535.

You can also listen to Radio Orkney at 7.30 am and 12.55pm for school closure info.

If school is closed during the day, only school staff will call parents to advise of arrangements for getting pupils home.

Please don't call each other or the school unless absolutely necessary to ensure that home, mobile and school telephone lines are kept clear.

### Texting Trial

Details will follow later this term of the trial emergency closure text messaging system. Please ensure you update the school office about any changes to contact numbers.

## And Finally...

The children have all settled well into their new classes, and it was a delight to see how proud our new P1 pupils were when they stayed for the whole day this week. The school already has a buzz about it with pupils being busy engaging in their learning and this will be another exciting year for everyone. Already class outings have started and P5 had a very successful trip to Hoy, and were a credit to our school through their good behaviour and hard work - 'a very relaxing and enjoyable trip' was the comment from one member of staff who accompanied on the trip.

Please make sure you take note of the dates above and don't forget to support the Parent Council and come to the FREE BEETLE DRIVE on MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> September.

*Valerie Shalby*