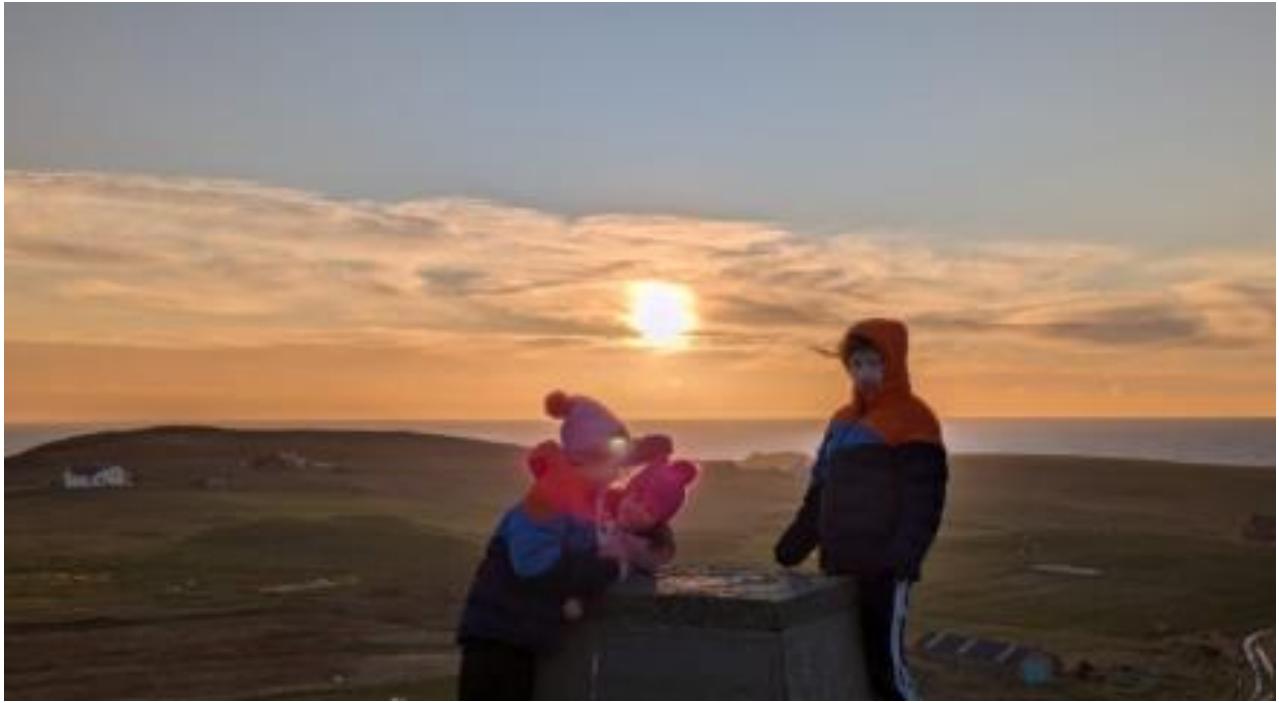


# *Fair Isle Times*



*Christmas Tree by Max Casagrande, 6*

*Christmas 2025*



### Merry Christmas from Fair Isle Primary School

Everyone at Fair Isle Primary School wishes the readers of the Fair Isle Times, far and wide, a very Merry Christmas. We had a lovely final week in school, which began with our school

Christmas Dinner. A massive thank you goes to Eileen and Alice for cooking us such a delicious meal. We designed placemats for everyone, helped to set the table and had a wonderful time pulling crackers and telling jokes.

We then hosted our Christmas Party with some classic games including the “hat, scarf and gloves” chocolate game, music statues and pass the parcel. There were some funky dance moves on show.

It was such a lovely day though, so we could not resist getting out and about for a walk in the morning (to really earn all those tatties).

*Quiz, Jokes and Riddles: courtesy of Ander, Khalicee, Luca and some special guests who joined us on the final day of term.*

Anagram Challenge:

1. loljebglencirk (Clue: A famous Christmas song).
2. Atfchaerhirmsts (Clue: Ho Ho Ho).
3. Etgw ethinks rof oi ree ne ra (Clue: A popular Christmas Carol).



Quiz Time:

1. What is the name of the abandoned child in Home Alone?
2. In which country is it a Christmas tradition to eat K.F.C on Christmas Day?
3. True or False. Candy Canes were invented in Germany to keep children quiet during church services?
4. In "The Simpsons", who is Santa's Little Helper?



Jokes:

1. Why do rabbits like Christmas?
2. What do elves do in the toilet?
3. Why do no-legged pirates like Christmas?
4. Why didn't Santa go down the Chimney.



Answers:

1. Happy Christmas
2. Jingle Smells
3. We Three Kings of Orient Are.
4. Because there wasn't one (grin).

1. Kevin McCallister
2. Jingle Bell Rock
3. True
4. The Family Dog

1. Japan
2. Father Christmas
3. Wee Three Kings of Orient Are.
4. Because when you shorten Christmas, "X Marks the Spot".

**Sheep Rocks – Fair Isle Primary School Christmas Pantomime Review**  
*from your school correspondent.*

*The Daily Telegram - \*\*\*\*\* "Nothing but pure talent."*  
*The Shetland Timeline - \*\*\*\*\* "More eventful than a December Northlink Crossing."*  
*The Guardian Angel - \*\*\*\*\* "Better than anything you'll see on TV this Christmas."*

The stage was set, the lights turned on and there were still questions to answer. Would important family members make it back to Fair Isle on the plane? Would the squirty cream arrive on The Good Shepherd in time? Would the backdrop stay stuck to the wall? Would Tommy's car make it up the hill?



Simply put, would the stars align for Fair Isle Primary School's Christmas Panto. This was answered emphatically when a different set of stars trod the boards on Thursday evening to perform in front of an enthusiastic audience, who cheered them on with gusto.

First came the baddie, Dr Lerwick Ramsbottom – menacing, dismissive and full of cunning and craft, Luca (P6) not only learned a huge number of lines to perfection but paced the stage with just the right amount of evil. Clear and confident, we were left in no doubt that he meant business and was determined to ruin Christmas.

There was, it would seem, only one hero who could stop him. Onto the stage dashed The Knowledge Boy. Ander (P3) had all the natural charm befitting of a dashing prince and won the audience over with his cheeky smile and selfie-stick. He was joined by the most beautiful Princess Hermione. Rumours that Jonathan had replaced Khalicee (P1) with a chatty and confident identical twin were banished as the audience soon realised that the youngest member of the primary trio was totally at home under the stage's spotlight and was eager to join The Knowledge Boy on his quest to defeat the baddie.

There was, however, one younger than Princess Hermione who was keen to leap (quite literally) onto stage. Dashing down the aisle came the bundle of unpredictable and mischievous energy that was Brodie (the baddie's whirlwind sidekick, Spud). He was promptly sent to the audience to find a "scruffy villager" and unleash a plate of squirty cream all over their face. Various audience members sank into their chairs and avoided his gaze but it was his dad, Andrew, who was the unlucky victim.

The quest continued. Audience participation is what pantomime is all about and nobody was safe as Queen Hollie brought energy and life back to The Knowledge Boy and Princess Hermione with a Fair Isle Fitness Class as Alice and Inness showed off their high-knees and squats. A moving moment for all in the audience as this was indeed "The Last Christmas at Burkle" for our wonderful Queen Hollie, who reminded us all that she has taught many a Fair Isle child to persevere, be strong and stay true to themselves over the years. In the words of Ander, "What will we do without you?"

Finally, Jonathan made an appearance – upsetting vast swathes of the Republican fan base in America, The Game Show Host settled the dispute between good and evil with a proper Pub Quiz (Ian and David the unwitting audience members for that particular scene). The baddie, vanquished, was sent packing (not on the Good Shepherd but as a slave to the wires of Fair Isle for the rest of his days).

Hollie and Jonathan would like to say a huge well done to our shining stars. We are so proud of their confidence, oracy skills, enthusiasm and teamwork in putting on the production. Over to Fiona for the next pantomime, with everyone in little doubt that the future of acting in Fair Isle is in the very safe and capable hands of our young bairns.

If you would like to watch the pantomime (with the first two minutes sadly cut-off) then here is a YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/GmI7XO2Og2Y>



**Fair Isle photographic highlights – 2025.** Thanks to Jonnie Fisk for this beautiful reminder of brighter summer days!



- Norie (puffin) with Kirk Stack in the background
- FIBO Assistant Warden, Luke in the cru at a summer caa *“Come on sheep!”*
- Tommy and the nories on a midsummer evening at the South Gavel
- The grand opening of Marie’s much awaited cattle grid at Pund *(yes, there were even golden scissors for the ribbon cutting!)*



- Guests from the Norwegian wedding party who tied the knot at the North Lighthouse
- Orca in the Wick this summer – 2025 was a great summer for sightings of these beautiful creatures
- *Mirrie Dancers* (aurora borealis) showing superbly in late October
- A happy gang baling silage at Upper Stoneybrake on a cool summer's day





- Konrad and Marie checking and dosing lambs at Pund
- A music night at Kenny's Bar in the Obs in August, featuring many of the Thomson family

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### **Thank you to Naomi of Schoolton, based in Boston, for the following festive piece**

This popular poem from across the pond, generally known as “The Night Before Christmas”, played a significant role in shaping American’s perception of Christmas.

#### **“A Visit from St. Nicholas” by Clement C. Moore (1823)**

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all  
through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a  
mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney  
with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be  
there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their  
beds;

While visions of sugar-plums danced in  
their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my  
cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long  
winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a  
clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the  
matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the  
sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,  
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—  
*"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"*



Drawing of the festive fireplace, left, Leo Casagrande, 11

*Also, you can never have too many festive jokes...*

*Knock knock?  
Who's there?  
Ho ho!  
Ho ho who?  
You need to work on your Santa impression!*

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**Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all our readers.**

We hope you have enjoyed the Fair Isle Times in 2025. As ever, we are nothing without the brilliance of our regular (and sometimes irregular) contributors: the super schoolbairns, Dave the Weather, Maavi and Jonnie for his cartoons in Maavi's absence – keep them coming!

Here's to a fine festive time and all the best for 2026

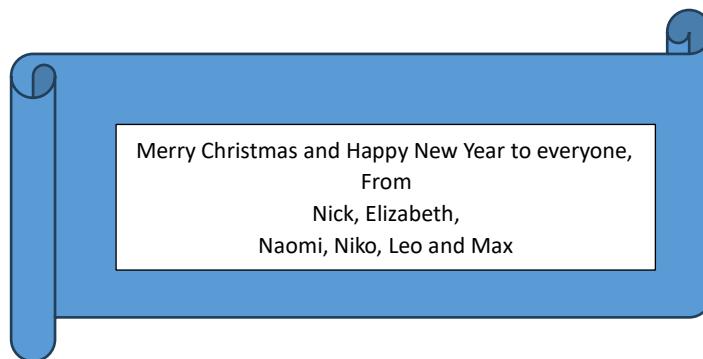
*The F I Times Editors*

## RECIPE

### PORRIDGE CAKE

- 1) Cream:  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup margarine, 1 cup caster sugar, 1 cup brown sugar, then blend in 1 teaspoon vanilla essence, and 2 eggs.
- 2) Stir in 2 cups cold porridge .
- 3) Add to creamed mixture : 1 teaspoon baking powder,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt,  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon cinnamon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon nutmeg, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups plain flour.
- 4) Bake in a greased and floured 9" square tin, Gas Mark 4 for approx. 45 mins.

When cool, top the cake with:  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup melted margarine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar,  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup chopped nuts,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup desiccated coconut, 3 tablespoons milk, which have all been boiled together until sticky and bubbly.



### **WINDY (by Max Fatchen)**

The gale upon our holidays  
Was not your passing breeze.  
It gave our tents a fearful wrench  
And bent the frantic trees.  
So if you've seen a flying tent,  
And then observe another,  
Please call us at your earliest,  
We're also missing mother.

### **THE TERNS (by Spike Milligan)**

Said the mother Tern  
To her baby Tern  
Would you like a brother?  
Said baby Tern  
To mother Tern  
Yes  
One good Tern deserves another.

