



20th January 2020

Welcome

Now in our third week of term three, staff and children have settled back in to routines for learning. I'd like to offer a warm welcome to our new pupils starting in the Nursery.

Christmas Events

The month of December was packed full of Christmas activities here at the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Disco - thank you to our Parent Council who organised it.

The Christmas show is always a highlight of the year and P1-3's performance of 'Baubles' was excellent. Thank you to the school band and all of the staff who worked so hard to make the show happen and to parents, grandparents and friends who came along to support the children.

Our P6 pupils and school choir went on tour, spreading Christmas cheer in the second last week of term. They visited the Lifestyles Centre and the St Andrews Senior Citizens' lunch to sing Christmas songs - well done!

We were very glad to welcome parents and family members to our Christmas Service here at the school in the last week of term. The children read from the bible and told the Christmas story; we had music from our fiddlers and other musicians, singing from the choir and the whole school.

Action Australia Day

Next Monday, 27th January we will be having 'Action Australia Day'. Children will have a day of activities and learning about Australia, including the effects of the recent bush fires. We will be collecting money towards the Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund and we would be very grateful for any donations you can make.

Early Closure - A Reminder of School Procedure

With the school's early closure last week, I thought it would be a good time for a reminder of the early closure procedures.

«FORENAME»«FORENAME»«SURNAME»«SURNAME»«CLASS»

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**

******Last week some parents experienced difficulties replying by text; this may have been due to the number of parents trying to use the system at once. We did receive many replies this way and thank you to those of you who telephoned or emailed. Overall, the text system worked well and reduced the number of telephone calls made by the school greatly. ******

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.

If you decide to collect your child/ren from school, you will be asked to wait in the foyer until a member of staff collects your child from their classroom. This ensures that there is no confusion around which children are getting on the school bus.

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.

Board Games Club

Unfortunately we have been unable to find helpers to run the chess club, so we have decided instead to run a board games club for the term. Children may still play chess if they wish however, they will not be entered in to the UK Chess Challenge competition. If you are able to help for one lunchtime a week, we'd be very grateful if you could contact the school.

Emergency Contacts

Letters went home earlier this term with a copy of the emergency contact details that we hold for your child/ren. If you have not already done so, please return the completed form to the school as soon as possible.

Bus Behaviour

I have included bus behaviour in the school newsletters in the past as this is an issue which requires continuous monitoring here at the school. Our aim is for all children to have a safe and happy journey to and from school and we would really appreciate your help to reinforce our efforts by discussing the importance of this with your children. If you have concerns please let us know.

For insurance purposes, children must not go on a different bus to the one on which they have a place, so, for example if your child wants to go and play/attend a birthday party with a child who lives on a different bus route, he/she cannot get on the bus for that different route - alternative arrangements need to be made.

PE Kit

Pupils should have a PE kit (shorts, tee-shirt and trainers or pumps) in school at all times. This should be clearly named and will be sent home at the end of each term to be washed. Valuable lesson time is wasted if all children do not have the appropriate kit with them.

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

Monday 27th

Action Australia Day

Monday 27th

P4 Class trip to Skara Brae and Milburn Farm

February

Wednesday 12th Thursday 13th

In-Service Days, school closed to pupils

Friday 14th - Monday 17th

School closed

Wednesday 26th

P5 Bikeability

Saturday 29th

80s/90s Disco (Parent Council Fundraiser, over 18's)

18's)

March

Friday 6th

P4 & 5 Swimming lessons begin (weekly)

24th & 25th March

Easter Show

April

Friday 3rd

Easter Service, Last day of term

Monday 20th

Start of term

May

Friday 8th May

May Day Holiday - School closed

Mon 11th - Thu 14th

Instrumental Course

Tuesday 12th & Thursday 14th

Fluoride varnish

June

Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd

In-Service Day, school closed to pupils

Friday 19th

Sports Day

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th

P7 Lagganlia Trip

Tuesday 23rd

P5 Outdoor Education Day

Monday 29th

P7 Leavers assembly

July

Wednesday 1st July

Last day of term.