

Orphir Community School

Term 4 Newsletter

Tuesday 12 May 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

	MAY
12	Generation Science for P1-3 class
13	Max Literacy Project - evening Foy - all parents welcome and positively encouraged to attend, 6.30-7.30pm
14	Possibly last netball session after school
19	P7 Guidance Visits from KGS staff
22	Max Literacy Project - visit from Victoria Reinhart
28	P7 Transition Sports at Picky Centre
	JUNE
1	In-service - school closed to pupils
2	Library Van - 0930-1030
	Sports Day - all afternoon from 1.00pm
3	OCSF - meeting 6pm
4	Parent meeting for P7 parents and P7 pupils if they wish, Thursday 4th June 2026 6pm at KGS
9/10	Transition Days Details to follow for nursery transitions into P1 • P7 to KGS • P3 to P4-7 • Nursery to P1
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

P4-7 Max Literacy Project Showcase

Wednesday 13 May, 6.30-7.30pm

The children in the P4-7 class have been working really hard in conjunction with the Soullisquoy Printmakers studio looking at especially Orkney dialect and are really looking forward to showing you their work tomorrow night.

Message From Kazia Watson (Netball)

Unfortunately we have had to pull out of the Peedie schools tournament this weekend due to a shortage of players. This means there is no more netball fixtures, so we have decided that we will stop training for the year.

So no training this week and we will restart after the summer holidays.

However, well done to the Stenphir Tigers for being runners up in the primary B knockout on Saturday! (Including Teagan who missed the picture)

The P4/5 team also had a great season and managed to avoid the camera entirely. Well done to everyone who has played over the year!



Holiday

A reminder that school is closed for pupils on the following days:

- Monday 1st June.

Orphir Community School Forum

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd 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.

Four Contexts of Learning

Term 3 Contexts of Learning are attached for both P1-3 and 4-7 classes.

From Democratic Services:

Invite to school children to take part in Norwegian Constitution Day – 17 May 2026

Each year on 17 May, Orkney is one of the very few places outside Norway to mark Norwegian Constitution Day. This national day commemorates the signing of Norway's first constitution in 1814, an event that signalled the country's independence from Denmark.

Given that Orkney was once part of the Norwegian Kingdom, the day provides a fitting opportunity to recognise our shared past and celebrate the lasting Norse heritage that has shaped the islands we know today. This influence is visible all around us, from the Norse-derived names of our islands, to popular local names such as Freya, Inga, Magnus and Thorfinn, and to the iconic St Magnus Cathedral, built by the Viking ancestors who once settled in Orkney.

To celebrate the occasion, Orkney Islands Council works in partnership with the Orkney–Norway Friendship Association to deliver a programme of events. These include a traditional “Tog” (parade) from Kirkwall Harbour to St Magnus Cathedral, passing along Bridge Street and Albert Street.

In previous years, local schools have enthusiastically taken part in the parade, and the Council is keen for this involvement to continue, even though this year's celebrations fall on a Sunday.

We are therefore pleased to invite schoolchildren to participate in this celebration of Orkney's Norse identity, provided they are accompanied by an adult.

Children and accompanying adults who wish to join the parade are asked to gather outside the Orkney Ferries main office in Kirkwall at 2.50pm, ready for the procession to set off at 3pm. The parade will be led by the Kirkwall City Pipe Band.

Participants are encouraged to bring along their own handmade Orkney or Norwegian flags, although handheld flags will also be available on the day.

On arrival at the cathedral courtyard, there will be speeches and the singing of the Norwegian National Anthem, followed by a concert inside the cathedral featuring pupils from Kirkwall Grammar School. Admission is free and members of the public are warmly invited to attend. A programme for the day is attached for further information.

If parents or guardians have any questions, please email

democratic.services@orkney.gov.uk.

NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY – Sunday 17 MAY 2026

- 15:00** Tog sets off from Kirkwall Pierhead led by Kirkwall City Pipe Band
(Everyone welcome to join the procession)
- 15:10** (approx.) Arrival of Tog outside Cathedral
Norwegian National Anthem
Welcome speech by OIC Convener, Cllr Graham Bevan
Reply from Norwegian Guest of Honour, Mayor of Grimstad, Beate Skretting
- 15:30** ONFA concert in the Cathedral (*KGS Pupils*)

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.	

Parents Shaping Support



Drop- in session allowing parents to have a voice in shaping local services with any ideas for support on their journey into education and employment.

**Monday 25th May
12pm - 2pm,
Room 3, Town Hall, Kirkwall**

- **Identify Gaps**
- **Highlight Barriers**
- **Share Knowledge**
- **Explore Solutions**

However, If you can't make it this day we still want to hear from you!



Please scan the QR code to complete the anonymous survey to have your input!

These courses would benefit us on our journey to employment...



Learning across The Four Contexts at Orphir P1-3 Term 3

Opportunities for personal achievement

Researched an amazing creature of our choice and created a fact file about it

Created a model or costume of our chosen amazing creature

Spoke in front of an audience in our class assembly to share our model/costume and facts about our chosen amazing creature

Took part in preparing fruit for the Healthy Food Tuck Shop

Tried different fruits we hadn't tasted before

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

Class assembly to share our learning with parents and the rest of the school, including the nursery

World Book Day - dressed up as characters from books, painted our favourite book, scene or character and contributed to a whole school display in the hall

A number of children attended the Burns' Supper

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Interdisciplinary Learning

Within Amazing Creatures Project

- Listening and Talking - class assembly and collaborative work when creating costumes/models/fact files
- Reading and Writing - finding out facts and writing them in our fact files
- Maths - measuring the size of creatures
- Art and Design - creating models/costumes of our creatures

French - talking/singing, listening, reading, writing

Maths - addition to 10, 20, 100, fractions, time and measure (estimating and measuring in non-standard units for P1 and P2, and in metres and centimetres, kg and $\frac{1}{2}$ kg and litres for P3)
Writing - created a fact file on an amazing creature, acrostic poems for ice/snow and spring
Reading - for information (fact files)
Listening and Talking - gave a presentational talk for assembly
HWB - Mindful March
Art - drew detailed observational drawings of daffodils
RME - learnt about the five main world religions
French - numbers to 10 - singing songs, reading and writing, months of the year, making croissants

Curriculum areas and subjects

Opportunities for personal achievement

- Pupils all engaged wonderfully with our swimming sessions and it was a joy to watch their progress over the 6 weeks of swimming. I was also proud of how independent and organised they became when changing and preparing for the lesson.
- We have entered into the Scotland's history 300 words writing competition and in the process have done 6 mini Scottish history topics to develop understanding of the historical themes.



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

- We had a tremendous trips to Stromness (3 in total not including swimming) visiting the Printworks, museum and the Pier arts centre and have:
 - Represented our school wonderfully
 - Developed a Foy to share Orkney dialect based work with the wider community
- We also ran the Red Nose Day fundraising event and the healthy eating tuck shops enriching the school environment for all.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Interdisciplinary Learning

- Our Farming topic provided a rich mixture of opportunities for learning. Combining organisers from Social Studies, Literacy, Expressive arts and numeracy we:
 - Made perfectly placed prints with Soulisquoy Printmakers
 - Wrote life of 8 year old pieces linked to our Farming history Kirbuster trip.
 - Completed an exhibition of work for the 13th of May that will blow everyone away 😊

- In numeracy we all made fantastic progress in our times tables and multiplication skills. The accuracy in maths has been particularly impressive with children taking their time with the new strategies to get it right.
- Worked closely with an author and wider team to develop new Orkney stories.
- We developed a greater understanding of Buddhism.
- We all learned about a balanced diet and the benefits of super fruits and veg.

Curriculum areas and subjects