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## June News

It is hard to believe that there is only a week left of the summer term. These last eleven weeks have flown by. We have been able to have a more or less 'normal' term and participate in lots of fun activities to keep us busy, although I did eventually succumb to the dreaded Covid , after managing to dodge it for the last two years!

### 2 Stars and a Wish

Thank you so much to all those of you who took the time to fill in our short self-evaluation questionnaire. It was good to have so many positive comments and we will look at actioning your suggestions in the new term, to help improve our school.

Many of you agreed with the staff and pupil suggestions:

#### What we do well:

Work well as a team  
Supportive/positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents  
Good Communication  
Transition  
Nurturing school  
Welcoming environment  
Friendly, caring, helpful, hardworking and approachable staff  
Great outdoor environment  
School Dinners  
Artwork  
PE  
Golden Time  
Buddies  
Learning through Play  
Everything!



Shetland Islands Council  
Children's Services



**What could we improve?**

More LSW/LSA support in class

More time outside

More outdoor toys/equipment

New football goals

Outside netball hoop

Library

School Polytunnel

More baking

Class pet!

**Parent results: 11 responses out of a possible 56 ( 20%)**

What do we do well		What could we improve	
Buddy System	3	Library	1
School Dinners	2	More LSW/LSA support in class for individual pupils who may need a helping hand even if they do not have a diagnosed need	1
Approachable	3	Guttery areas around the school play area, especially if outdoor play is here to stay all year round	1
Support the children in all areas of their learning and emotional well-being	2	Ensure safe play areas, no pallets and things with nails sticking out. A balance between creative play items and what will be safe	1
Welcoming inclusive environment	3	Bring back Class Dojo	1

### **School Photographs**

These were taken on Thursday 9 June and all orders have been sent to John Coutts. You should receive photos shortly.

### **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)**

We have been very lucky to have been able to invite several visitors to school to deliver STEM activities to P2-7.

Last Tuesday P2/3 had Mason Robbins, Education Officer for Saxaford US Space Port with Greyson Everidge and Carson Brown, US Military Cadets studying Environmental Science to deliver the Egg lander challenge.

P4/5 were altogether on the same day for a presentation and activity led by Paul Nicolson, Project manager for SSE Renewables (Viking Windfarm) and P6/7 had a similar workshop today.

Next Tuesday, P4/5 will be back together again for a Bridge Building Challenge delivered by Ewen Anderson, Managing Director of CASE Shetland.

Many thanks to Emily van Tonder, School Coordinator for DYW (Developing the Young Workforce), for organising these workshops. The pupils have engaged well, thoroughly enjoyed the challenges so far and it looks like we might have a few budding 'engineers' in the making!

### **Police visit**

PC Andrew MacKenzie, our Police Liaison Officer, visited each class last week for a chat about his role and the pupils were able to have a seat inside his police car and work the sirens!

### **Author Visit**

P5/6/7 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from author Tamsin Mori on Wednesday, who came into school to run a writing workshop for the pupils.

### **JRSO visit to Town hall**

Two of our P6 JRSO's visited the Town hall on Thursday to participate in an end of year presentation to other schools, reflecting on their past year's work on promoting Road Safety in School and Nursery. Jenny and Lexie did an excellent talk, illustrated by two informative posters, which they designed and received certificates and a goody bag each, as a thank you.

### **Astronaut Teacher Visit**

Mike Mongo is coming in to school on Thursday 30 June, to run a 'Dream Big' workshop for P4/5/6 pupils, as a prelude to the virtual 'Astronaut Job Camp' he is running for 10-12 year olds in the summer.

### **SSE Renewables - Trees**

One of our P6 pupils, recently wrote to SSE Renewables asking about planting trees on the wind farm, which the company said unfortunately they were unable to do. Instead

they decided to purchase 2000 trees for Michael's Wood. Well done Olivia for being so interested in protecting our environment. We're sure that Ray and Betty were delighted to receive this gift.

### **'Kitbag'**

'Kitbag' has been developed by the charity 'International Futures Forum' based in Fife, and funded by the Scottish Government, as part of a wider framework to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in their communities.

Shetland Islands Council has provided all Shetland schools with a 'Kitbag' resource to help pupils' capacity for mindfulness and reflection.

It contains multi-sensory resources to help develop young people's sense of calm, resilience and compassion. It is most often used to support individual children or small groups and can help adults to reach out, listen and understand what children and young people are feeling.

Two of our LSWs, Mrs Sarah Hutcheson and Mrs Brenda Peebles, have recently attended training to become 'Kitbag Ambassadors' and have already made use of the kitbag to support children in our setting.

### **Reports**

End of session reports for P1-6 will be going home in pupils' school bags on Friday 24 June. P7 will receive theirs on Monday 27 June, as they will be at the Anderson high School for two timetabled days on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 June.

Please could the signed acknowledgement sheet, with space for optional comments, be returned to school by Wednesday 29 June. If anyone requires a follow up telephone conversation with a class teacher after receiving their child's report, please contact the school office, to make arrangements.

### **P7 Vaxter Trip**

After their hectic term working on Transition Information - Literacy, Numeracy and Careers topics, which is passed on to the AHS teachers, P7 are heading up to Vaxter for an overnight residential trip with Miss Karen Saunders and Mrs Sheila Morrison (more details to follow for P7 parents).

We will also be celebrating their 'end of primary' with a **Leavers' Assembly** on **Thursday 30 June**. P7 parents should have already received an invitation to this event, and are reminded to contact the school, to let us know how many seats they require.

### **Nursery Graduation**

To mark the end of their time in Nursery, our 'New P1' pupils, will be having a short 'Graduation Ceremony' on Thursday 30 June, photographed by Malcom younger for ii magazine. Parents should have already received more information about this.

**Staffing Update**

As has previously been communicated, we are saying goodbye at the end of term to Mrs Emily Williamson (P2/3 Class teacher), Mrs Sheila Morrison (LSW) and Mrs Linda Hughson (Nursery Practitioner). We will miss them very much and wish them good luck as they start the next exciting chapter in their lives.

We have preferred candidates for the roles of SFL (Support for Learning Teacher), previously held by Mrs Lisa Emslie, who will be P6/7 class teacher next session and Nursery Practitioner. More information about these new employees, will be shared in August, once all paperwork has been checked.