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| **Sandwick JH School - Parent Council Head Teacher Report** |

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| Date: 20/05/19 | Term: 4 |

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| **Staffing Update**  Senior and Extended Leadership Team   * Mr Michael Manson is now in post as DHT for the period of Mrs Coghil’s maternity leave * Mr Gordon Irvine is currently acting PT Curriculum for the remainder of the term * Mr Stuart Clubb will take on the management and leadership of the Early Years Setting for the remainder of the term as Mrs Flaws returns to her substantive post of teacher of ASN   Secondary   * Mrs Harpe has been appointed to the temporary Pupil Support post and will start with us on June 10th. This post is to cover Mr Manson whilst he is in the DHT post * Ms Mounsey started in her post of English/Social Studies last term * Mrs Dort will take up her new post as teacher of Home Economics next session * I am currently re-advertising for a teacher of PE and Biology/Chemistry. I had hoped to fill these posts with probationer teachers but that has not proved possible * Mr Bicket will continue to provide technical teacher supply cover for the remainder of the term * Mrs Johnston will be taking maternity leave as of 03/05/19. Mr Murray has been appointed to her 2 day post at SJH and will join us after the summer holidays   Primary   * Mrs Sim will be leaving to take up a new post at Scalloway Primary School after the summer holidays. We will not be recruiting to this post as we reduce from 6 to 5 primary classes next session   Early Years   * Ms Ganson has left to take up a new post at Urrafirth Primary School * I am currently recruiting to a Senior Practitioner Post in the Early Years Department   Support Staff   * Myself ad Mr Manson will be carrying out interview this week for the 20hour Clerical Assistant Post * Mrs Lomax has left her post as Supervisory Assistant and we have started the recruitment process to replace her * Marie Adamson has been appointed as a permanent Learning Support Worker and Molly Farmer joins us next week to start on a temporary contract as a LSW |
| **School News**  **Inspection**  I would like to thank all the parents of the school who returned their surveys and to those who participated in the parent focus groups. I would like to thank Hilary for her engagement with the Inspection Team and her meeting with them.  The Inspection has provided the whole school, partners and community to reflect and evaluate where we are. I am exceptionally proud of how positive the staff were about the Inspection and how open and honest everybody was, it shows a real desire to learn and improve. The school is now in a really strong position to build on our strengths and improve as required.  The key overarching themes from the Inspection are:   * Tracking and Monitoring * Pace and Challenge in lessons * Leadership at all levels   The Inspection Report will be finalised within the next 6 weeks and then made available to the public.  **SQA Exams**  This term has seen a focus on supporting pupil in preparation for their National Qualification Exams and assessments. Staff have engaged with pupil to provide additional help and support with revision in order to help pupils achieve their full potential. The exam procedures have been very effective and I would like to thank our lead Invigilator, Mrs Eileen Tait and her team.  This year S4 pupils had the opportunity to aces head massages as a way of coping with the stress that comes with exams and revision. The head massages were provided by Ms ////// .  **School Website**  The School Website has been officially launched and is already proving to be very popular and well used, there are ‘hits’ from all across the world. I would like to thank Mr Manson for the superb job he has done to develop the website, it has been an incredible piece of professional development for him and a huge boost for the whole school community. We will continue to develop the website and populate it with relevant and informative information. The new website, along with email and social media provides us with a really positive framework for improving communication with our school community as part of our SIP priorities.  **Classroom Observations**  All staff recently took part in observation week. The purpose of the observation was to gain evidence of the use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria within all teaching and learning and across all stages. The Senior/Extended Leadership Team observed 25 lessons and wrote up a summary of each observation. This summary was shared with staff. I collated the information from all 25 and produced a report which was then shared with all staff. The key points of the report were:   * All lessons/blocks of learning should have clear learning intentions and success criteria * Learning outcomes and success criteria will be referred to at all points in the lesson with a particular emphasis at the start and end * Learning outcomes and success criteria will be visible to all pupils and staff * Teachers should use benchmarks and E’s an O’s when creating LI/SC * SMT will discuss pupil surveys in more detail with pupil focus groups * SMT will provide relevant and requested CPD opportunities   The next round of formal observations will take place in September.  **Nurture Week**  This week is Nurture Week and Mr Manson and Mrs Adamson have put in place an impressive timetable of events for the whole school. I will report back on this at the next Parent Council Meeting  **Closure of the Sandwick Central Nursery**  I have held meetings with parents and the School Service to look at short term options for utilising the school building so that we can provide support to families as required. We want to do all we can to make sure that the young people in this community get their learning experiences in the community rather than having to look elsewhere. Any decision making lies with the School Service but I have offered up our building to be used as required.  **Asymmetric Primary Week**  This will come into operation at the start of term 1 after the summer holidays. The new school day will be:   * Monday-Thursday 8.50-3.00 * Friday 8.50 – 2.10   I have arranged for a meeting with the School Service and SIC Transport Department to discuss issues around parking. I will update you after the meeting takes place, a date has yet to be confirmed. |
| **School Improvement Plan Update**  Term 4 is a time when we would be self-evaluating our SIP with all staff, pupils, parents and partners. Due to last week’s Inspection and the surveys and meetings that formed part of the process we now have all the relevant information and data that we require.  The Senior Leadership Team of the school will write a draft SIP for session 2019/20 and share that with the Parent/Pupil Councils for consultation before publishing the final report before the end of term 4. |
| **Celebrating success at SJH**  Duke of Edinburgh & Camping skills  We have had an overnight school camp with the S2 Camping skills group and the DofE group and we have just had the DofE practice expedition at Aith. Nine S3 pupils took part in this, which they all enjoyed and are now ready to complete their assessed expedition in June.  Early Years  There has been lots of positive learning going on in EYD. We have all really enjoyed embracing our Outdoor Learning and being outside no matter what the weather – we have lots of fun equipment to play with too: pirate ship, bikes (plus car wash + road drawn with chalk), mud kitchen, balance beam, tent, loose part play, art work etc.  Ziggy the road safety alien has been going home with the boys and girls from the am session (he will also be going home with the pm bairns) and this has built up a lovely home school link as they enjoy sharing back their learning  We had a very successful and fun trip to listen and dance to the Folk Festival Concert put on especially for Early Years, we were very fortunate to have lots of parent helpers to make this happen.  We have been joining P1 for Open Sessions in which we are in small groups and split between EYD and P1 and 6 adults doing a variety of tasks such as SEAL, Emerging Literacy, SMART board, craft, Story with Zuzanna and outdoor play. They are really enjoying these. This is the last week of doing this with morning session, next week we start this with the afternoon sessions.  Maths/Numeracy  In the Maths Department, S1 & S2 pupils (including some P7) have participated in Maths Challenge lessons.  These lessons provide pupils with the experiences to develop problem solving/ numeracy skills etc.  As a consequence pupils have successfully participated in the Shetland Maths Team Challenge (won by Sandwick JHS in December) and gone on to represent Shetland in the regional final in Aberdeen in March. In addition, some pupils have recently participated (on an individual basis) in the UK Maths Challenge Junior/ Intermediate competition.  The winning group for the Shetland Junior Team Maths Challenge attended the competition in Aberdeen in March. The four pupils really enjoyed themselves and came a much respected 8th out of 19 teams.  We have also had the individual Maths Challenges – the Intermediate for S3 & S4 after which Adam Millar was invited to take part in the Kangeroo Challenge, and we had several Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards.  The S1 & S2 pupils took part in the recent Junior Individual Challenge and we are still awaiting the results.  Modern Foreign Languages  There have been a number of successes for our pupils in Modern Languages this term.  The S3 pupils are putting the finishing touches to a course titled “Modern Languages for Life and Work”. This will enable them to get an official SQA-recognised qualification for all their work in French over the last three years even if they were not to take French in S4.  Our S2 pupils have been conducting a survey in class about their views on school uniform. They have made a display of it and included pie charts, in an effort to mix maths and Spanish.  My S2 French class have been researching the history of several French monuments and presented their PowerPoints to the class. All the presentations were peer-assessed by the class.  We are looking forward to two events that are linked to Modern Languages:  Our trip to Barcelona is about to leave in two weeks and we are in the final stages of preparation  Dr Irvine and I are about to take S1 and S2 pupils to Lerwick in order to visit a fleet of Faroese ships visiting Lerwick in June. This will be an opportunity to speak about our common Nordic histories and links. Let’s hope we can sample a few Faroese delicacies and learn a few Faroese greetings.  MUSIC  Music Festival - lots of achievements. I was particularly pleased with the Gold plus award that the choir received. They have worked so hard and given up so much of their free time and it has been super to have Upper Primary pupils and Secondary pupils working together.  The also got the Shetland Fir Wirds Dialect Trophy and performed at their recent concert. Special thanks to parent helper, Beth Cumming who ended up taking on a conducting role!  Other trophy winners – Shetland Wind Band (several pupils from here perform with them), Victoria Byrne McCombie (S2) (and Amber Thomson from AHS) – string trophy and Lowrie Mouat (S4) – drumkit trophy.  Several pupils have been competing on the Mainland at Fiddle and Accordion Competitions this term and last with Ms Henderson and private tutors. Victoria and Emily Laurenson (S1) have both put in medal winning performances.  Several pupils sat grade exams last session so well done to all of them and their instructors. Going forward, now that we have a second notice board at our disposal, I was thinking to have a music achievement board for this type of thing. I am currently using it to celebrate the Young Fiddler of the Year competition which 6 of our pupils who are coached by Ms Henderson’s took part. Holly Nodroum (P6) was placed in the top ten in the Junior Traditional Competition out of about 25 entrants.  ***Finally, you might like to do a little promotion for Bugsy Malone which we are staging here on 11 and 12 June!***  [Image result for bugsy film](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwherewestbegins.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2017%2F01%2Fbugsymaloneposterweb-small.jpg&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwherewestbegins.org.uk%2Fevent%2Fbugsy-malone-youth-cinema-foundation-castaways-theatre-group-wincanton-town-hall-june-3%2F&docid=rKKWRaIgn6kGbM&tbnid=3soxPN359MHHzM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwiM37_jtariAhXcRhUIHc2mBM0QMwipAShUMFQ..i&w=600&h=492&safe=active&bih=946&biw=1280&q=bugsy%20film&ved=0ahUKEwiM37_jtariAhXcRhUIHc2mBM0QMwipAShUMFQ&iact=mrc&uact=8)  PE/Health and Wellbeing  40 pupils from Primary 5 to S3 from the 3 South Mainland Schools have competed in a 4 day Badminton Competition that I held on Monday evening from 3.40-5.30pm after 3 terms of coaching. We had a prize giving on March 25th when 15 trophies were handed out to the winners. 45 minor prizes were also celebrated too.  I organised all 36 table tennis players on March 23rd to compete in the Shetland Junior Table Tennis Championships at Sandwick JHS on Saturday from 1-6pm. These players are mainly from all 3 South Mainland Schools and are in Primary 3 up to S2. 16 trophies were presented to the winners and 48 minor prizes were also handed out.  The 3 Shetland Junior Table Tennis Leagues also came to a conclusion on Saturday 16th March after 3 terms of playing. All the winners of the C League, D League and E League came from Sandwick JHS.  On Friday 29th March, pupils from Cunningsburgh PS P67 and P56 plus Sandwick JHS P1 pupils were on their last swimming lesson at the pool and as I treat, we asked 2 trainee hair dressers from SJHS S3 to come over to treat the pupils to a pampering session which involved blow drying and styling the boy's and girl's hair. This gave our 2 x S3 girls a boost to their confidence and self-esteem. The Primary pupil’s feedback was extremely positive and they would like this to happen every year.  On 9th March Sophie Tait qualified to play in the S2 Scottish Schools Badminton Competition in Perth. Sophie and her partner Thomas Calder came runners up in the mixed doubles event which is a tremendous achievement.  On 21st March, the Young Ambassadors, Jennifer Thomson and myself organised the South Mainland Triangular Netball and Football Competition. This was the biggest input from the pupils in all the years I have ran this event. They did an excellent job. The feedback from everyone was very positive and the wish is to keep this continuing in the future.  On Monday 20th May, 3 x S2's and 6 x S3's have been asked to help me run the Annual Feeder Sports Day which involves 150 pupils from P567 from DPS, CPS and SJHS competing in 15 events throughout the day. I am confident this will go very well.  P2  P2 joined in with the annual Redd Up around the School. They went out with some S3 pupils around the side of the school and the swimming pool collecting rubbish.  P2 went to see a presentation by the Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary looking at the animals living in the seas around Shetland as well as the importance of keeping our seas clean. The children were particularly taken with the live sized animals – Orca, dolphins, seals and turtles.  P3  In February P3 had a trip to Mareel to see a film of the Julia Donaldson book ‘Room on the Broom’. They also saw a live rendition of the book in Shetland dialect. In the afternoon they visited the Museum to have a look at how crofting has changed over the years. This was as part of our Shetland topic. We were really grateful to the parents who came on the trip to help.  We also had our Class Assembly where we talked about our trip, read out poems we had written and sang a Shetland song, ‘Hush a baa fluffy’.  We also got involved with a Family Learning Club Time, where parents and carers were invited in to join their children for Club Time. I think every child in the group had a parent/sister/aunt in to join them. This was a mixed group from P1-P7 but there were a few P3s in it.  P3 also joined in with the annual Redd Up around the School.  P3 went to see a presentation by the Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary looking at the animals living in the seas around Shetland as well as the importance of keeping our seas clean. The children were particularly taken with the live sized animals – Orca, dolphins, seals and turtles. |
| **Pupil Council Update**  Primary Pupil Council have been working on and supporting:   * Nurture week. They are holding drop in sessions with a focus on HWB and SHANARRI * They have raised £2,500 through ‘Tesco Tokens’ as part of their fundraising for new playground equipment. They still have about £1,000 to go * They helped to organise this Year’s Redd Up * They helped to introduce new playground activate to support positive behaviour   Secondary Pupil Council elections will take place this term. |
| **Request for financial assistance**  We recently purchased £500 of Circus Equipment. We have had links with the visiting Circus for a number of years and wanted to develop this partnership further. The equipment will be used to help pupils to develop new skills and support their health and wellbeing. The School purchased the equipment from our School Funds. We would like to purchase a proper storage unit for the equipment and I would ask that the Parent Council could consider making a financial contribution or purchasing the storage unit.  Consideration of supporting the Primary Pupil Council with their £1000 shortfall for primary playground improvements |