

Orphir Community School

Term 4 Newsletter

Wednesday 29 April 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
1	Football starts
4	HOLIDAY - school closed to pupils
5-8	P7 Residential Trip to Hoy
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

Welcome

Boom! Term 4 is here and we are already in week 2. This term always flies past as there is so much going on and transition activities for our Nursery, P3 and P7 pupils begin so that they are fully prepared for their next school chapter. I love this term as the days are so long and light and the smell of the cut grass reminds me of my own primary school days making grass forts with the cut grass in the playing field, not to mention those extended playtimes we used to get on particularly bonny days.

Term 3 Attendance

Our overall attendance for term 3 was just over 95% and for the year so far is sitting at just below 94%. Thank you all for all that you do to get everyone to school yet being mindful to 48 hours rules for illnesses too! Our percentages are definitely heading in the right direction - thanks again.

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.

Staffing News

Huge congratulations to Claire who was successful in the Support for Learning Assistant post. Claire started her new role on Monday (20 April) and has already made a huge impact on the team here at Orphir.

Applications for the post of Janitor are now closed and we are due to interview for this on the 7th May.

Joanne Miller from UHI Orkney College is currently working in P1-3 on her final teaching placement. Joanne is here with us for a total of 6 weeks and it is lovely having her with us. Congratulations to Ms Williams who ran the London Marathon on Sunday dressed as a clown! Running a marathon is hard enough but to do it in fancy dress is a particular accomplishment.

Holiday

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

- Monday 4th May.
- Monday 1st June.

Wider Achievement

The time has come for us to celebrate more of our fantastic wider achievements. Please let us know if there is anything that we can celebrate and acknowledge by completing this form and sending any photos to admin.orphir@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk or grant.thomson@orkney.gov.uk Deadline for all responses will be Wednesday 6th May with our final celebration assembly happening later in the term.

[Orphir Community School Celebrating Wider Achievement Terms 3 & 4 - Click on this to complete form](#)

P7 Hoy Residential

Ms Williams and our 4 P7s will be in Hoy from Tuesday 5th May to Friday 8th May. We hope they all have a super time - they will sleep well on Friday 8th that's for sure. They will be joined in Hoy with P7 pupils from Stromness and Stenness this year. Keep an eye on the Outdoor Education FB page for photos - they are pretty good at sharing what the bairns are up to daily.

<https://www.facebook.com/learningthroughadventure>

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.

[Max Literacy Project PLEASE COMPLETE BY FRIDAY 8 MAY 2026](#)

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.

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.

Finally from me...

The last thing I want to say is directly to our four fantastic P7s - enjoy your last term at Orphir and look forward and enjoy KGS and all the new experiences and opportunities that is going to be on offer for you. Feel free to pop back and visit any time you wish and the door is always open. I will touch base again in the last week of term with a final staffing update for next session.

Kind regards

Grant Thomson

Grant Thomson
Head Teacher

Education, Communities and Housing

School term dates - 2025 / 2026 (all dates are inclusive)

Term 4	Monday 20 April – Thursday 2 July. (52 days)
Schools closed	Monday 4 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed	Monday 1 June.

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.	

the Parenting Toolkit

simple steps
to happy & confident
children



The Parenting Toolkit offers simple, effective tools and practical ideas that help make family life smoother and more connected. Join other parents of school-aged children in a friendly, relaxed space where everyone learns together.

When: 21 May 2026 for 5 weeks

Where: Balfour Hospital

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nhs-orkney-school-health-team-the-parenting-toolkit-5-week-course-tickets-1988317519224>

For more information or to book onto the course please contact Alison and Lorna,
School Health Team ork.schoolnurses@nhs.scot or 01856 888262