



**Shetland  
Islands  
Council**



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2 November, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! Hopefully, everyone has settled back in at the start of what will be a very busy and fun-filled term!

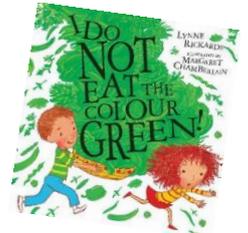
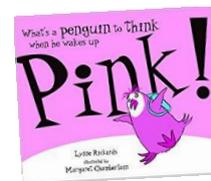
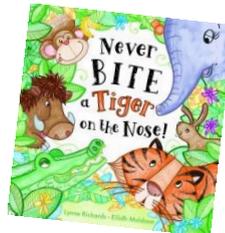
### **Bookbug**

Staff from the Lerwick Library will be visiting on **Wednesday 7 November** to give out packs as part of the annual Bookbug programme, as well as reading some of the stories in the pack. We would like to invite you all to come along at 1115 on the day to enjoy listening to and reading some stories with your children – please take along any favourite books you already enjoy together!

There are so many wonderful benefits to sharing stories and rhymes with your child and you can find out more about Bookbug here - <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/about>

Then, on **Friday 9 November**, everyone will be heading down to Mareel to take part in a special big Bookbug session with the author Lynne Rickards as part of the Wordplay 18 session. She has written several books, some of which you may recognise...

It would be great to have some adult helpers to assist on this outing so please let a member of the EY team know if you are available.



### **Snack Money**

This remains at £2.50 per week and is a **very important contribution to EY funds**. Without it, EY staff would be unable to buy the wide range of materials that allow your child(ren) to enjoy a variety of tastes and experiences, including baking, cooking and helping to plan for their own snacks. You can pay this on a weekly basis or 'up front' for a number of weeks at a time. We appreciate your ongoing contributions.

### **Clothing**

As always the Shetland weather can be very unpredictable, especially at this time of year, but we always plan for the children to have lots of opportunities to get outside and try to do so every day. While we do have outdoor suits for every child we would ask that you ensure your child is **wearing appropriate clothing** and footwear for going outside, e.g. warm jackets, hats, scarves, boots, etc.

Also, please remember to **label your child's own clothing and footwear** as it does make sorting things out much easier at home time!

**PTO...**

## Winter Weather

Hopefully, it won't happen too often but please remember that information about school closures due to bad weather will be announced on local and national radio – Radio Shetland at 5.30pm, Radio Orkney at 7.30am and SIBC.

However, parents/carers are responsible at all times for deciding whether to send their children to school or nursery. You can follow alerts on twitter and a direct link to this can be accessed through the Shetland Islands Council home page [www.shetland.gov.uk](http://www.shetland.gov.uk) where they should click on the twitter 'follow@shetIslandsCI' button at the top right corner of the page.

## Illness

Another thing that unfortunately comes with the season is the annual wave of coughs, colds and bugs and these are very difficult to avoid - especially where young children are concerned! If your child is unwell we would ask that you keep them home - Early Years is a busy, and often noisy, place with lots going on so anyone who is feeling unwell won't enjoy the experience very much. Children who have had stomach bugs must remain off for 48 hours following the last episode of either sickness or diarrhoea.

Another virus that can appear at this time of year is Slapped cheek syndrome – a red rash appearing on the face following a temperature, sore throat, upset stomach, etc. Someone with slapped cheek syndrome is infectious during the period before the rash develops. Once the rash appears, the condition can no longer be passed on. There is no exclusion time for children with Slapped cheek providing they are feeling well enough to attend.

However, the condition can present a risk to women who are pregnant. Therefore, if you suspect your child has Slapped cheek syndrome but is able to attend, I would ask that you contact a member of the EY team before coming in so that we can make suitable arrangements to ensure the health and safety of staff.

## Staffing

In the next couple of weeks we will welcome two students from the University of the Highlands and Islands to EYR2. Mrs Lynsay Cunningham is currently studying to be a Primary Teacher and will be on placement with us from Monday 12 November to Friday 7 December. Ms Tracey Miller is studying for the HNC in Childhood Practice, and will be in Room 2 on Thursday and Fridays from next week until Easter 2019.



### Dates for your diaries

They may seem a long way off but here are some important dates! More information on these events will follow.

Wednesday 19 December – EY Christmas Sing and Sign Along Party

Thursday 20 December – Christmas Party

Friday 21 December – Last day of term

Yours sincerely

Melvyn Clark  
Depute Head Teacher (Early Years)