

Sandwick Junior High School Parent Council

Head Teacher's Report – 25/01/19

1. **Staffing**

Stuart Clubb returns as full-time HT as of Monday, January 28th. We have worked closely over the past few weeks to ensure a smooth handover. I'd like to wish Stuart and the school all the best for the future.

The temporary DHT post has been advertised, with a closing date of 27-01-19. This is to cover Clare Coghill's maternity leave.

I am delighted to confirm that Emma Mounsey will become the new teacher of English and Modern Studies. She will start on 06-03-19. Emma is currently serving her required period of notice in the USA.

Ann-Marie Flaws continues in her acting role as PT Curriculum until Feb 4th, 2019. She would like to continue in the roll beyond that date.

Jonathan Kerr has taken up a permanent post at Aith JHS, which fits in better with his family life. We wish him all the best in future and thank him for all his efforts. Michael Manson is currently overseeing the S4 certificate PE class.

2. **School News**

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) – pupil/parent and full versions – is now on display at key points around the school. As a staff we are working hard to deliver the improvements contained within the plan. A successful INSET day on Jan 7th saw the cluster developing aspects of practice relating to feedback to pupils, as well as next steps in learning. SMT conducted a week of informal class visits before the holidays and staff received feedback. The next round of visits will focus specifically on Learning Intentions (LIs) and Success Criteria (SC). The Extended Management Team (EMT) will observe lessons and discuss learning with staff and pupils. We will use the results of feedback to evaluate how well LIs and SC are being used and plan for further improvements where required.

The consultation around the school's values has now been completed and our school community has spoken! The most important values – as voted for by the school community – have now been condensed onto a 'Word Cloud'. School aims are currently being drafted and once again there will be a consultation on these with the school community. The values and aims of the school will then form the bedrock of the school's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy, which is currently being developed (also as part of the SIP). A Behaviour Management Process – which will be part of a completed Promoting Positive Behaviour policy has been in place since Early November. Staff feedback has been positive and they have expressed a wish for this process to continue as is.

Clare Coghill and Claire Adamson will attend the Nurture Group Network one year review meeting in Glasgow on Friday, Feb 1st. They will present evidence to be measured against the standards for accreditation (to become a Nurturing School). This is another priority in the SIP. Nurture Week Scotland 2019 will be held on the week commencing May 20th. We are building on last year's Nurture Week to ensure that we embed the principles of nurture across the school community. We have invited several outside agencies to join our Nurture Week planning group and would

like to extend this invitation to a member of the Parent Council. On March 13th, there is a staff development meeting on nurture, at which we will screen a highly commended documentary on resilience and the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). This will provide staff with crucial insights to support them in the implementation of nurturing principles.

The school's homework policy is to be developed (as per SIP Priority 3 – Improving Communication & Engagement). Pupils, parents and partners will be consulted, with the scope of consultation to consider factors such as expectations, nature, purpose and contemporary research evidence.

The new website is just about to be launched. We are finalising the content – it's great to have such a wealth of stuff to share – and now hope to launch on Thursday or Friday of this week.

Sandwick JHS recently hosted the S1/S2 Maths Team Challenge. So enthusiastic are our pupils that Sandwick entered two teams. I'm delighted to report that Sandwick took both first and second places, with a team from Anderson High School achieving third place. A massive well done to our pupils and to the maths teaching staff for preparing them so expertly! Thanks also to the staff and pupils of the other schools: everyone contributed to a super day.

Monday badminton coaching has been well attended with 21 Secondary pupils playing from 3.40-4.35pm and 17 primary pupils from Sandwick JHS, Dunrossness PS and Cunningsburgh PS playing from 4.35-5.30pm.

The first Shetland Badminton Competition for 8, 9 and 10 year olds was played on Sunday at Scalloway with 6 south mainland badminton players participating to a good level. Sandwick's Ewan Smith won the boy's 9 year old age group while Jessie Tait from CPS came runner up in the 9 year old girl's event.

Last weekend saw 11-14 year old badminton players competing at Sandwick JHS Games Hall in the full court singles event. Euan Grogan came 1st and Evan Grogan came 2nd in the 11 year old event. Sophie Tait came 1st in 13/14's, Callum Fraser and Ross Fraser came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the 14's, while Sonny Henderson came 3rd in 12's. On February 2nd and 3rd, the U11's and U15's play their championships while the U13's and U18's take to the courts on 17th Feb. Good luck to them all.

Every Saturday 36 young table tennis players come to Sandwick JHS to play in 3 junior leagues from 1-3pm. There are 3 leagues with 12 players in each league. The U16's have 6 teams of 2 players whereas the two U13 leagues have 4 teams of 3 players in each. The majority of the 36 players are from the South Mainland.

All these table tennis players along with their families can go along to the Sandwick Table Tennis Club which was set up last year and is held in SJHS every Friday from 6.30-8.30pm. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Table tennis breakfast club ran successfully every Monday and Wednesday in term 2 in the games hall from 8.20-8.50am. We had 12 - 19 regular players every session. The players were treated to bacon rolls on the last session before Christmas supplied and made by Jane Bray and Joan Smith. Very lovely they were too!

I am also delighted to announce three outstanding sporting achievements for Sandwick pupils: firstly, that Jude Donaldson has been chosen to represent Shetland (at table tennis) in the Nat West Island Games which will be held in Gibraltar this year. Secondly, Zoe Rivett has received a

similar accolade as a reward for her excellence at squash. Well done to both on their achievements and best of luck in Gibraltar! Sophie Tait has also qualified for the Scottish Schools Badminton competition, which will be held in Bells Sports Centre, Perth on 9th and 10th March. Well done Sophie and, again, the very best of luck!

We had our usual assortment of musical activities at the end of last term. Our choir (P6-S4) performed at the airport and at the Cunningburgh carol concert. A group of S3 pupils also performed at the Christmas Carnegie concert. All were a credit to the school. The choir meets this term on a Monday from 4-5 pm and will be entering 2 songs for the Music Festival in March (week beginning 11th March). A number of classes and pupils will be performing solo pieces and duets so it's another busy term in the music dept! Preparations for the production of Bugsy Malone are also well underway.

Our S4 Hospitality students put their skills to the test at the end of last term. They prepared a special lunch menu, which was offered up to staff. The quality of the food was first class and could easily have been served up in a restaurant. A huge well done to Raymond Smith and the S4 chefs!