

Orphir Community School

Term 4 Newsletter

Friday 5 June 2026

Calendar for this term - please keep an eye on these updates as it may change!

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Music AM	PE AM		Strings AM	Art PM
			Netball till 14 May	Football from 1 May

	JUNE
9	Transition Day • P7 to KGS • Nursery to P6 - see attached letter
10	Transition Day • P7 to KGS only
10	OCSF - meeting 6pm
19	Pupil Reports Issued
	JULY
1	Leavers' Service - please remember EVERYONE is welcome to come to this. Normally both classes may or may not sing, strings players normally do a turn too. From 1.45pm
	Leavers' Disco - 6-7.30pm for P1-7 children, drop off event.
2	Last day of term

Orphir Community School Forum

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 June here at the school at 6 PM. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda for the meeting please contact Liz Johnston (Chair) or contact Shona here at the school.

Breakfast Club
New P1 Transition
Fundraising for 2026-27
P7 Information for 2026-27 hoodies, trips, fundraising, etc
Hoy feedback - Dawn Williams
PC Chairs Feedback
Staffing update
New Clerk/Secretary



Orphir Community School

Orphir, Orkney, KW17 2RB

Head Teacher: Grant Thomson

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Web: <https://www.orphircommunityschool.co.uk/>

5 June 2026

Dear families,

Next year due to an increase in our school roll we are moving to a three-class structure as follows:

- P1/2 with Mrs Williams & Mrs Rendall
- P3/4 current vacant post
- P5/6/7 Mr Dearness & Katherine

To give our children a flavour of what this will be like we will have a half day transition day on Tuesday 9th June from 11.10 am to 3.30 pm where our new P1s will join us for a chunk of the day and the rest of the cohort will move up.

- Our current pre-school children and P1s (who will be next years P1/2) will spend some time in Class Base 1 with Ms Williams.
- Our current P2s and P3s (who will be next years P3/4) will be carrying out some activities in Class Base 3 (Tardis) with me (as we do not yet know who their teacher will be).
- Our current P4s, P5s and P6s (who will be next years P5/6/7) will remain in Class Base 2 with Mr Dearness.

We hope that this will give the children a little taster of what it will look and feel like next year with having all three Class Bases in action.

Wednesday will be a normal day where the children stay in their normal classes apart from P7 who will be at KGS - I am confident they will have a great couple of days.

Once our class teacher has been recruited, I will pass this information to families and if time allows will invite the successful candidate to visit the children and the school before the end of term. At this stage I am not anticipating the above structure will change but it very well could. If it does, of course you will all be made aware.

Kind regards,

Grant Thomson

Grant Thomson
Head Teacher



EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & HOUSING

Director: James Wylie,
Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY



Website: www.orkney.gov.uk

Email: education.leisure@orkney.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer – **FOR P7S ONLY**

The Community Learning, Development and Employability (CLDE) Youth Services Team are pleased to offer a programme of activities for young people in Orkney who will be moving from **P7 into S1** at Stromness Academy or Kirkwall Grammar School following the summer holidays.

This programme has been developed using youth work principles to create a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for young people, whether they are feeling excited or anxious about starting secondary school. Through a range of interactive activities and group games, participants will have opportunities to build confidence and further develop a variety of skills, including:

Decision Making – Young people will take part in activities and games that encourage informed choices. This supports the development of confidence and independence, helping them make positive decisions as they become familiar with new routines and what will be expected of them in secondary school.

Teamwork – Young people will take part in collaborative challenges and social activities that develop teamwork skills. This promotes cooperation, relationship-building, and a sense of belonging, while supporting the formation of new friendships ahead of S1.

Problem-Solving and Confidence – Activities will encourage young people to work through challenges together, supporting the development of resilience and self-confidence.

Communication – Young people will take part in group discussions and social activities that develop communication skills. This promotes self-expression, active listening, and confidence in social situations, helping them feel more comfortable within their new peer group and school environment.

Stromness Academy

Tuesday 14th July

Wednesday 15th July

Thursday 16th July

Kirkwall Grammar School

Tuesday 28th July

Wednesday 29th July

Thursday 30th July

All sessions will be held within Stromness Academy or Kirkwall Grammar School, running from 10am to 2pm, with lunch provided.

All activities are free of charge and have been designed to be flexible and accessible. Sessions will be delivered by CLDE Youth Workers, with additional support from partner organisations.

You will be asked to complete a consent form before the start date. This ensures the team is aware of any requirements, allowing us to provide a safe and supportive environment for all young people.

If your young person would like to take part, please contact us at cld@orkney.gov.uk to reserve a place. When emailing, please clearly state which school your young person will be attending and your preferred dates.

For any questions or queries, please contact Megan on 07407 794041

Megan Clouston
Youth and Family Engagement Worker
CLDE – Youth Services



New S1 Summer Social Fun Days



Join the CLDE Youth Services Team
in Stromness Academy and
Kirkwall Grammar School

For free games and activities for all young people
moving up to secondary school after the summer

Partners



confidence building

school building familiarisation

meet new people, make new friends

...and much much more

Lunch and
refreshments
provided

14th, 15th, 16th July 2026 at
Stromness Academy
10am - 2pm

28th, 29th, 30th July 2026 at
Kirkwall Grammar School
10am - 2pm

To book a space
please contact:



cld@orkney.gov.uk



01856 873535
ext 2408

Education, Leisure and Housing

School term dates - 2026 / 2027 (all dates are inclusive)

Term 1	Tuesday 18 August – Friday 9 October. (39 days)
October holidays	Monday 12 October – Tuesday 27 October.
Term 2	Wednesday 28 October – Friday 18 December. (38 days)
Christmas holidays	Monday 21 December – Monday 4 January.
Term 3	Tuesday 5 January – Friday 26 March. (55 days)
Schools closed	Thursday 11 February – Tuesday 16 February.
Spring holidays	Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April. (Easter Monday 29 March).
Term 4	Monday 12 April – Friday 2 July. (58 days)
Schools closed	Monday 3 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed	Monday 31 May.
Staff Only, In-service days are: - Monday 17 August. - Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 October. - Tuesday 16 February. - Monday 31 May.	