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## October Bulletin 2016

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**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We are approaching the end of a busy term. The children and staff have been hard at work, settling in to their new classes and routines.

### **Harvest Assembly**

Our harvest thanksgiving assembly is this Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in the school and parents and friends are warmly invited to join us. Our chosen charity this term is the Orkney Foodbank and we are grateful for all of the donations which have already been handed in. If you would like to add to our collection, then please send it to the school before Friday afternoon.

### **Parents Night**

Parents night is being held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of October. If you have not received an appointment time, please contact the school. The house captains will be running a Scholastics Book Club stall next week. Each class will get the opportunity to visit and purchase books. The book stall will be open both nights should you wish to purchase any books.

### **High Visibility Vests**

All children will be given a high visibility vest before the end of term. We would really appreciate your help next term to reinforce the wearing of the vests to keep our children safe and seen this winter. If you have concerns please let us know.

### **RAFA Wings Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Royal Air Forces Association Battle of Britain Wings Appeal last month. The school raised £181.38.

### **Handwork**

We are looking for helpers from the local community to help our children to learn sewing, knitting, crochet and other crafts. If you are able to spare two hours on a Thursday afternoon and would like to come and join us, please contact the school office. We are very lucky to have had lots of help from members of the community in the past; without their help we would not be able to offer this opportunity.

Handwork will begin on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Grandparents, aunties or friends are all welcome!

### **Severe Weather Procedures**

Please remember to listen to Radio Orkney in times of bad weather. Orkney Islands Council now has a Facebook page for posting notices of bad weather and school closures - you can find a link on the OIC website.

<http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/O/OIC-Updates.htm> The Radio Orkney Facebook page provides updates as well. 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. If the school is going to close early parents will be alerted by a phone call from the school office.

### **Car Park**

The school, parents and the parent council have been campaigning for some time to improve the safety of our car park. We are delighted that work is now underway and the new car park should be operational on our return from the October break. This gives us an excellent opportunity to begin new routines, and to make sure that children, parents and visitors are safe when entering the school. We have considered the best way to use the new car park and would appreciate your support and cooperation with the following -

- The new car park, situated below the existing car park, will be for parents and other visitors. There is a safe route in to the school from here via the pavement and there will be no need to cross the busy car park or bus bays. This car park will be accessed from the main road at the top of the existing car park. The one way system will still remain.
- The existing car park will be used by staff. The parking bays currently behind the parking spaces which face the road will be removed (and nobody will be blocked in!)
- The bus bays will remain in the same place. There should be no parking in these by other vehicles at any time.
- In order to maintain a safe space for children, parents and staff there should be no parking out with the parking bays i.e. in the entrance to the existing car park.
- In the mornings, the existing car park can be used for 'drop offs' in the same way as it is at the moment, where the driver does not leave the car. In the evenings, the bus bays are in use and so parents should use the new car park.
- Pupils who are cycling home after school are asked to wait until the busses have departed and until it is safe for them to leave.

The changes will take a little time for us all to get used to however, I am confident that the new layout will be much safer, especially during the busiest periods.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's) will help to communicate the changes to the children.

### **School Website**

We have been working 'behind the scenes' on upgrading the school website for some time. The new site should be up and running by the start of the new term. The website address will remain the same - <http://www.st-andrews.orkney.sch.uk/>. We hope that you will find the new site informative and easy to navigate. We would welcome any feedback you have on this.

### **School Calendar**

Please find attached the school calendar for 2016/2017. We hope that you find this information useful.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly</b>
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Parents' Evening</b>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Parents' Evening</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>First Day of Term</b>
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Flu Vaccinations</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Children in Need fund-raising day</b>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Children in Need dress-up day</b>
<b>Thurs/Fri 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Dental Inspection</b>

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>East Mainland Guild Carol Service, Deerness Hall 7pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Show (P1-3) 2PM</b>
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Show (P1-3) 7PM</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>School Christmas Lunch</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Class Christmas Parties</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Class Christmas Parties</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Service, East Mainland Church 10am, Parents/Friends welcome.</b>
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Last day of term 2</b>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017</b>	<b>First day of term 3</b>
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>	<b>In-service day (school closed to pupils)</b>
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>2017 Mid-term break (school closed)</b>
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b>	<b>Comic Relief</b>
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>	<b>Last day of term 3</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b>	<b>First day of term 4</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017</b>	<b>May Day holiday</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017</b>	<b>In-service day (school closed to pupils)</b>
<b>19-23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>P7 Lagganlia Trip</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	<b>Last day of term 4</b>

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

**Kind Regards**  
**Mark Taylor**  
**Head Teacher**

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