

# STENNESS COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 2025

## Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone and of course, Happy New Year. With the festive period packed away behind us I hope you all had a wonderful time with family and loved ones and you managed to celebrate in ways that you enjoyed. Term 3 is a bumper of a term with lots going on so keep an eye out for any date changes or updates over the coming 12 weeks. I would like to say a special welcome to Flora and Arthur who have joined us in the Nursery. They have settled in beautifully and seem quite at home here already.

Lucy Tulloch joins us this term for a 5-week placement working in P4-7. Lucy is a second year M.Ed Primary Education student at the University of Aberdeen and it is a pleasure to have her with us here at Stenness.

## Of the Month

Last week in Assembly we talked about the character strengths of kindness and self-regulation and the meta skills of integrity and feeling. We talked about what these were, why they were important and what they should look and sound like here in Stenness. For the month of January these character strengths and meta skills are going to be our focus with the idea being that each month we will have a different focus of either character strengths, meta skills, children's rights or wellbeing indicators.

## P7 Hoy Residential Trip

Just before the end of term we received finalised dates for this trip. Please take note that it is now **16th - 20th June inclusive**, and we will be joining P7s from Firth Primary. The accompanying staff member is yet to be confirmed but we will let you know as soon as this is in place. **Parents - if you foresee any difficulty with payment of this trip, please approach us before the end of this month.**



## Attendance

At the end of term 2 we continued to monitor pupil attendance, and for all pupils from P1 to P7 we calculated their percentage attendance so far, both from August and for term 2 alone. This allows us to make comparisons between terms and to look for improvements or families who may need help or support. We can now report that as a whole school, during term 2, Stenness had an overall percentage attendance rate of 93% which is the same figure as was calculated at the end of term 1.

We will contact those who we need to get in touch with and offer any help and support as required but if any family is curious to know their percentage attendance then please get in touch and we will be more than happy to let you know.

If you have anything you would like to know more about please feel to ask me directly.

## Bad Weather Will Not Stop us!

Mother Nature has certainly kept us on our toes since coming back after the holiday and we do like to get the bairns outside as much as possible. Not only do they love being outside in the snow and wind, it also blows those cobwebs away and stops the winter germs from spreading. To help facilitate this we would kindly ask to keep making sure your child/children come to school 'dressed for the weather' and have the odd pair of spare socks and breeks in their bag just in case. Please take note that on days when the weather/roads are challenging, staff may be a bit later in getting to school themselves. Playground supervision starts when the bus arrives, which may be as late as 9.15am on bad weather days.

## Fiddle and Swimming

Fiddle lessons will be on hold for the time being until a temporary replacement is found for Mrs MacLeod, who had a baby girl on Christmas morning! Ms Leslie has done a sterling job filling in but as a professional musician has other commitments and can't continue in the interim. However, we've been offered the services of Molly Nicolson who will be visiting us on a Wednesday afternoon to deliver percussion lessons to the P4-7 class. As soon as we hear when fiddle will be restarting we'll let you know. In the meantime, Ms Leslie has given all fiddlers a booklet to work through at home.

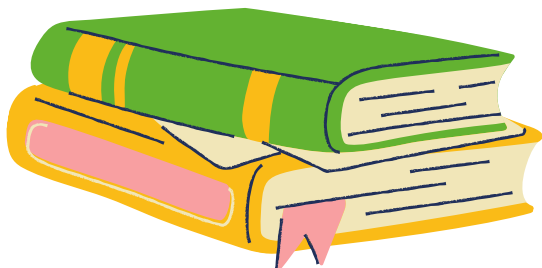
Swimming for P4-7 will continue each Thursday afternoon this term.



## Blue Monday....

We're told that the 3rd Monday in January is commonly known as 'Blue Monday', the winter's day when we struggle the most to get out of bed and start our day enthusiastically.

To combat that, we've decided that we'll have a play session on Monday morning to start the week. Something to look forward to 😊



## Four Contexts of Learning

The Four Contexts of Learning are a framework for teaching and learning that help define our curriculum, what we do, how we do it and why we do it. They are nationally recognised and all schools across Scotland should have them at the forefront of their practice. They are as follows:

- **Curriculum Areas and Subjects**

The curriculum areas and subjects are the organisers for the experiences and outcomes from Early, First and Second Level from Nursery to P7.

- **Interdisciplinary Learning**

This is the space in the curriculum for learning that goes beyond subject boundaries, allowing students to make connections between different areas of learning.

- **Ethos and Life of the School as a Community**

This is the positive climate of respect and trust based on shared values across the school community.

- **Opportunities for Personal Achievement**

These are the opportunities for students to achieve both in and beyond the classroom, which can help build confidence, motivation, and resilience.

Accompanying this newsletter you'll find full information on the Four Contexts, along with examples of how we are achieving them.

### Finally from me...

There are literally lighter days ahead and I do feel them slowly but surely creeping in. It is in this term that we really start to notice all our little people growing up and they almost seem to take a leap in their learning. Our youngest humans grow in confidence and more and more we see their little personalities come out and this is lovely - the part of the job that reminds us why we love what we do. Please take care and like me, don't make too many radical and unachievable new year resolutions!

## Wider Achievement

- Our second celebration assembly was held at the end of last term and it, like the first one, was roaring success. We have all LOVED sharing each others' successes and the children have loved hearing about all the skills and talents we have here in Stenness.

## Upcoming Events

### Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 30th January 6.30pm

You are all welcome to attend. If you have anything you'd like to raise or add to the agenda, please get in touch with us.

### Mid Term Break - School Closed

Thursday 13th - Tuesday 18th Feb inclusive

### Class Assemblies

The next class assembly presentation (to which you are all invited), will be on Friday 28th February at 2.30pm.

### World Book Day

Thursday 6th March (details tbc)

### Dental Inspections

Tuesday 11th March (time tbc)

### Reporting Progress Evenings

Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th March

### Red Nose Day

Friday 21st March (details tbc)

### Last Day of Term 3

Friday 4th April

## Contact Info

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