

School Roll. Our current school roll is 111 children in the Primary and 24 children in Nursery or our Early Learning and Childcare Unit (12 and 12). This is registration week for nursery so we are unable to confirm exact numbers for next year.

Proposed changes to Nursery.

We have been asked to take part in a pilot project to allow more flexibility for families. The information is on a separate sheet. All going well the new regime will begin in August 17. There are many questions and practicalities to work through and working groups with Whiteness and Urrafirth will be set up so staff can support each other. It is an exciting opportunity as this allows us to have a preview into how the 1140hours free early learning and childcare may work in our context.

Staffing Changes.

Emily Handley is moving on to pastures new, having been successful in her application for the post of Early Years Worker at Happyhansel Primary School. This is a permanent post and we wish her all the very best in her new role. Mrs Carrie Morrison will be the Early Years Worker for 5 days until Mrs Leona Smith returns in June. Mrs Smith is reducing her working hours and a post for her job share partner will be advertised in due course. Whilst Mrs Morrison is undertaking her EYW role, Mrs Violet Casey will backfill her Early Years Assistant role on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Marion Sutherland will then backfill some of Mrs Casey's supervisory hours and Learning Support Assistant.

Mrs Carrie-Ann Bannister returns to her post on the 28th April. Mrs Ana Arnett will continue to cover until she returns. Mrs Amy Colvin is due to return to her post in June! Our nursery pupils are very resilient and take all these changes in their stride! We are pleased that having Mrs Morrison and Mrs Casey offers a level of consistency in this time of change.

The posts of Head Cook and Head Cleaner have yet to be filled. There has been very little interest in these posts to date.

Christmas Events

Our Christmas performances were highly successful again this year. Well done Mrs Leslie for all her hard work directing the show and also to the nursery staff for their production. We held our musical assembly for pupils and some of our instrumentalists and the choir visited Overtonlea. A good time was had by all! Christmas Parties were held for all classes. This year we provided food bags and prizes from our Christmas fundraising efforts.

From the Christmas Card Deliveries, donations, Christmas Cards and photos we raised in excess of £1400. This is a fantastic amount and we are very grateful for the continued support from the community.

Moderation:

For our January in-service day we held a cluster moderation day at Sandwick School. This was followed up by a joined staff meeting to plan an assessment task to carry out which will be sent to national moderation events. Our involvement and the commitment of the staff ensure we are all confident about our assessments and judgements of pupils' achievement of a level.

Parental Involvement

This week we see P5/6 deliver their class assembly to friends and family. P6/7s assembly last term was well attended. This still proves to be popular with parents and will continue this year. P4 and P2/3 also have their assemblies this term.

Mrs Graydon continues to lead a Book Bug session each month in our school library. These have been very well attended and we would like to continue to build on this success. Encouraging early reading is very important to us all here at school.

Unfortunately we have been unable to host family lunches due to staffing changes in the canteen. I really hope we appoint to the post of head cook soon and this popular event can be reinstated.

Quality Assurance Visit

Mrs Maggie Spence, QIO, visited school in December to carry out a quality assurance visit on attainment. In the published results our school was below the Shetland and national average across all levels. Whilst this data is useful and we have taken measures to improve attainment, behind every statistic there is a story and the results were not unexpected due to the level of need in some of our classes. The projections for this year's results are much more promising and with increased teacher confidence through moderation and quality assurance procedures we should see better results.

New Term 4 Report

We are proposing to change the report format. It is part of the tackling bureaucracy agenda set down by the Scottish Government. We hope the report is as informative but more concise. Reporting is being looked at across the authority so there will be local advice given to all schools in the near future. I am part of the focus group looking into this.

Exchange Visits

After our extremely successful visits to France last year, we have applied for funding for 6 members of staff to undertake immersion courses again this year. This would support us in further embedding French throughout the school. We are developing a link with a school in Nice and welcomed a delegation of teachers and inspectors from that region to school in November.

Visits, Visitors and Events

- 3.11.16: Mrs Audrey Edwards visited the school to see pupils and ask them their opinions on how education in Shetland is being delivered
- 11.11.16: Flu spray was administered at school to those children who were to receive it
- 11.11.16: Probationer, Laura McIntyre, visited from Sound School
- 15.11.16: Pam Rodway from Crofting Connections visited to see Ms Scanlan who continues to develop this link
- 17.11.16: Children in Need fun afternoon was held on the 17th November and raised £250
- 23.2.17: Tom Morton led a Humanist Assembly
- 15.12.16: Christmas Jumper Day
- 15/16.12.16: Christmas Performances
- 19.12.16: Christmas Parties
- 21.12.16: Musical Assembly
- 21.12.16: Musicians and Choir visited Overtonlea
- 9.1.17: Bookbug
- 12.1.17 - 2.2.17: Wider Achievement session 1
- 16.1.17: PC Chris Hardwick in to see P1-4
- 16.1.17 - 20.2.17: Harry Rose working with P2/3 on topic work
- 19.1.17: Euroquiz lunch time club started
- 19.1.17: Netball fixture at Scalloway
- 24.1.17: Sam Flaws led a meeting on the Nursery proposals
- 25.1.17: Dental inspections
- 27.1.17: Swimming for P6/7 started. 6 week block.
- 30.1.17: Mrs Emily Williamson started her 6 week placement in P6/7
- 3.2.17: PC Chris Hardwick and JRSOs conducted speed checks
- 6.2.17: P1 Health Screenings

- Netball after school club continues after school on Wednesdays for P5-7 pupils
- January/February: Joy Duncan in for 6 weeks of drumming for all classes
- Childsmile continues to visit to support classes with oral hygiene
- Mr Macpherson delivers assemblies each month

A. Henderson

6.2.17