



10th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Here are a few updates before we head into our February break. There have been amendments to our original plan, so it is good to get some dates confirmed and we think we have some great experiences for the children for the remainder of the year.

STAFFING UPDATE



Our new Class Teacher for P5/6 should be starting with us on the 18th of February. We will have a welcome day on the first day back and send out some information to introduce Mrs Hannah Cheyne.

Sydney Omand has finished her placement in P7 now, and we thank her for her hard work and wish her all the best for her future.

A staff list can be found on the website:

blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/or/firth/

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We had a meeting for parents in regards to the P7 Hoy Trip before the Christmas holidays. We will be sending out specific information on final payments in plenty of time. Everything else is organised and up to date.



SWIMMING



Swimming lessons have been rescheduled and will happen across an 8 week block. These lessons are aimed at P4/5 so we will work out a solution to the cross over and let you know the plan. The lessons will start on the 22nd of April, which is the first day back after the Easter holidays.

SCHOOL BUILDING

We have a new door in the P1/2 and Nursery corridor which was done last term. This was done to zone the nursery area for parents and to cut down on drafts. This has worked well and we will now work on creating a better space in our support for learning bay upstairs which should be happening in the February break.

Our heating system has been unreliable for some time, but our building inspector has been in and it seems to be fixed. It is very warm now and we are not anticipating any more disruptions as a result!

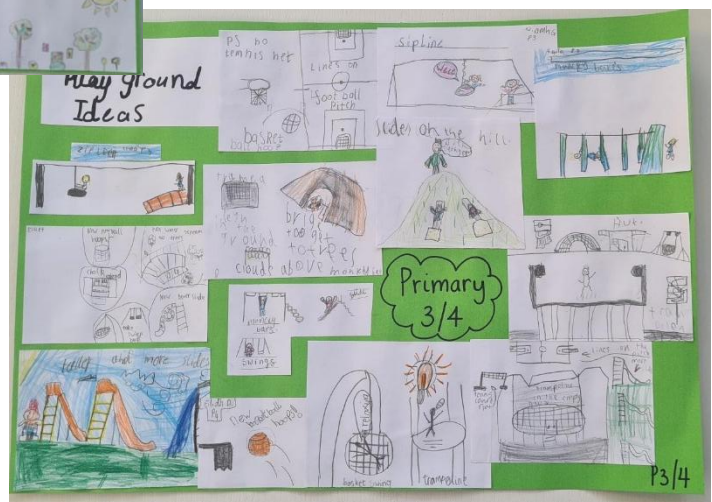
PLAYGROUND PLANS

We are extremely lucky to have the Parent Council working towards developing our playground. They have already started raising money, which is very impressive, and they have asked the children for ideas about what they would like for their playground.



Today we had a playground assembly to make sure we had a good think about our Vision 'Learning to be our best together' inside the building and in the playground. Our Values 'Kindness, Responsibility, Respect, Honest and Friendship' and the rules we aim to achieve 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. We made sure these were fundamental to the changes we wanted to make.

The children were very positive and came up with suggestions for improvements and ideas for developing the spaces even further. We have already made some adjustments that the children felt would improve their play experience, and we asked each class to record ideas for future developments.



Our Pupil Council will now come up with a Playground Guidance which they will share with all the children and staff and they will present it to the Parent Council as one of their actions this year. This will help to make sure our children have great experiences inside and out.



PERFORMANCES

We had planned for performances this year for our older children. This has been on hold until we had a teacher in P5/6. We will be able to plan exactly what that looks like now, after the February break, and we will give you times and dates as soon as possible.

PARTICIPATION FUND

We are making a positive move to encourage all children to have a PE kit with them every week to change into for their PE lesson with Miss Currie and for their Class PE with their teacher. If you would like some help with purchasing a PE kit, please get in touch. We will also purchase some nice spare kits for children to borrow if they forget.

Kind Regards, Emma Jane Rendall

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Dates for the Diary

TERM 3

JANUARY 2025

6th January - First day back for staff and children

13th - 14th January - Interviews for Class Teacher

22nd - 23rd Dental Inspections

24th January - Burns Lunch - Scottish Dialect and Poetry Focus

FEBRUARY 2025

2nd February - Registration week for Nursery and P1

11th February - Safer Internet Day

12th February - Nursery Grandparent Afternoon

13th - 17th February - School Closed

18th February - In-service day

18th February - New Teacher in P5/6

19th February - First day back for pupils

MARCH 2025

6th March - World Book Day

11th March - Fluoride N-P7

25th - 28th March - Music Workshops (tbc)

APRIL 2025

4th April - Expressive Arts Celebration (tbc)

4th April - Last day of school

TERM 4

22nd April - Everyone back at school

22nd April - P4/5 Swimming begins on Tuesdays x8 sessions

MAY 2025

5th May - Easter Monday holiday

26th May - UNCRC week

JUNE 2025

2nd June - In-service day

3rd June - Nursery Sports Day

9th June - Primary End of Year Reports out

10th June - Last Day of P4/5 Swimming

12th June - Primary Sports Day

16th June - 20th June - P7 Hoy Trip

24th - 25th June - P7 Transition Days

25th June - P7 Parents Information Evening at Stromness Academy

JULY 2025

1st July - Nursery Graduation Day

4th July - Leaver's Service in the morning

4th July - Last day of school