

Orphir Community School

Friday 14 November 2025

News

Thank you!

Please pass on our thanks to our wonderful extended family members and neighbours for joining us at our Peedie Harvest Home on Thursday 6 November. Thanks also go to Beverley Clubley from Orphir Community Association who came along to help our joint event and Graeme Paterson who led our prayer of thanks.

We took an offering to be donated to the Orkney Foodbank which was collected on Wednesday. Our Library Group, part of Pupil Voice, helped pack it up and take it out to Karen's car.



Thank you again!

Children in Need

Thanks to everyone who sent along baking and donations to our bake sale. Thanks to the family members who came along to buy things too and those that sent their bairns with extra money to take baking home.

We are equally amazed and grateful at the support you show the school and the fundraising we support too as a school.

The helpers did a sterling job and they were amazed that we raised £283.19 for Children in Need. We even got a surprise visit from Pudsey!

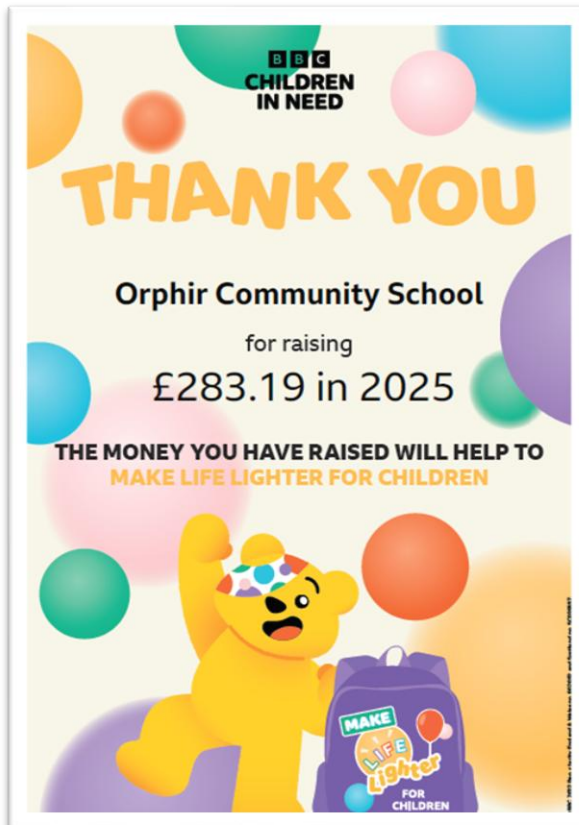
The children all got a goodie and a piece of fudge at break time and some goodies to take home at the end of the day.

Please call in and collect your tubs too. Thanks again everyone - you are so generous every year.





2025



Hi Viz Season

Thank you to all our families helping to make sure our children are safe in the darker afternoons and mornings while travelling to and from school. Remember to drop off any spare hi-vis waistcoats with the school too.

Winter Attire

A few little requests/points to note now that we are approaching more winter and variable weather...

- All children must have a coat - if they don't come with one, we will issue one of our waterproof coats.
- We ask that children are dressed for the weather conditions of the day.
- Children are free to have a pair of dry shoes they can switch and use as indoor shoes if they like. These can be kept here.
- No Crocs when arriving at school or outside in terms 2 and 3 (it's too slippy) - crocs are perfect inside shoes.
- Although we have plenty of spare clothes if some get wet, many children prefer their own so keep this in mind and have a spare set in PE bags if needed.

PE - TUESDAYS

We still have quite a few children without PE kit in school and it is a scramble to find suitable stuff for everyone.

Do let Shona in the school office know if you are struggling to source PE kit for your child(ren) for whatever reason and she will be able to help.

Absence from School

When you are keeping your child off school, please inform the school.

For sickness absence (or running late), it's helpful to get notified by 10.00am and if we don't get notified, we will phone to check. We will always ask what is wrong with your child as at this time of year, there are certain illnesses for which we need to monitor numbers.

For any other absence, please email the school and give a reason. This allows school staff to know what to mark in the register.

EVENTS

Flu Vaccinations

For children who have consent from parents, the vaccination team will be in school on the afternoon of Friday 21st November.

Parent Appointments

26/27 November

Parent appointments are being finalised and will come out on Monday next week. Please look out for them in your child's bag.

Christmas Crafternoon

Please note change of date - December 4th. Christmas Crafternoon

We would like to invite our parents/carers to our Christmas Crafternoon on Thursday 4th December. We will have a Christmassy time with crafts in each class and the middle area in the school end. This will be from 2-3pm and children can go home with parents afterwards as required.

Diary Dates

Please take note of the following diary dates this term...

November 14th: Children in Need.

November 21st: Flu Vaccinations. PM

November 26th: Parent/Carer Information Evening.

November 26th: Norwegian Music Visitors to school.

November 27th: Parent/carers Information Evening.

November 28th: P4-7 John Rae workshop.

Community Event:

November 30th. Christmas Tree Lighting

December 4th. Christmas Crafternoon - parents invited

December 5th: Festive Friday (Christmas jumper day).

December 10th. Christmas Dinner

December 10th: Christmas Service & Nativity.

December 12th: Festive Friday (Christmas jumper day).

December 17th: Christmas Party PM.

December 19th: Festive Friday (Christmas jumper day).

December 19th: Last day of term 2.

School opens on Monday 5th January 2026.



Term Calendars for forward planning below.

Education, Communities and Housing

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

Term 1 2025	Tuesday 19 August* – Friday 10 October. (39 days)
October holidays	Monday 13 October – Tuesday 28 October.
Term 2	Wednesday 29 October – Friday 19 December. (38 days)
Christmas holidays	Monday 22 December – Friday 2 January.
Term 3 2026	Monday 5 January – Friday 3 April. (61 days)
Schools closed	Thursday 12 February – Tuesday 17 February.
Spring holidays	Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April. (Easter Monday 6 April).
Term 4	Monday 20 April – Thursday 2 July. (52 days)
Schools closed	Monday 4 May (May Day holiday).
Schools closed	Monday 1 June.
Staff Only, In-service days are: - Monday 18 August. - Monday 27 – Tuesday 28 October. - Tuesday 17 February. - Monday 1 June.	

Education, Leisure and Housing

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

Term 1 2026	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 2027	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 – Wednesday 30 June. (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.	

Every Child Deserves a Christmas Grant 2025

11 November - 19 December 2025

(From Orkney Charitable Trust form)

Life brings unexpected challenges and at Christmas these pressures can feel even greater. The current cost of living crisis is an ongoing concern to us all. We are all experiencing the cost of everyday essentials like groceries and bills rising faster than incomes and these pressures can be challenging for families.

We are here to support young people in our community. This grant provides assistance towards a Child's Christmas. Please only apply for this grant, if the financial assistance offered will truly make a difference to your child(ren) at Christmastime.

The Charity has worked hard again, to be able to offer these Christmas grant (£60 per child).

For 2025, the £60 grant per child is paid by bank transfer.

To be eligible for the grant, the child must:

1. Be under 16 on the 25th December 2025 and be permanently resident in Orkney
2. Be connected to a professional or voluntary organisation who can verify that a grant would make a significant difference to Christmas this year. For example:

- NHS Worker
- Voluntary Sector Agency
- A Social Worker
- A School Teacher
- Other professional working with the child/family

Please ensure the form is fully and correctly completed, as incomplete forms will slow down the process and may result in no payment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- * Please complete one form per Household, including all children on the one form.
- * Please complete the form only once * No forms will be accepted unless all sections completed, please ensure you include full children name, dates of birth and postal address plus verifier details.
- * Funds are limited and not all applications may be successful.
- * The information provided in this application form will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will never be disclosed to third parties.
- * The information will only be used for the purposes of this application and shall adhere to the relevant GDPR regulations.

We aim to deal with all forms as quickly as possible, usually each Saturday with grants paid on the following Monday.

We hope these grants help add a little magic this Christmas X

[Every Child Deserves a Christmas Grant 2025](#)