



Shetland Islands Council

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Dear Parent/Carer

Since this is a busy term, I thought I would write and update you on some of what has been and will be going on in the school!

Secondary Christmas Party

S4 are well underway planning their 'Around the World' themed Christmas party, which will be held on December 18th.

Primary Christmas

Primary pupils have made a start in making Christmas crafts to sell at a Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December. Thank you to the parent volunteers who are supporting with this and we are grateful for the Secondary pupils who are supporting through Wider Achievement. Parents are welcome to collect their children from classes from 1:30pm on Friday 1st and visit the fair before going home.

Donations are now being collected for any Christmas clothing that people no longer require. Please leave clean garments in the box in the Primary porch. These will then be available for parents to take at the Christmas Fair too.

The Christmas concert will be performed twice on Wednesday 13th December during the school day. The morning performance will begin at 10am and the afternoon performance will begin at 2:30pm. After the concert, there will be an opportunity for parents to have mulled juice and visit classrooms. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of December.

Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox for this year's appeal. We collected a total of 77 boxes that Roger delivered to Shetland Aid on our behalf; we are thankful for his help.

Traditional Dancing

Maria Leask has been coming in on Thursdays to teach primary and S1/2 traditional dancing, which has been great to see. The pupils seem to be enjoying themselves!

S2 John Muir

S2 will be out on their John Muir Day on Thursday 16th – they will be going on a wild ramble – here's hoping the weather holds out for them!

The Care Inspectorate

On September 18th, the Care Inspectorate visited the nursery. The key messages that were reported include:

- Staff were kind and caring towards children.
- At times staff were focused on tasks instead of meeting children's needs.
- Children's learning journals were regularly shared with families to support meeting their needs.
- Children benefitted from a light, bright playroom and direct access to the outdoor area.
- Quality assurance processes could be developed further to support the continual improvement of the service.
- Staff needed to be better deployed to ensure that children were supervised and safe

You can view the full report here: [Find care \(careinspectorate.com\)](https://www.careinspectorate.com)

Primary Literacy Event

Thank you to everyone who came to the literacy event yesterday and to the parents who attended a meeting to help plan the event. It was lovely to see so many parents and to share the resources used in school to teach reading and spelling, as well as ideas as to how parents can support at home. A blog will be posted next week with further links that may be useful to support with literacy at home. We also took orders for lanyards with suggested questions to support with reading at home. If you would like one, please contact the Primary office.

Christmas Card Deliveries

Whalsay Secondary Pupil Council are collecting Christmas cards for delivery. The cost is 30p per card. The last collection will be Thursday 7th December at 9am.

Children in Need

Next Friday, November 17th, is Children in Need. We would like to invite pupils to:

- Wear spots or stripes
- Wear a coloured top the colour of a spot from Pudsy's bandana (green, blue, red, purple)
- Bring a donation if they would like to.

Helen Kerr
Acting Head Teacher