

Tingwall Primary School
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<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/tingwallprimaryschool/>

Tingwall Nursery
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Head Teacher
Mrs Cheryl Spofforth

February 2022 Newsletter

It's been 'business as usual' as far as possibly in school lately. Our 'class bubbles' have 'burst and pupils are now mixing at break and lunch times and we have been having a few visits from small groups of Nursery bairns, checking out the school, ahead of transition visits and re-introduction of free flow play between Nursery and P1.

Our P7 buddies have enjoyed playing with the P1s and P6 have been helping out with our P2s.

Please remember to check out the Class Blogs to see what's been going on in nursery/classes:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/tingwallnursery/>

P1 Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/tingwallp12/>

P2/3 Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/tingwallp23/>

P4/5 Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/tingwallprim45/>

P5/6/7 Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/tingwallprimary67/>

New School Logo

The logo design by Aimee Gifford in P7 received the most votes. Her stunning design can be seen at the top of our letterhead and on our School Blog, with excellent runners up entries from Zara Crossan P4 and Emmie Farmer P3.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/public/tingwallprimaryschool/uploads/sites/1288/2022/01/20103455/Logo-Competition-January-2022.pdf>

Community Play Blocks

The school has been lucky to receive a set of large blocks, complete with wheeled storage unit, from a successful bid to the ELC (Early Learning & Childcare) Central Team. This is to encourage play based learning throughout the primary school. The P2/3



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class have been thoroughly enjoying using their imagination, creative, problem solving and risk assessment skills, to adapt the blocks in many different ways. The blocks will spend 4 weeks in each class on a rota system.

Sensory Room

We are also very grateful to the Local Authority for granting us approximately £8,000 worth of equipment and resources, from a bid submitted for our new 'Sensory Room' and agreeing to pay for it to be properly sound-proofed.

Swimming

A five-week block of swimming lessons will start on Tuesday 1 March for P1 and Wednesday 2 March, for P2/3. More information will be sent out to parents of children in these classes shortly.

Parents' Evenings

We are planning to have Virtual Parents' Evenings on Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 March. Information about how to sign up for an appointment (after school and evening appointments available) with your child's Nursery or Class teacher will be sent out shortly. Parents of primary pupils will also be able to arrange an appointment with our specialist teachers: Mrs Briggs - Music; Mr Kirkness - PE; and Mrs Mullan - Art, should you wish. Mrs Emslie (ASN teacher) and myself will also be available, if anyone would like to book an appointment with either of us.

The online appointment system allocates 9 minute sessions. If you find that on the night you need to discuss anything in more detail, please contact the school office to arrange a further appointment. Parents and Teachers have the option to have their cameras on or off during the appointment.

The 'Parents Bookings' system has been trialled in other Shetland schools, with great success, so we're hoping that the technology works for us on those nights too!

Change of home-time arrangements for those travelling on buses

Please remember to inform school, as well as Transport Operators, if a child is not going home on the bus as usual, as we have checklists which are updated daily, to ensure children are safe: leave school with the correct person, on the correct transport. If there is a last minute alteration, which is too late to communicate to the school office, please ensure you speak to a member of staff, in the carpark, so that they are aware of the change of plan.

P4-7 Netball Club

Mrs Louise Moar and Mrs Emily Williamson have been able to start this up again and it has been lovely to welcome new players this term. Some of the players were due to go up to Yell on Tuesday to play their first matches in the Primary School League, but unfortunately this has had to be postponed due to a Covid outbreak up there.

Covid-19

Covid is never very far away, and cases in Shetland remain high, but luckily we have not been affected as badly as last November. We have had single cases in Nursery and Classes, but often these bairns have been absent from school before positive LFTs or symptoms appear.

Most Up-to-date Covid Guidelines:

- Those who test positive for COVID-19 will still be advised to isolate for 10 days but there will now be an option to end isolation after seven days as long as they have no fever and record two negative lateral flow tests. One test must be no earlier than six days after testing positive and the other must be at least 24 hours after that.
- The second change applies to close contacts of positive cases, including household contacts, who are under 18 years and four months, or who are older than that and fully vaccinated (two doses of a vaccine and a booster). The requirement to self-isolate will be replaced by the requirement to take a lateral flow test every day for seven days.
- Over 18s who are not fully vaccinated will still be asked to isolate for 10 days and be asked to take a PCR test
- People who have symptoms should still book a PCR test. If you do not have symptoms and get a positive result using a lateral flow test, you do not have to book a PCR test. Instead, people should immediately isolate and report their results online so that contact tracing can begin.

Head Teacher Post

I will be retiring as Tingwall Head Teacher at the end of the summer term. The post will be advertised from 28 February 2022. I think there will be a great deal of interest in this position - who wouldn't want to work with such lovely staff, bairns and parents in this idyllic community?

Long weekend

We are all looking forward to our long weekend. School will close at 3 pm on Thursday 24 February 2022 and re-open on Tuesday 1 March.

World Book Day

World Book day celebrates its 25th anniversary on Thursday 3 March. Pupils can come to school dressed as a book character and are encouraged to bring in their favourite book. The teachers will be organising class activities related to World Book Day and each pupil will be given £1 voucher, which can be used to buy a special book for £1 at Shetland Times Bookshop, or will give them £1 discount on a more expensive book.

PUPIL TERM DATES FOR SESSION 2022

Term 3 Thursday 6 January – Friday 1 April 2022
Spring holidays Monday 4 April – Monday 18 April 2022
(Spring Holidays include Easter Monday and Good Friday)

Term 4 Tuesday 19 April – Friday 1 July 2022

Occasional Holiday Dates for Session 2021 – 2022
Friday 25 February 2022
Monday 28 February 2022
Monday 18 April 2022
Friday 27 May 2022 Friday 3 June 2022