

FAIR ISLE TIMES

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Fair Isle Primary School News

Our last school trip of the year followed swiftly on from our previous one a few weeks ago. Sandwick Sports Day, Shetland Museum, Lerwick Police Station, Clickimin Swimming and much more besides made for a very memorable final stay as a group of three. The children have been absolutely superb throughout – supporting and encouraging one another, working together and being superstars in all we did. There are many people to thank for our trips across the year and we made sure to write thank you cards to swimming instructors, hostel staff and even The Maxwells (who always welcome us for a playdate at Hamnavoe). A special thank you, however, on this trip to all the staff at Tingwall Airport and the airfield crew back in Fair Isle for getting us home before the fog set in. A lot of planning and effort goes into the trips our bairns take part in so we are grateful to everyone for making them happen. Here are the children to tell you more...



Sandwick Sports Day by Luca (11)

Sandwick Sports Day is my favourite part of the school trip. After the lunchtime play time, we all grabbed our water bottles and walked to the grassy field where Sports Day was being held. I was in the P6 group and we were sent to our first station. When a teacher blew a whistle, we all rotated round to the next station. The station we went to first was the football shoot. Somehow I was the only person in P6 to score all three of my shots.

Altogether, there were seven stations. The other few I did well in were the long distance run, which was about two hundred metres, the sprint (about twenty metres) and the sack race (about twenty metres but in a sack).

The Sports Day and in general visiting Sandwick is an incredible experience. To compete against children my own age is beneficial and really important.



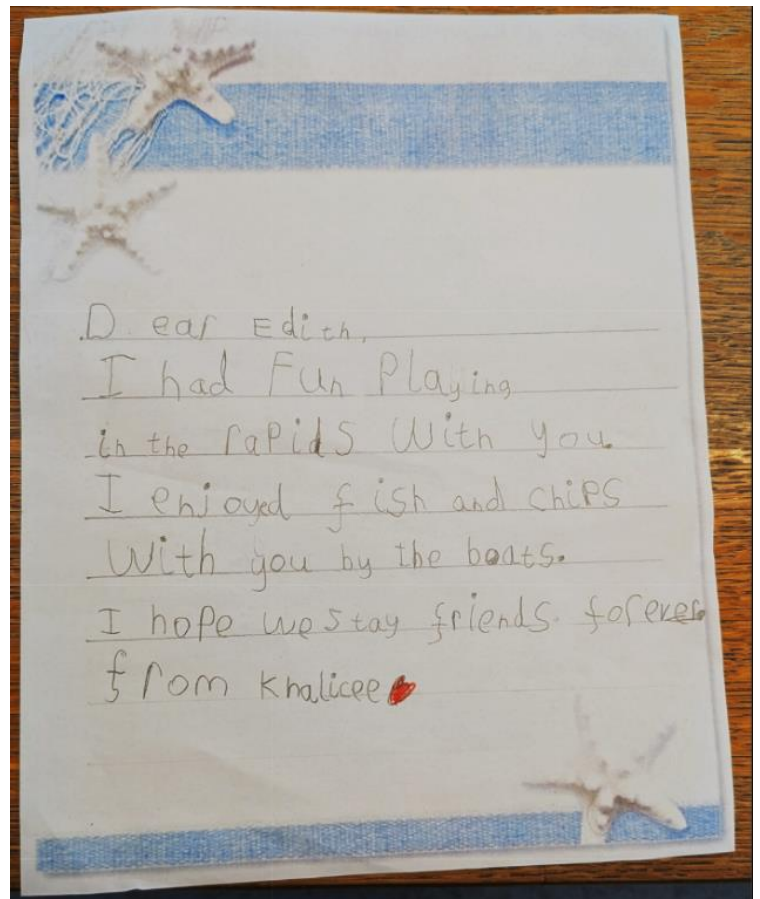
A Trip to Lerwick Police Station by Ander (8)

The police station has loads of cool equipment. They have to smash down doors, drive super-fast and make sure everyone is safe. On the school trip, I hit one of the shields with a padded bat and the policeman felt nothing! There also is a big red key (which is the thing they smash doors with) and it is so heavy! We all got to sit in the van. We were allowed to turn the siren on. It was loud.



If you were bad, I don't think that is a good idea because you will be put in a grim, unpleasant and uncomfortable cell. It is so boring because it only has a toilet and a bed. (Who wants to be locked up?) Here is a tip... don't break the law.

Of course, as well as our link with Sandwick, it is still important to us that we maintain that special island link with Foula. On our last trip, we met Foula for a bonus "free swim" at Clickimin and had a fantastic time. Khalicee (6) has now formed a pen pal link with one young lady on Foula and wrote this beautiful letter to her (along with a picture of them munching fish and chips together) that we have popped in the post.



ISLE NOTICES

Chapel on Sunday 11am – there will be a Songs of Praise style service this week with focus on singing our favourite hymns. All very welcome to join, Susannah will be leading

Da week dat's awa this week comes from visiting writer and friend to the Isle, Joan Lennon

Back Again

For me, forget the buses and trains to get to Aberdeen – it's when I step on board the Northlink ferry that the journey back to Fair Isle feels like it's really beginning.

I arrived in Lerwick on a Monday. I was not alone. I've never been in town when there's a big cruise ship in. As long as you're not in a hurry, or have a desire to walk in a straight line down Commercial Street, it's a fascinating opportunity to people watch. Which I did. I also worked in a quiet corner of Lerwick's lovely library, ate at Blyde Welcome, visited Jamieson's and the Book Shop, stayed at Glen Orchy House and ate in their excellent Thai restaurant.

What I didn't do was fly to Fair Isle.



(The Knab in the fog)

Stranded due to Fog

*Planes will not fly in milk.
Rocks, meantime, loom
and retreat and,
out of reach,
islands float.*

I did my best to not fuss about the weather and then the island network kicked in and by Wednesday I had a place on the BK Marjorie. Thank you Pat, Ruth, Iain, Amy, Paul from BAM, the Marjorie's skipper, the folk at Tingwall, the guys who told me where to put my feet when I was climbing down a ladder built for giants onto a moving boat. Also thank you to the inventor of Stugeron and the guy on the Marjorie who said it was okay to lie down on the bunk in the belly of the boat – I slept the whole way!

And now I'm here. It's an important part of my year and I'm always amazed at how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. There have been some firsts for me:

First time I've ever seen a 5 car gridlock when some birders spotted a Bee-eater.

First time I stuck up my fist like a Black Panther and actually made a bonxie swoop away.

First time I was around for a beach clean-up – thanks for the loan of gloves and next year I'll know to pack some.

I've watched puffins nervously looking out for bonxies and greater black backed gulls - and then whirring away as they appeared. Oyster catchers bullying bonxies. Bonxies bullying everybody else. Heard terns making the most amazing noises. Seen swallows and starlings flying in and out of fog. Baby ducks trying to force their fluffy selves underwater and boinging straight back up. And though the big cliffs and sky and waves and weather still astonish and inspire, I've been loving the little things as well.



I have a question. I'm wondering about the roads on Fair Isle. Not the potholes – I get that! – but the layout. I see that there would be a road from the North Lighthouse to the South Lighthouse, and to the North Harbour, and to the Airstrip. I'm thinking more about the loop at the south end. Who can tell me: which came first – the houses or the road? I look forward to finding out.

Weather permitting, I'm away again at the end of the month. And next year, I'll be back.

Joan Lennon

Heads up! CHROMA residency 24-30 August

We're back! This time exploring the colour blue through different artforms, inspired by Marie's *27 Shades of Shetland Blues* giant knitting.

Usual suspects Stu (clarinet), Claire (creative producer) and Jo (bassoon) return, and we bring first-time visitors Chihiro (violin) and Jess (piano), who have heard Stu and Claire wax lyrical about the isle and our friends there for so long that they are somewhat overexcited about it.

There will be open-to-all workshops with art/craft and music, and in the school we'll get up to the usual creative fun with music composition, writing, craft and performance.

The concert of music on a theme of blue will be evening of Saturday 29 August in the hall. For the workshops we'll post notices of what, where and when closer to the time.

Can't wait to see you all – have a wonderful Summer!

Claire, CHROMA

Photos below from 2023 Armada residency:



Stu and Jo at the Lodberries in Lerwick

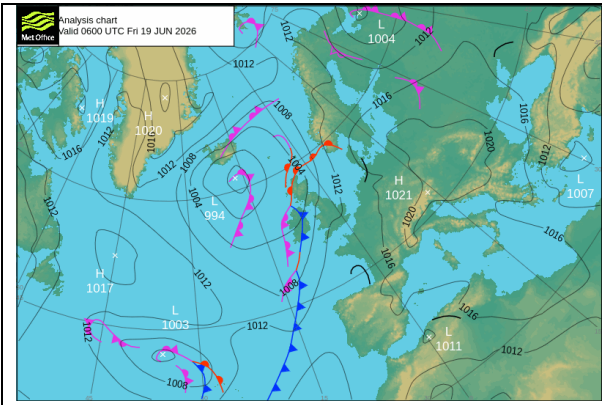


Claire and Eileen



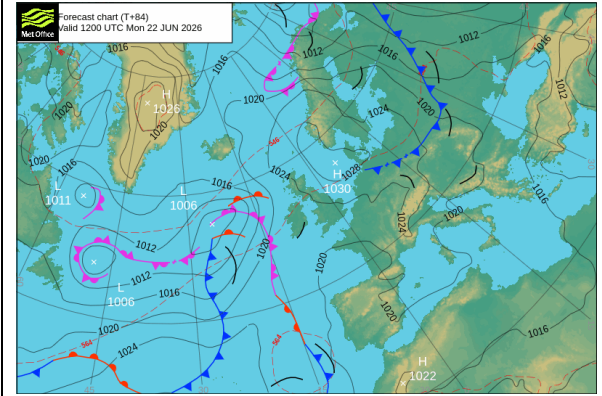
Neil's birthday

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0600 UTC

Friday 19th June 2026



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC

Monday 22nd June 2026

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 19th June 2026

With a depression south of Iceland a mild southerly airflow covers Scotland with an old front slow-moving near Shetland. As the low drifts northeast the airflow becomes south-westerly through Saturday easing slack through Sunday as the filling low moves away and pressure temporarily builds over the North Sea. With pressure low to the north and high across the near-Continent and southern half of the UK, the first half of next week, sees a fresh south-westerly across northern Scotland. Later this perhaps eases across northeast Scotland as pressure again builds over the North Sea.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Temperatures 13° or 14°

by day. 10° or 11° overnight.

FRIDAY 19th: Early mist or fog otherwise cloudy, with patchy rain in the morning. This clears to sunny spells and scattered showers through the afternoon as F4 S winds veer F4-5 SW. Mostly dry with clear spells overnight. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate at W 1 to 2 metre.

SATURDAY 20th: A dry bright day with sunny spells. F4-5 SW winds. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate at W 1 to 2 metre.

SUNDAY 21st: Mainly dry and bright with sunny or clear spells and F5 WSW winds. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate at W 1 to 2 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 13° or 14° by day, 9° or 10° overnight.

MONDAY 22nd: Rather cloudy with outbreaks of mainly light rain or drizzle. Moderate SSE winds freshening SE later. Bringing rain overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly slight at W 1 metre. **TUESDAY 23rd:** Cloudy with rain, mist or fog for a time drier and brighter later. Fresh SW winds tending WSW. **Sea State:** Mostly slight at W 1 metre. **WEDNESDAY 24th – SUNDAY 28th:** Mostly dry though cloudy with fresh WSW winds easing later. **Sea State Wednesday:** Slight or moderate at NW 1 to 2 metre.

Dave Wheeler

