

Stenness Community School
Newsletter 10
Friday 19th April 2024



And just like that in the click of a finger we seem to find ourselves in Term 4 and the final term of the academic year 2023-2024. This bumper edition of the newsletter will give you a rundown of what is coming up this term with Donna pinging out bulletin reminders via Seesaw as and when required.

The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse

We'd just like to thank you all for your support with our super performance at the end of term. From providing what we needed for costumes, to helping with the learning of lines and song lyrics and coming along to watch the children on the night, thank you all so much.

I'm sure you'll agree the children did an amazing job and made you and the school very proud. No doubt you'll all have seen the rave review in the Orcadian as well!

P7 Hoy Trip

Next week our P7 pupils take part in their week-long residential experience in Hoy. This promises to be an action-packed and thrilling week with a range of land and sea-based activities planned. We will be joined by 3 children from Orphir and 6 children from Firth and, apart from a few natural nerves, I think everyone is really looking forward to it. We're booked on the 10am crossing from Stromness to Moaness. Please make sure you get your child/children there by 9.40am at the very latest, and don't forget that packed lunches are needed for Monday.

Wellbeing Warriors (Bronze & Silver Status)

Huge thanks to those of you who have sent in evidence for the Wellbeing Warrior challenge as part of Mindful March. We have been busy collating the pictures and confirming who has completed the challenge and the Wellbeing Warriors will be announced at the next assembly. Well done to everyone who has embraced this - the benefits are real.



NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe. Programme



We are participating in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme this term. Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the Speak out. Stay safe. programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Trees!

Just before the Easter holidays, the Woodland Trust Scotland gifted the school around 100 young trees which had been grown on from seeds collected from Orkney trees (rowan, downy birch and aspen). We are very grateful to them for funding this gesture and also to UHI Orkney and the Orkney Woodland Project for their part in allowing us to receive them, along with their helpful advice and support.

The trees are not much more than saplings and will need to be planted in their permanent spots in the next few weeks. We would really appreciate some adult volunteers to help us prepare the planting holes initially (probably next Saturday morning, any time between 10:00-13:00, weather dependent) and then have adults and children involved in putting the trees into the ground on a separate occasion. Further updates/reminders/dates/times will be notified via Seesaw.

Adults would need to bring their own straight-edged, strong spade and wear sturdy footwear as each tree needs its own hole and we have to dig into quite dense ground. Thanking you in advance.

P5-7 STEM After School Club

The school has recently received a set of resources allowing us to take part in the British Science Association's CREST SuperStar Award. This involves a series of hands-on problem solving challenges. The children will receive a SuperStar Award certificate upon completion of all eight hour long activities.

The sessions will take place as an After School STEM Club on Tuesdays from the 30th April, lasting 8 weeks.

If you'd like your child to come along, please complete the slip which we're sending home. Mrs Allen has volunteered to organise and run this club in her own time which we're very appreciative of.

Stenness Parent & Carers Council

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May at 6.30pm.

All are welcome - please come along if you can.

Absences

As always, if your child is absent from school, please let us know by email or phone before 10am. If we don't hear from you, we'll make contact with you for clarification.

Primary Athletics

Our budding athletes will be disappointed to hear that the annual Primary Athletics competition has been cancelled due to the work being done on the track at Picky. This is a shame but will be back again in 2025.

Holiday Dates

School will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

- Monday 6th May (May Day Holiday)
- Monday 3rd June (Staff Inservice Day)

Term 4 Timetable

This term's timetable follows a fortnightly cycle where I will be in one school for 3 full days one week, and 2 full days the next. Should you need to contact me urgently please do so on either of the following telephone numbers:

Stenness: 850 212 Orphir: 811 265

	Odd Weeks	Even Weeks
Monday	Stenness	Orphir
Tuesday	Orphir	Stenness
Wednesday	Stenness	Orphir
Thursday	Orphir	Stenness
Friday	Stenness	Orphir

Upcoming Events - please note these down. Some of the dates may be subject to change, and there will certainly be additions to this list but we'll keep you informed as we go along

Date	Event	Notes
Monday 22 nd - Friday 26 th April incl	P7 Residential Trip to Hoy	
Thursday 25 th April	Club Golf for P4-6	Organised by Michael Swanney
Saturday 27 th April	Tree Planting	Tbc and weather dependent. Check on Seesaw nearer the time
Tuesday 30 th April	Bird Watching at Stenness Lochside	P1-7. We'll walk down to the loch for a morning of bird watching. Please make sure all children are dressed appropriately for the weather, and take wellington boots to school.
Wednesday 1 st May 6.30pm	Parent & Carer Council Meeting	All Welcome
Monday 6 th May	May Day Holiday	School Closed
Wednesday 8 th May	Fluoride Varnish	N-P7
Monday 13 th May	Generation Science Workshop (pm) P4-7	Electric Explorers Workshop
Wednesday 29 th May	STEM Day P5-7	King Street Halls - more info to follow
Monday 3 rd June	Staff Inservice Day	School Closed
Monday 10 th June	School nurses visit to P7s	Transition Event
Thursday 20 th June	Sports Day!	Races will be in the afternoon
Tuesday 25 th & Wednesday 26 th June	P7 Transition Days at Stromness Academy	
Wednesday 26 th June	P7 Parents' Information Evening at Stromness Academy	
Friday 28 th Jun	End of Year Reports Issued	
Wednesday 3 rd July	End of Year Leavers' Assembly and last day of Term 4	2.30pm
Thursday 4 th July	First day of summer holidays	

Finally...

Please enjoy the final term and all the fun things it has in store. It promises to be a busy one but with the busyness comes the great memories, especially for our P7 pupils who finish their primary school journey with us this term and prepare for the next exciting stage in their education at Stromness Academy.

Kind regards as always

Grant Thomson

Linked Head Teacher, Stenness & Orphir Community Schools

