



LET'S TALK GLAITNESS!

<http://www.glaitness.orkney.sch.uk>
Head Teacher: Mrs Valerie Bleakley
Issue 1: Friday 5th September 2008



Glaitness Parent Council

Glaitness Parent Council is looking for new volunteers. As replacements for both the old 'School Boards' and the Parent Association, Parent Council members, or "year reps", represent parents' interests within the school (generally liaising with the Head Teacher), and organise fund-raising activities throughout the school year.

In the recent past, money had been raised for a variety of useful things for the children - from play equipment (indoors and out), to speakers for classroom smart boards. Any parent interested in the school and its pupils is very welcome to come along to meetings, and we would be happy to see more than one parent willing to represent each class. *If you are interested, please come to our next meeting at 7pm on Monday 8th September Alice Cant, Chair*

Staff News



Congratulations to Mary, Michael and Kayleigh on the recent birth of Owen Michael Foubister, who weighed in at 9lb, 3oz. We look forward to seeing Mary and Owen in school soon.



We welcome Rachel Garson and Kate Towsey, probationer teachers, to Class 1 and Class 4 respectively. Darren Peace is covering 7A at present following Rosie Recep's departure at the end of last term.

Fundraising/Charity News



Children in Need

As a school, we have committed to supporting three charities this year - We will again be supporting The Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal, Children in Need, and Comic Relief.



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



The Blythswood Care Shoe Boxes have brought much joy to the children and adults who received them. In 2007 schools, churches, clubs and thousands of individuals once again donated over 140,000 filled shoeboxes to the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal. Shoeboxes were delivered in Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, Ukraine and Moldova. 22,631 boxes were taken to India for the second year running.

Each class will be creating their own shoebox, but you are more than welcome to create one yourself (see instructions) and/or donate items for the class boxes. You will find attached a Blythswood leaflet which contains the official checklist to attach to the outside of the shoebox.





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, Blythswood 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 FRI 3rd October. McAdie & Reeve will then transport the boxes to Blythswood.

Extra Curricular Club News

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Football</h2> 	 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Netball</h2> 
<p>Football training sessions will be held at the Picky Centre from 5.30 - 6.30pm on Tuesdays beginning 30th September. The dates for block 1 are:</p> <p>30th September 7th, 28th October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November 2nd December</p>	<p>Netball training sessions will be held at the Picky Centre from 4.00 - 5.00pm on Thursdays beginning on 11th September. The dates for block 1 are: 11th, 18th, 25th September 2nd, 9th, 30th October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November 4th December</p>
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Badminton</h2> 	 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Octopush</h2> 
<p>Badminton training sessions will be held at the Picky Centre from 5.30 - 6.30pm on Fridays from 31st October. The dates for block 1 are;</p> <p>31st October 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th November 5th December</p>	<p>Octopush sessions will be held at the Kirkwall Swimming Pool from 3.40 - 5.15pm on Tuesdays from 12th September. The dates for block 1 are:</p> <p>9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September 21st, 28th October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November</p>

Information

 <p>SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE</p> <p>1</p> <p>Primary Meal</p> <p>ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL</p> <p>B 346294</p> <p>Dinner Tickets A timely reminder that dinner tickets cost £14.50 per book or £29 for 2 books. It would be appreciated if names could be written on the back of tickets, so that if they are lost, they can be reunited with their owners!</p>	 <p>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 sell eco-bottles in school made from recycled plastic for £1.50 and replacement lids.</p>
 <p>Parents Evenings Parents Evenings are on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th October.</p> <p>Appointments can be made through the school office from Tuesday 16th September onwards.</p>	 <p>School Uniform You can purchase Glaitness School Uniform from the school directly or without logo from local or off-island suppliers. Please be aware that Glaitness School does not receive any commission other than through orders directly placed with the school. The commission is banked in the School Fund to help support activities and purchase additional items which would not normally be funded.</p>

Dates for your Diary!

School Calendar 2008/09

Autumn	Parent Council Meeting	7pm	Monday 8th September 2008
	Octopush for P7s resumes	3.40-5pm	Tuesday 9 September 2008
	Indoor Football resumes	5.30-6.30	Tuesday 30 September 2008
	Netball Club resumes	3.40-5pm	Thursday 11 September 2008
	Highland Academy Football Roadshow - P4		Wednesday 17 September 2008
	P5 Developmental Fours Football Festival,		Friday 19 September 2008
	Hockey Festival		Monday 22 September 2008
	Possible P5 Hoy Day Trip (to be confirmed)		Thursday 2 October 2008
	Blythswood Shoe Boxes—return deadline		Friday 3 October 2008
	Primary Netball Knockout Competition		Saturday 4 October 2008
	Parents Evening		Tuesday 7 October 2008
	Parents Evening		Thursday 9 October 2008
	Harvest Service at Pickaquoy Centre & End	2pm	Friday 10 October 2008
	End		Friday 10 October 2008

Winter	Start	(staff)	Thursday 23 October 2008
	In-service		Thursday 23/Friday 24 October 2008
		(pupils)	Monday 27 October 2008
	Primary Netball League Starts	1, 8, 15, 22, 29t Nov & 6 Dec	Saturday 1 November 2008
	Christmas Performances including nativity and carol singing instead of Christmas Service (details to follow later)		Week commencing 8 December 2008
	End		Friday 19 December 2008

Spring	Start		Monday 5 January 2009
	P6/P7 Primary Netball Tournament		Saturday 17 January 2009
	P4 & P5 Primary Netball Tournament		Saturday 31 January 2009
	In-Service		Thursday 12/Friday 13 February 2009
	Parents Evening		Tuesday 3 March 2009
	Parents Evening		Thursday 5 March 2009
	Easter Service at St Magnus Cathedral & End Term	2pm	Friday 27 March 2009

Summer	Easter Monday		Monday 13 April 2009
	Start		Tuesday 14 April 2009
	Make A Difference Day 4 (MADD4)		Wednesday 22 April 2009
	P7 Nethybridge Trip		Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May 2009
	Mid-term break		Monday 4 May 2009
	Junior Instrumental Course		Monday 11 May 2009
	Primary School Athletics		Thursday 28 May 2009
	Sports Day		Friday 29 May 2009
	End		Friday 26 June 2009

Autumn Term 2009	Start	(staff)	Monday 17 August 2009
		(pupils)	Tuesday 18 August 2009

Staff: 40 + 42 + 60 + 53 = 195 days

Pupils: 39 + 40 + 58 + 53 = 190days

Prizewinners!



Closer2Nature
Lois and Jay won these beautiful toy monkeys for their spectacular art-work in the interactive Closer2Nature workshop held at the end of Term 4.

Well done, Lois and Jay!

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.

(Extra-curricular activities, ie badminton, netball, football and octopush are automatically cancelled if school is closed).

And Finally...

We have had a great start to the new term, which has included some lovely weather, let's hope the sun keeps on shining for a while to come yet. As you can see from the dates for your diary, we have a lot already planned which includes Christmas performances as requested by parents. We hope to have two performances for each stage - P1-3 and P4-7 one in the afternoon and one early evening for those folk that work. Our fire restrictions have now been changed and we are able to have more people in the hall - great news I think you will agree.

So far, the change to our early morning routine is working very well, the children are settled and busy with their learning far more quickly, and we don't now have problems with overcrowding in the Early years shared areas. Please let us know what your thoughts are through the Parent Council.

Our Parent Council is a very important group, sadly at the end of last term we lost a large group of the representatives as they had served for a long period of time. We currently need to have more representatives from the Parent Forum (all parents are part of the Parent Forum) to help support the school. I would urge anyone who feels they may have something to offer to come to the meeting on Monday evening - I look forward to seeing you there!

Valerie Bleakley