



Shetland Islands Council

Head Teacher: Mrs Gina Finch

Dunrossness Primary School

Dunrossness

Shetland ZE2 9JG

Telephone: 01595 745440

Fax: 01950 460803

E-mail: dunrossness@shetland.gov.uk

Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/dunrossness/>

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that I have been here for a week already. The time has flown and I already feel part of the team. I think I have learnt a few names but still have a lot to go! Thank you to all of you who have said hello at the gate when dropping off or picking up and I hope we can plan opportunities in the Summer term for those parents and carers whose children come in on the bus. Again thank you for your welcome- so much appreciated.

End of Term

The holidays are fast approaching with the last day of term being this Friday 1st April at 3pm. We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Mylett in the office on Friday. She has been a great help to me over the last week and I know she has worked hard to provide a friendly face and voice to all parents and carers who have had queries. We do wish her well as she starts in her new role. We are recruiting for a new clerical assistance and while we are doing that we are very lucky that Mrs Sonja Flaws, who does some clerical work at Sandwick Junior High has offered to help us out on Monday to Wednesday. This means that I will do my best to answer queries on Thursday and Friday but please bear with me as I am still learning my way around all the systems!

Big Walk and Wheel Week;

It has been brilliant to see the children being more active in and out of school as this really does make a difference to their wellbeing. On Friday 1st April, the last day of term, we have



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asked for the children who come in by bus to be dropped off at the football field- so that they can walk the last part of their journey. You should have got a letter about this on Monday and hopefully you have already returned your walking from school general consent form. Please contact the office if that is not the case. Children who are usually dropped at school by a parent or carer can also be dropped off at the football field but we do ask parents to let the school office know that you are going to do this. There will be staff at school to supervise children who do come straight to school as well as staff to meet children at the football field to walk them down to school.

Swimming

This starts next term- Tuesday 26th April every Tuesday for 6 weeks. Each class will be bused to and from Sandwick pool for a 30min lesson. Your child will need to bring a swimming costume, towel and any foot covering if they have a verruca or athlete's foot.

Behaviour on the daily school transport:

Can all parents remind children about how to keep safe and respectful on the buses. All children should remain seated and belted in for the whole journey as well as show consideration and kindness towards each other and the driver.

Healthy Snacks:

From next term we would really like to encourage all children to bring a healthy snack for snack time in the morning for example a piece of fruit, cheese, a low sugar cereal bar and try to avoid high fat crisps and high sugar biscuits or chocolate bars. Developing healthy eating habits while young leads to improved wellbeing and to a longer more healthy adult life. It would be great if we can work on this together with our children.



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Reports: Your child's annual report is being sent home by the end of tomorrow. In it would find details of their progress and attainment so far this year with suggestions for areas to improve. It has taken the teachers a while to write these reports so do spend some time reading through and if you have any questions or queries please make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher next term.

Although I have only been here for a short while I know what a challenge it has been to keep the school open while trying to manage high staff and child absence due to covid in particular. So I would like to say a huge thank you to staff and parents for being watchful, testing regularly and being incredibly flexible about covering when a member of staff is off. I think this has been a very disrupted term where we have seen the most covid related absences. I understand that there will be some relaxation of covid measures next term as we all begin to learn to live with covid and other diseases again, but I am hoping the better weather will allow the school to function more normally and we can do activities which the children have missed out on for so long. In the meantime, I do hope all staff and children have a restful and fun family holiday and we will look forward to seeing each other again on the 19th April.

Best wishes,

Gina Finch