



- Committed to excellent education for all -

Newsletter 4 January 2019

22nd January 2019

Now in our second week of term 3, children and Staff are settled back in to school routines and continuing with important learning.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who baked, donated money or helped in any way towards our fund-raising for Children in Need in November. Primary 3 & 6 children organised fun games and activities and we raised an amazing £1077.40 - well done everyone!

Christmas Events

Christmas is always a busy time and 2018 was no exception! Our children and staff worked really hard preparing for all of the festive events. Members of the school choir and band performed at both the tree lighting at Sheila Fleet's Gallery and the East Mainland Church Guild Carol Service. Children had great fun at the school disco - thank you to our DJ, Alan Garriock and to the Parent Council for organising it. Our P1-3 children, joined by band members from further up the school made a brilliant job of 'Mary's Knitting', our Christmas show; Our primary 7 pupils made us very proud when they went to Eunson Kloss and St Rognvald's house to sing for the residents. Thank you to Reverend Wilma for leading our Christmas Service in the East Mainland Church on the last day of term. We welcome the chance to get together as a school with parents, friends and other family members to celebrate the Christmas story ahead of the holidays.

House Reading Challenge

This term, children are taking part in a House Book Challenge. Children are being encouraged to read as many books as they can, aiming for 20 books at home this term. They can read to themselves, or be read to and record their progress in their reading challenge booklet. Once the challenge is complete, the children earn points for their House and get to put their special book label on the House display board.

Bad Weather closures

Last Monday's school closure was a reminder that our winter has a bit still to go! On evaluation of our procedures, we have decided to make some small changes;

If the school is going to close early, parents will be alerted through the school text messaging system. **Parents will be asked to reply by text** to let us know that there will be somebody at home to meet their child/ren off the school bus. Please reply with your child's name (eldest

child only) and **BUS** or **WILL BE COLLECTED** to indicate if your child/ren should be put on the school bus or will remain at school to be collected by a parent/family member.

e.g. **Sam Smith BUS / Sam Smith WILL BE COLLECTED**

School staff will then telephone parents who have not responded by text. The buses will be dispatched once it has been established that there will be a parent or carer to meet each child off the bus. Children are not released to walk home independently if the conditions are so bad that we have to close the school early. Parents may collect their children from school if they wish; the office will note which children have been collected.

Please listen to Radio Orkney in times of bad weather for updates on school transport. Orkney Islands Council has a 'OIC School Transport' Facebook page and OIC Twitter feed for posting notices of bad weather and school closures.

We will endeavour to keep the school open where at all possible, weather, transport and staffing permitting. If the school is open and the buses do not run, parents can make their own arrangements to get their children to and from school. Equally, parents can choose to keep their children home if they feel it is unsafe for them to be out. Please let us know if you keep your children off due to the weather as part of the usual procedures.

OIC's winter newsletter is available to view on our website - <http://st-andrews-primary.com> - in the 'parent information' section.

Bus Behaviour

You will all be aware from last letter that bus behaviour is a concern with several complaints last term. I will be carefully monitoring the buses this term. **Your support** is essential to ensure our high standard of safety and wellbeing for all our pupils as they travel to and from school.

Please see over the page for **Dates for Your Diary**.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards
Mark Taylor

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

Monday 28th

Chess club begins

February

Thursday 14th & Friday 15th

In-service days. School closed to pupils.

Monday 18th

Holiday - school closed.

Tuesday 19th - Friday 22nd

P1/P7 health screening

March

Friday 1st March

P5 Bikeability

Friday 15th

P4 & 5 swimming lessons begin (weekly)

April

Tuesday 2nd

Easter Concert

Friday 5th

Last Day of term

Tuesday 23rd

First Day of new term

May

Monday 6th

Holiday - school closed.

Thursday 9th & Monday 13th

Fluoride Varnish

Monday 20th

P5 Outdoor education day

Monday 20th - Friday 24th

P7 to Lagganlia

June

Monday 3rd

In-service day. School closed to pupils.

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th (TBC)

KGS Transition days for P7 pupils.

Friday 21st

Transition Sports for P7 pupils.

July

Friday 5th

Last day of term.