



LET'S TALK GLAITNESS!

<http://www.glaitness.orkney.sch.uk>
Head Teacher: Mrs Valerie Bleakley
Issue 2: Tuesday 6th October 2009



Staff News

We are pleased to announce that Julie Dennison will be joining the school after the October break as our new Support for Learning Teacher.

Curriculum for Excellence day

On the 18th September the whole staff team worked very hard, focussing on 'Learning in Glaitness - Inside and Out'.

We investigated the outdoor environment, maths, numeracy and health and wellbeing and mixed these things together!

We will further develop our knowledge and skills during the October In-service days.

Parent Council/Fundraising

We had a lively evening of beetle drive on Mon 21st Sept. We had hoped to entice parents and children to come along. Unfortunately we only had 2 families over and above those already on the Parent Council, but undaunted, we had a great evening. During the 10 min coffee break we had our short AGM, including a report on the year's activities and election of office bearers. Sarah Harcus is to continue to be our Treasurer and I will remain as Chair.

The Parent Council is made up of representatives from each class and we meet at least once a term. Last year much of our time was spent fundraising which we will continue to do but we also to plan to work on improving parental involvement with the school. We are applying for charitable status this year so if any parent out there has experience of this process we would be interested to hear from them. This will allow us to access other grants which will in turn benefit the school.

We will be selling second hand uniform (School, Brownies, Cubs etc) at the Parents' Evenings next term so please look out any uniform you no longer need and leave it at the school office before the 3rd Nov. We are also still in need of a Class Rep from the Nursery class and also for P1. If you are interested please contact me on 875556 or the school office. Lastly, thank you for supporting all the events we have had in the past year and if you have any issues you wish to bring up please speak to your class rep, myself or contact the school office.

Alice Cant, Chairperson

P7 Nethybridge Trip Fundraising Events

30th Oct ***FANCY DRESS HALLOWEEN PARTY*** at Glaitness School,
Nursery- P2 6.15pm- 7.15pm £1.50 , P3-P7 7.30pm- 9pm £2.00

Guess Who's Baby, Guess No of Sweeties in the Jar plus usual crisps, drinks, glowstiks etc for sale

7th Nov ***TABLE TOP SALE*** at Masonic club hall, £5.00 to book table,

donations gratefully accepted For P7 tables toys, bric-a-brac, homebakes and bottle stall, jam jar jamboree, contact Linda Tait 873242

15th Nov ***PARTY AFTERNOON***, Kirkwall Golf Club, Virgin Vie, Osborne Books, Pampered Chef, Phoenix Cards, Partylite, Rbonne skincare products.

19th Nov ***PRIZE BINGO NIGHT*** in King Street church hall £1.50 adults, £1 children entry supper included, donations for raffle that night greatly accepted.

18th Dec ***XMAS DISCO*** at BB hall arrangements to be confirmed yet

GRAND XMAS RAFFLE, top prizes still to be confirmed, donations gratefully accepted.

Ongoing fundraisers include anagram sheets, guess the sweets in jar, treasure map, cake sales, sponsored cycle.

Parents Evenings



Parents evenings will take place on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th November from 6 - 8 pm. Appointments can be made through the School Office after the October break, commencing Monday 28th October.

We will be having a variety of stalls which we would like you to visit and the funds will be shared between school fund and parent council. Stalls for the School Fund will be Phoenix Cards, Partylite, Virgin Vie, Usborne Books and the Body Shop. The Parent Council are organising a School Uniform stall, and would be grateful for contributions of any spare uniforms you may have.

Extra Curricular Clubs



Football training takes place on a Tuesday 5.15 – 6.15pm this year. Roy Foubister, Graham Scott and Dave Clark will lead these sessions:

Term 1: 6th Oct 2009

Term 2: 27th Oct, 3rd Nov, 10th Nov, 17th Nov, 24th Nov, 1st Dec, 8th Dec 2009

Term 3: 12th Jan, 19th Jan, 26th Jan, 2nd Feb, 9th Feb, 16th Feb, 23rd Feb, 2nd Mar, 9th Mar, 16th Mar, 23rd Mar 2010



Badminton training takes place on a Friday 5.30 to 6.30 pm this year. Eoin Ballantine, Sheena Leask, Rebecca Reid, Sheila Reid, Susie Rendall and myself will lead these sessions:

Term 1: 25th Sept, 2nd Oct 2009

Term 2: 30th Oct, 6th, 20th, 27th Nov, 4th, 11th Dec 2009 (13th Nov cancelled due to Sports Awards dinner). Term 3: 8th, 15th Jan, 22nd, 29th Jan 2010, 5th, 19th, 26th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Mar 2010



Netball training takes place on a Thursday 4-5pm this year. Pauline Bruce, Heather Scott and Lenore MacDonald will lead these sessions:

Term 1: 17th Sept, 24th Sept, 1st, 8th Oct 2009

Term 2: 29th Oct, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Nov, 3rd Dec, 10th Dec 2009

Term 3: 14th, 21st, 28th Jan, 4th, 18th, 25th Feb, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Mar 2010

Term 4: 15th, 22nd Apr 2010

Pupil Groups

Glaitness Green Swans

The Green Swans had a successful logo competition and chose the following designs in each age category as the winners!



Tommy Ballantine
Pre - P2



Molly Hay
P3 and P4



Tom Scott
P5 - P7



Mrs Shona Firth
Adult

Tom's design was selected as the overall winner.

Our Chairperson for this session is James Nicolson with Roxy Tait as the Vice Chairperson.

We will be focussing on International Education, developing the school grounds, safe routes to schools and a number of other ongoing projects.

We would still love to hear from interested parents too!

Class News



P3/4 Holiday Orkney

P3/4 are continuing to work on their Holiday Orkney topic. They have been on 2 more visits, to the Pickaquoy Centre campsite and the Albert Hotel. Both visits were very enjoyable (despite the best efforts of the weather) and the pupils learned a lot about accommodation and facilities for tourists.



P3 - Skara Brae/Ring of Brodgar

P3 went on a trip to Skara Brae and the Ring of Brodgar on Monday 14th September as part of their Early Settlers project.

You can find more photos from the trip on P3's blog page on the school website.



P7 - Table Tennis Session

Primary 7 were fortunate to have a mini coaching session and demonstration from two top Orkney players on Wednesday 30th September.

Cath Symonds who has represented Scotland at the highest level came to the school with her coaching partner to support and motivate Primary 7 who are setting up a table tennis league which will start in term 3 in school time with practice sessions organised at lunchtimes during term 2. It provided inspiration and important advice to beginners and experienced players alike.

The class were also told that there is an Orkney Table Tennis club which takes place in KGS on a Monday evening from 7.30-8.30 in the small sports hall. It is one pound per session. Junior and senior players are most welcome.



Class News

P7 - Class Excursions



P7 have had a very active term with visits and visitors to enhance our topic of exploration and emigration. We went to Stromness to find information about John Rae and the Hudson Bay Company as part of our topic on exploration and emigration. The Stromness museum is a fascinating place and well worth a visit.

Kim Foden came in to tell us about her ancestor who went to Canada to work in the fur trade with the Hudson Bay company and she showed us how to put up a teepee. We had a go at making our own mini teepees and found it was harder than it looked!



We had a very successful trip to Kirbister and Corrigan farm museums.

Going in costume made it feel very authentic and we learned loads about Old Orkney farming. We got a chance to try some of the jobs the workers had to do in days gone by and finished the day off with a ceilidh in the barn!

These places are free to visit and would make a great family day out!



We still have canoeing to look forward to so it is not over yet! Keep checking our blogs on the school website. we will be updating them as we go.

P6 Author Visit



P6 had a visit from an author on Monday 21st September. His name was Keith Charters and he writes novels for children. He gave the pupils some ideas when writing their own stories and spoke a lot about his own books. The children

asked him very intelligent questions about his life, his writing and his views on the books of others. Two pupils from P6, Kristopher Leask and Morgan Foubister, each won a signed copy of one of his books.

Tesco for Schools & Clubs



Thanks once again to everyone who collected Tesco for Schools and Clubs vouchers for Glaitness. As we said at the end of the last session, we decided to order new playground equipment for the school. Part of the order has now arrived. Mrs Valerie Thompson and Mrs Linda Nicolson went out to take a few photos of the children using the new equipment for the first time. We hope to have the rest of the order in soon.



Dates for your Diary

Date/Time	Event	Notes
9 th October - 2.30 pm	Harvest Festival	In school hall
9 th October	End of Term 1	
22 nd October	Learning Festival	No school
23 rd October	Learning Festival	No school
26 th October	Start of Term 2	
TBA	P5 Class Assembly	
3 rd and 5 th November - 6.00-8.00pm	Parents Evenings 6-8pm	
TBA	P7M & P7R Class Assembly	
17 th December - 5.30-7.30pm	Christmas Service	Carols around the tree at the Cathedral
22 nd December	End of Term 2	
6 th January 2010	Start Term 3	
TBA	P3 Class Assembly	
9 th and 11 th March	Parents evening	
26 th March - 2.30pm	Easter Service	At the Cathedral
26 th March	End of Term 3	
Monday 5 th April	Easter Monday	
Monday 12 th April	Start Term 4	
W/c 26 th April	Nethybridge P7 residential trip	
Monday 3 rd May	Mid Term Break	
TBA	Class Assemblies for P1,2,3/4 and 6	
TBA	Hoy Trip P6	
4 th June	Reports to Parents	
11 th June	Sports Day	
25 th June - 2.30 pm TBC	Leavers Service	Pickaquoy Centre
25 th June	End of Term 4	
17 th 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.

And Finally...

I am truly grateful to Alice Cant for agreeing to stay on as our Chair for the Parent Council and would like to thank Alice and all those who represent everyone for all their hard work over the past year. However, I was very disappointed for the Parent Council that so few attended the AGM and beetle drive, we did have a great time and laughed a lot. Please remember that this is **your** Parent Council that works for the benefit of **your** child and deserves **your** support. Alice has been working on the Parent Council for the past 4 years and really would have liked to have stepped down this year but sadly no-one was prepared to take on this important role. I would ask that all parents give this serious consideration and remember how important it is that you fully engage with the school at all levels, unless we are all working together we cannot give all the children the best education they deserve.

Valerie Shakley