

Orphir Community School

Term 4 Newsletter

Friday 8 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 - info to come out later in the term
	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. This event is an opportunity for all the parents and family members to come in and see what they have been up to. It will be held on Wednesday 13 May from 6.30-7.30pm in the hall and we will have refreshments available. Please complete the following link so that we know how many people are coming.

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

Look out for our Term 3 Four Contexts posters coming soon. These are the opportunities for students to achieve both in and beyond the classroom, which can help build confidence, motivation, and resilience and the posters are our way of sharing it with you.

2026-2027 School Improvement Planning

At this point in the year we begin brainstorming what our improvement priorities will be for the next session. This might be an area of the curriculum as staff we feel we want to change, improve or develop. It can sometimes be a project or initiative that might positively impact the experience that the children have here at our school. If any of you have ideas of what we could develop next year, please contact the school and share your ideas for us to discuss around the table. We are always keen to explore your voice so please reach out if you have something to share.

Road Safety

We talk a lot about keeping yourself safe coming to and from school and Mr Dearness did an assembly last week on this very topic. When we send the bairns home on the taxi and the bus, there is a section on the school transport form about parental responsibility:

Parental Responsibility

Parents/carers are ultimately responsible for the proper and safe behaviour of their child when getting on, whilst travelling and getting off the transport provided. They are also responsible between home and the pick-up and drop-off point, immediately prior to boarding school transport each morning and again following the afternoon journey.

It is advisable that parents/carers wait at their children's drop-off point and accompany them across the road if necessary as parents/carers are responsible for their children's

safety after they have left the school transport vehicle. School bus drivers are not required to help children cross roads.

Parents/carers are responsible for advising their child in road safety.

Never take a signal from **any** driver to cross - they may not be able to see if the road is clear in both directions.

Parents/carers are also reminded that they are ultimately responsible for the behaviour of their child when travelling on school transport. Parents/carers have a duty to read through the Code of Conduct with their children and explain its importance and consequences for not adhering to it.

Make sure the child is aware of what to do if the transport is late or does not arrive, or if they fail to catch the transport for any reason. (Parents/carers are responsible for their child until transport arrives.)

Pupils should wear, or carry, something bright or hi viz and dress warmly in case there is an unexpected delay.

We are happy in an emergency situation to hold the children at the school for a short while if you are not able to meet the bus or taxi dropping off at home but do please let us know. This is important now with the light nights and possibly even more important in the dark nights in winter.

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.	

+ SHARE YOUR VOICE!

This research has
ethical approval
from UCL (England)



Share your **experiences of Special Educational Needs and Disability** practice and provision in a short **online interview**. Participants will receive a £20 **voucher**!



<https://tinyurl.com/yshm5wf8>



You are invited to take part if:

- You are a **parent or caregiver** of a child with special educational needs or disability or;
- You are an **education practitioner (teacher, TA, or school leader)** with experience supporting children with special educational needs
- You live in **Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, or Finland**

To sign up:

Scan the QR code or email Dr. Catherine Antalek at **c.antalek@ucl.ac.uk**

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...

