

Firth Primary School - Term 2 Newsletter



19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Term 2 has been full of excitement and lovely Christmas activities. We had an advent activity every day, beginning the festivities by lighting up the Christmas Tree and school lights. Thanks to Peter for all his efforts with that.

We had a fantastic Christmas Dinner with 12 different elements, a huge accomplishment by our festive dinner ladies.

It was great to see so many people come along to support the children to do the Community Christmas Tree Lighting, where the children sang carols and performed Scottish dancing. The Christmas Carol Service in the Church was very well supported, and the instrumentals were exceptional, as well as the singing and presentations from all the children.

Then to conclude a very busy term, we had parties and movies to get us into the holiday mode.

Nursery

This term we have appointed Emily Dennison as a new Early Years Practitioner in the nursery. Caroline Brown has moved on to different things and Laura Flett is still doing supply for us on a weekly basis. Sarah Rendall will continue in the nursery until June to cover Kayleigh Marcus' Lead Practitioner post.



Karen, Alison, Fiona, Kathy

Native Wildlife Project

As part of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project we are doing a whole school project on bats. Bats are rare in Orkney and the Finstown area harbours the largest population. We hope to learn more about their habitat and how we can support their existence. We also hope to do a bat watch!



If you have anything you would like to offer or know anyone who could help us learn about the bats, please get in touch.



Class Trips

Class Teachers are working on trips in line with their projects for the next two terms.

There are already some really exciting things in the pipeline for the WWII project in P6/7.

A Parent Council contribution towards costs has helped greatly with making these happen across the school.

P7 also have their Hoy Trip in April to look forward to.

Attendance

The Local Authority Policy for Attendance is being implemented this year. As a school we have not yet sent out letters to parents of children who have less 95% attendance. This will start in February when we do our next data upload.

Please be assured that if your child has been off for medical reasons this will be taken into account when letters are sent.



Progress & Attainment

Teachers will upload assessed pieces of work into the Progress and Attainment Folder on Seesaw as the work is completed in class.

This means that not all classes will upload evaluated pieces at the same time.

Siblings in different classes may get their information at different times during the term, but they will get the same curricular areas evaluated and the same number of assessed pieces across the length of the term.



LEARNING ACROSS THE FOUR CONTEXTS AT FIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 2 2023/24 - P1/2/3 - Miss Allnutt, Mrs Leitch, Miss Moodie

Opportunities for personal achievement

On Monday mornings we have a check in when any news and achievements can be shared with the teachers and the class.

We continue to have a Star of the Week on Fridays, when pupils are chosen for any exceptional achievements during the week.

Interdisciplinary Learning

In term 2 pupils were very interested in a globe which was brought into the class. We learned about the different continents and oceans that make up our planet, and some of the diversity of animals, planets and food from different continents.

We also found out about electricity and what we use it for. We looked at how electricity can be made and we spent an exciting morning with P6/7 teaching us how to make electrical circuits.

The Curriculum

'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

In term 2 pupils have continued to work in their pupil groups to help with activities to support the school community.

The junior librarians have helped us to understand how to use the library and to enjoy stories in groups in the library.

Pupils took part in the local Christmas Tree lighting, practicing carols to sing at the event and taking part in a Ceilidh.

All pupils made table decorations for our Christmas Lunch.

We have been improving our literacy skills by learning to retell a story. This has helped us with constructing our own stories with a beginning, middle and end, as well as with using new vocabulary and lots of listening and talking and teamwork skills too.

We have been using Emotion Works to understand our emotions better, learning emotion words, how we feel when we experience different emotions and the triggers for our emotions.

In maths we were exploring number, how to create and continue patterns, as well as learning about the days and months and the properties of 2D shapes.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

Opportunities for personal achievement

We have some pupils who have been achieving medals and grades in both dancing and gymnastics this term.

Interdisciplinary Learning

Our topic this term has been Materials, and we have done a few different investigations to explore this subject.

We have done various activities linking to our writing including being detectives for a 'crime scene' and drama to act out from a character's perspective.

Whole school advent activities have kept us very busy through December, the class have done a super job decorating the classroom!

The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

We all had a super time at the Firth community tree lighting, singing carols in the hall and then the very fun ceilidh! Thank you to Mrs. Rafferty for all her help with the dancing practice.

Children in Need was a great day! We all participated in a 'Bearpee' challenge and raised a fantastic amount with the stalls.

The class enjoyed the Norwegian musicians we were lucky enough to have come into the school to perform to us and teach us some dances too.

We have been learning some BSL this past term which includes some Christmas signs.

Merry Christmas!



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects



LEARNING ACROSS THE FOUR CONTEXTS AT FIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 2 2023/24 - P6/7 - Miss Clements

Opportunities for personal achievement

P6/7 have taken part in a Sumdog competition and competitions run by the JRSOs and Reading Ambassadors this term.

Alongside the JRSOs and Librarians, Reading Ambassadors have also been working hard to implement their ideas throughout the school.

We have shared our literacy work with P4/5 through reading our 'tales of fear' and shared our reading recommendations through class 'Book Talks'.

There has also been success out of school in Horse Riding, Motorcross and Darts that we have celebrated as a class.

P7 JRSOs led a 'Design a sign' competition.

P7 Librarians running sessions in the library.

P6/7 Leadership sessions with Michael Swanney and making plans for Terms 3 and 4.

Reading Ambassadors promoting reading through the school and running the 'Book cover bunting' competition.

P6/7 being leaders in their Pupil Groups running Children in Need and launching the first ever Firth Newspaper.

Being part of the Tree lighting service and dancing

Singing and playing instruments as part of the Carol Service and leading end of term activities

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Interdisciplinary Learning

STEAM Challenges linked to our 'Electricity and Renewables' topic such as using diodes to light up playdough creations.

Norwegian Musicians visited us, and we learnt some Norwegian phrases whilst practising our dance moves!

As part of our Firth advent, we have made decorations, taken part in challenges and developed our teamwork skills.

We used our leadership skills in shared topic learning with P1-3 on our Electricity topics.

The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Beginning our Talk for Writing journey and writing a tale of fear based on our Model Text, 'Red'.

Learning German, starting with numbers, basic phrases and colours.

Looking at Addition and Subtraction, word problems and problem solving in Maths.

Completing Reading Reviews as an alternative homework task in our big book.

Completing our first class novel study and continuing to share reading recommendations through discussion and 'First Chapter Fridays'

Curriculum areas and subjects

Dates for the Diary:

JANUARY

8th January – Back to School

18th January – Parent Council Meeting

25th January – Burns Supper (school dinner) wear something tartan if you can!

FEBRUARY

15th February – School Disco organised by the Parent Council

20th February – In-Service Day

MARCH

7th March – World Book Day – details to follow

11th March – P3/4 Weekly Swimming Sessions Begin

18th March – Parent Council Meeting

26th & 27th March – Progress Meetings with Parents and Carers

29th March – Last Day of Term 3

APRIL

1st April – Easter Monday

15th April – First Day of Term 4

22nd-26th April – P7 Hoy Trip

26th April – P4/5 Bikeability

MAY

6th May – May Day Holiday

20th May – P4/5 Swimming Sessions Last Day

23rd May – Parent Council Meeting

JUNE

3rd June – In-Service Day

10th June – End of Year Progress Reports

20th June – Sports Day

25th & 26th June – Transition Days for P7 to Stromness Academy

JULY

3rd July – Leavers Service at 10am – Guard of Honour at 3:30pm

3rd July – Last Day of Term 4

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Kind Regards

Emma Jane Rendall