



# Shetland Islands Council

Acting Head Teacher: Helen Kerr

Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/whalsayschoolweb/>

Whalsay School  
Symbister  
Whalsay  
Shetland  
ZE2 9AQ

Telephone: 01595 743800

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, I can hardly believe I am already writing to you at the end of a busy term! It seems to have fairly flown by. I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received.

Ahead of next term, a few messages for you:

## **Back to School**

While we wish you a good October holiday, next term will start for pupils on **Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## **NSA**

At the end of October into the beginning of November, S3 pupils will undertake their National Standardised Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. I will write with more information about this nearer the time.

## **Parents' Evenings**

For your diaries:

- P1/2 – Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- S4 – Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup>
- S3 – Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup>

## **Nursery and Primary Literacy Event**

Improving attainment in literacy and parental engagement are key features in this year's School Improvement Plan so staff and parents have been working together to plan a literacy event. We would like to invite Nursery and Primary parents to an after school literacy information session on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 4:00pm – 5:00pm**. This will be an informal event where parents and carers can visit the school canteen for a cup of tea or coffee, see the resources and strategies used in school to teach spelling and reading, ask questions and get tips about supporting children at home with homework.

Prior to this, nursery parents are invited for a parental engagement session in the nursery on the same afternoon at **2:45pm**. Again, this will be informal where Lynsey and the Nursery staff will give an overview on nursery routines, the curriculum, the processes in place to meet each child's needs as well as key messages from our recent Care Inspection. There will be the opportunity for parents to ask questions and hear how to support your child at home. Nursery parents are then very welcome to come to the Primary event at 4pm to hear about the progression from nursery into Primary.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

## **S2 John Muir Day**

This is currently planned for **Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>** and is set to be a 'Wild Ramble'.

### **Christmas Activities**

Due to staffing issues, the Christmas Concert this year will be held on **Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>**. There will be 2 performances, times to be confirmed.

The S4 Christmas party will be on **Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>** and Christmas lunch will be on **Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>**. I shall remind you of these, with more details, nearer the time!

### **Shoebox Appeal**

Thanks to all those who have sent in shoeboxes for this annual appeal. The shoeboxes will be collected on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** so there is still time to put a shoebox together and hand into the Primary.

Yours sincerely

*Helen Kerr*

Acting Head Teacher