

Dear Families,

We are at the end of the second week back and we are all settling into our routines. The pupils are getting used to their new year groups and teachers and the Leadership Team have been busy ensuring all the organisational structures are coming together. The Calendar dates for the year ahead will be with you next week. As a result of staffing changes we have reviewed procedures for the year ahead.

Ms Tulloch, Miss Lawson, Mr Hayes and Mrs McClelland have attended further training this week as part of the National Improving Writing Programme. Pupils from P3-7 will be able to tell you about their current writing aims and how the class are progressing in achieving these. Please talk to them about this!

At our Primary Assembly praise postcards were issued for pupils who have demonstrated school values within their class. Pupil newsreaders from each class told us all about the learning they have been engaged in within class this week. We listened to and started learning a new song [Olivia Frances – It Just Takes One \(Official Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#) I spoke to the pupils about the Pupil Council, what it entails and affirmed that their ideas are pivotal to school improvement. There was a lot of interest from the children but maybe that was because I told them that I had ordered shiny Pupil Council badges.

On Thursday Ms Tulloch and Mr Kerr met with Jennifer Thomson, our super Active Schools Coordinator, to discuss and make plans for the year ahead. These include S3 Young Ambassadors, S2 Leadership Academy, Swim Skills, P6 Play Leaders and Bikeability as well as plans for Boccia, football and afterschool netball. There will also be opportunities for all 3 South Mainland schools to join together for events later in the year.

Two years ago SJHS pupils created Time Capsules to be buried below some of the wind turbines being erected in Shetland. Pupils have now named the wind turbines 48 and 49 as Windy-Bob-Joe and Hjalta!

Mrs Petrie and the Primary staff have been busy developing our nurture and play spaces in both P1-4 and P5-7 areas. Our Play Support Worker, Aimee Barclay, is doing a wonderful job enhancing opportunities to learn through play alongside pupils and colleagues. It is wonderful to see these spaces develop and to see them being enjoyed.

Our first Wider Achievement classes take place this afternoon with our secondary pupils. Options include:

5 Days of Christmas led by Mrs Turnbull, Miss May and Mr Innes

Fantasy Football League led by Stuart Nicolson

School Website led by Claire Smith

Foreign Film Club led by Mr Harpe

Microbits led by Dr Irvine and Miss Inkster

Football led by Mr Thomson and Mr Kerr

Ecoclub led by Miss Jenkins and Mrs Gear

Play/Musical led by Miss Fidler and Miss Tracy

We are so happy that we can offer such wide and diverse opportunities for our pupils. Thanks to Mrs Kerr for her hard work in organising this.

I hope you have a restful weekend. I think many people will need it after the huge success of The Rising North Festival!

Andrew

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