



26th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome back to Term 4. This is our outdoor learning term with all our classes focussed on the natural environment in different contexts. P1/2 are learning about the seashore and P3 are learning about minibeasts. In P4/5 the children are doing a project on birds and wildlife and P6/7 have a topic on plants, they have already turned their classroom into a greenhouse! The topics fit perfectly with some of the other exciting things that are going on at school.

OUTDOOR SPACES



Polycrub

We are very grateful that Sean Stanger has been able to come along and put up our Polycrub so quickly, along with parent helpers. Thank you all so much! It is so exciting to see it evolve in the playground and we are all desperate to use it as our outdoor classroom.



Nursery Cupboard

We are also delighted with our outdoor topic cupboard, as the children call it, in our nursery garden made for us by the Men's Shed. It is great to see our learning spaces develop with the help of our community, and now we have such great resources to make the learning experiences even more special.

Wildlife Garden

A great big well done to the children and staff for getting hundreds of trees planted in our new wildlife garden. We managed to plant them before the holidays and after the snow. Everyone got into the swing of it and a production line of planting, staking, guarding, carrying and wheeling was established in military fashion. The children really took on the challenge. Now we are very proud of our new space and what we are doing for the Species on the Edge Project, whilst learning about our local ecosystem and doing something to help.



Bag the Bruck

Last week, Nursery to P7 took part in Bag the Bruck. We covered different areas around the school and were delighted to be outside on such a beautiful afternoon! It was great to see everyone working together and looking after our developing outdoor space. Thanks to all those who were able to attend!



Next Steps

One of our next steps is to create our fire pit story telling area and to put a drain around our all-weather court. To get the new nets on the football goals and to create a gate through to wildlife garden so we can use and develop the new space.

TRANSITION



P7 will be moving up to Stromness Academy soon and we are working with other primaries and Stromness Academy to make this a successful transition. There will be a time in June, after the Hoy trip, where the P7s go to Stromness Academy on the bus and do a 2 day trial. After

that they will be super excited to make the move. We will have a leavers service for them on the last morning of the term and a guard of honour as they leave the school for the last time.

Our pre-school nursery children will be moving up to P1 soon too and are in the lucky position to be in the same school already. Nursery and P6 will get together and the P6 class will be buddies at break times and this will create familiar faces and people to go to next year. There will also be lots of lovely activities to do together as well as eating lunch in the dining hall again, nearer the end of the term. There will be a little ceremony for the Nursery Children leaving the nursery which will celebrate their experience and wish them well in their primary career. Look out for lots more information and details from the nursery team.

DEFIBRILLATOR

We have a defibrillator in school but have had to follow up to get a case delivered so we can attach the defib to the external wall for the community to use. We are reassured that the case is now on its way, so hopefully we will be able to get that attached and promoted soon. Our Kids Community are organising First Aid lessons for all the school children and maybe even adults who would be interested in learning about the defib.

POTHLES



Great News! We now have our access road mended with a lovely new surface. We no longer have the task of avoiding the craters as we come and go thanks to the Education Department employing BDS to do the job.

STAFFING

We do not have a Lead Practitioner in the Nursery to cover Kayleigh's maternity leave. We have Leah Wood working as a Practitioner and Lee-Anne Gray covering on Tuesdays to support with her expertise from the Early Years Team.

In addition to this, we have now organised for Christina Allnutt, our Principal Teacher, to be in the nursery once a week to support in a leadership capacity so there is always someone in the school to manage and advise on anything tricky that crops up.

Mrs Swanney is on a phased return to P6/7 and is very happy to be back in her class with such lovely children. Miss Marcus will continue to support us to maintain continuity in the learning and teaching this term, as we work back to a consistent routine.

We have a new kitchen lady this term, Karen Sinclair, and she will replace Amanda working alongside Jenny Stevenson who is our Head Cook.

Shona Clouston has taken on Katrina Gray's hours, which is great news, as Support for Learning Assistant. Katrina is now on the supply list and will be in and out of school in this capacity, so we still get to see her now and again too.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Coronation



Our next event in school will be the Coronation Afternoon Tea on the 5th of May and we are looking forward to hosting an event with the Parent Council for our community. Let's hope for some good weather and we may even get outside for a cuppa.

Kind Regards

Emma Jane Rendall