



26th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a super 3rd term and have achieved lots of different things we'd like to share.

READING SCHOOLS AWARD

Firth Primary has been the first school in Orkney to receive the Scottish Book Trust award for being a Reading School. This was an accolade for the Reading Ambassadors in P6/7 and a well deserved award for all their hard work and motivation for the initiative they led this year, promoting reading for enjoyment. There was even more excitement as we had Vivian French, a well known children's author, visit the school and present the award. The children were interviewed for Radio Orkney and will be in the Orcadian soon to celebrate their success.



ATTENDANCE



Our final data upload of the year will be in June. We will look at attendance again and give you the percentages on Seesaw. You do not need to worry about this if your child has been off for illness or other authorised reasons. Our school is sitting at 96% and is above the national average. The inspectors were very pleased with this statistic.

STAFFING MODEL - 2024/25

Our staffing model for next year has been agreed by the Local Authority after considering our increasing numbers; the final model has 4 classes and a nursery:

- P7 - Lucy Clements
- P5/6 - Christina Allnutt
- P3/4 - Kirstin Swanney
- P1/2 - Emma Moodie & Emma Drever
- N - Kayleigh Marcus, Chloe Flett, Emily Dennison, Molly Atkinson

We are delighted to say we have appointed Emily Dennison and Molly Atkinson as our Early Years Practitioners in the Nursery this term. They will join Chloe Flett as our permanent members of staff. Sarah will remain as our temporary Lead Practitioner until Kayleigh Marcus returns in June from maternity leave.

FIRST AID & THE DEFIBRILLATOR

After some time of waiting, we now have the case for our defibrillator to go outside and be available for community use. We have had 3 lots of pupil groups who have worked on this project over the years, so we are really glad to have this in place.



Our current P4-7 pupils have had defib training as part of their First Aid sessions lead by Mark Rendall. The children would now like to offer the training to their families and wider community. If this is something you would be interested in, the Kids Community group will get that organised in term 4.

SCHOOL INSPECTION



We had a very interesting and informative experience when HMIe and the Care Inspectorate visited the school last week. They did a short model inspection which meant they looked at two Quality Indicators in the primary and five in the nursery. We also had an HNI (Health & Nutrition Inspector) and a Lay Person who looked at the school context more specifically, including school meals and Food & Nutrition throughout the school. They compared our self-evaluation to what they were able to see themselves, and thankfully they agreed and were happy. We had lots of people in from our school community and we are very grateful for the tremendous support received.

The report will be published in approximately 6 weeks. We will upload the document to our website and let you know it is available when it arrives.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

After our inspection and the advice given, we remind everyone that they should have a PE kit for class PE and itinerant PE with Mrs Rafferty. The inspectors were happy with the lessons but did advise that all earrings should be removed and if they couldn't be removed they should be taped up.

PE Kit:

Children will need a change of footwear, a pair of shorts or suitable leggings and a t-shirt for PE lessons. They can keep their kit on their peg in a PE kit bag with their name on it.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Our Polycrub has been completed and is looking super, thank you to Douglas Drever who fitted out the inside this term with help from a few other members of our school community. Shaun Stanger put up the frame last term and now we are ready for action. We have also removed some old planters from the playground and have nice new raised beds donated by the Men's Shed. The children are planning to do some 'grow your own' planting so they will be well used. The Eco Group have bought and instated a super composter for food scraps from break times (apple cores etc), and are working towards producing compost and natural fertiliser.

We have members of the community who are going to help us with what happens next and to advise the children on how to prepare the soil and what to plant. If anyone would like to help with the Polycrub and looking after our school garden, please get in touch.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

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



LEARNING ACROSS THE FOUR CONTEXTS AT FIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 3 2023/24 – P6/7 – Miss Clements

Opportunities for personal achievement

We have been sharing achievements on our class noticeboard.

P6/7 have taken part in a Sumdog competition.

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

We have achieved our 'Reading schools' Core status which is testament to the hard work of the Reading Ambassadors and Librarians.

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

Interdisciplinary Learning

WW2 Trips to the Italian Chapel, the Ness Battery and the Scapa Flow Museum on Hoy.

WW2 exhibition of Personal Projects showing individual research into an area of WW2.

Participation in the Holocaust Memorial Day webinar.

Learning First Aid with Mark Rendall and how to use the newly fitted defibrillator and a visit from the Orkney Drugs Dog.

Visits from Britt Marcus as part of World Book Day and Developing the Young Workforce, and from parents linked to topics and wider school events.

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

P6/7 leading the Burns Lunch by reciting poetry.

Pupil Council providing tours of the school for the School Inspectors

Implementing P6/7 Leadership following sessions last term.

P6/7 being leaders in their Pupil Groups, working towards a range of accreditations.

P7 leading the organisation and running of the PJ Disco

Reading Ambassadors running the World Book Day Café and preparing for it.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Continuing our Talk for Writing journey and writing a set of instructions based on 'How to trap a Grass Goblin' and a portal story based on Alice in Wonderland.

In Maths, looking at 3D Shape, compass directions, scale, angles, time, money, statistics, written multiplication and division.

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

Applying our Emotion Works knowledge to topics within WW2 such as the military and Evacuation.

Curriculum areas and subjects

Learning across the four contexts at Firth Primary P4/5 Term



Opportunities for personal achievement

Lots of achievements for the class this term: dancing, climbing, football and learning the keyboard at home.

We have also done very well in the Young Writer's poetry competition and very much look forward to the published book coming out in a few month's time.

Interdisciplinary Learning

We have been exploring Vikings this term and have done many learning activities.

We did some baking of bread and made butter to accompany this which was very tasty! Construction of longhouses, stop motion videos based on St. Magnus, Plan, do, review activities which was child led with their learning and we had a fantastic morning on a guided walking tour of Kirkwall with Sandra Miller from Environmental Historic Scotland and a visit to the St. Magnus Cathedral with Fran Hollindrake the custodian telling us all about the building including where St. Magnus' remains are.

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

Mr. Rendall came into school and delivered an excellent basic first aid workshop and we learned how to use a defibrillator - we now have one installed at the school building too!

We had the Orkney Drug's Dog visiting the school too.
World Book day was great fun to dress up, do activities based on the book 'Flooded' and have a book swap.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

The class took part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch and we gathered data for the amount of different birds we seen and then created graphs, including using digital technology.

We have done poetry, newspaper and persuasive writing.

We did an investigation into food preservation techniques

Curriculum areas and subjects



LEARNING ACROSS THE FOUR CONTEXTS AT FIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 3 2023-2024 P1/2/3

Opportunities for personal achievement

We award a Star of the week for special achievements, we share this with our families on Seesaw.

We are encouraged to share successes from outside school with the class.

Work is displayed on the display boards in the classrooms and throughout the school.

Interdisciplinary Learning

We have been learning about Famous People this term including writers, activists, artists, sportspeople and musicians.

We were visited by a local musician during our focus on the orchestra.

We recently learned about local explorer John Rae and visited Stromness Museum and St Magnus Cathedral to find out more.

On World Book Day we were visited by local Author/Illustrator Britt Harcus who showed us how she creates her books.

We put our learning in Maths and Health and Wellbeing to use in our Role Play shop and cafe, planning healthy meals and using money.

The Curriculum

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

We have been learning about our school values and how to keep ourselves Ready, Respectful and Safe.

All P1/2/3s are part of our Pupil Groups identifying and planning how to make our school the best it can be for our whole school community.

We have been very excited to have Winnie the Pooh and his friend visit our class. In writing we have been writing letters to the characters, learning a story and improving our writing with adjectives.

We have continued to develop our spelling, reading and writing through Sounds Write.

We have been learning about Time, Money and Shape in Topic Maths and Addition and Subtraction in Number Maths.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects