

# Term 2 Newsletter

## Friday 8 November 2024

### Welcome

Although we are now in week 2 of the term I would like to warmly welcome you all back and hope that each and every one of you had a great holiday. With Halloween and Bonfire Night now behind us we can bring out the glitter and get ready for the best term in the school year! I would like to also wish a warm welcome to Olivia who joins P4 - welcome to Orphir Community School Olivia.



### Term 1 Attendance

As mentioned in the Term 1 newsletter we are closely monitoring pupil attendance across the school and I can now report that overall in Term 1 Orphir had a percentage attendance rate of 94%. In Term 1 there were a fair amount of bugs flying about and where would never want children sent to school unwell please give careful consideration to other reasons for absence (long weekends away, feeling a little tired or under the weather, holidays etc) to ensure your child's individual percentage can remain as high as possible. If a child has an attendance percentage of 90% this equates to half a day off per week, 19 days off per year and over the course of their school career of 13 years mounts up

*Kindness Creativity Teamwork Respect Flourishing*

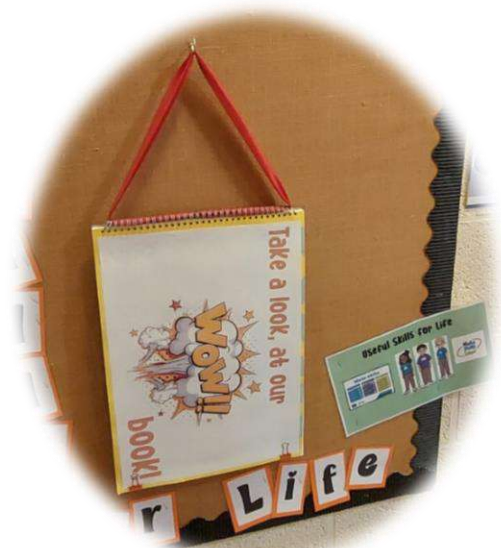
to over 1 year of lost education. At the end of Term 2 we will be looking at the attendance figures again and hope that individual percentages increase. If we find ourselves in the position where this is not the case we may contact you to ensure proactive approaches are adopted to help it rise.

### Wider Achievement

We held our first celebration assembly at the end of last term and what a success it was. Thanks to those of you who responded to my request and let us know of the wider achievements and successes your children have had, they really were amazing to share and who knew we had such a talented bunch here. All these achievements help provide our learners with a wide range of skills that really will prepare them well for life. Our Term 1 recognised wider achievers at Orphir were:

- Roman Nursery
- Oskar P1
- Oran P2
- Donald P2
- Ernest P3
- Clara P3
- Henry P3
- Jonah P4
- James P5
- Fraser P6
- Sophie P7
- Jamie P7

Please feel free to take a look at the wider achievement board and WOW book located next to my office door and be amazed at the range of achievements. Look out for the next nomination form towards the end of Term 2 for our second celebration assembly and feel free to send in any photos as well so we can fill our board.



## Christmas

Before we know it we will be switching on the lights of the tree (Sunday 1 December 2024) and donning those Christmas jumpers for our Festive Fridays. As per previous years, we are accepting donations of pre-loved and outgrown Christmas jumpers for our Santa's Swap Shop. If you have anything you would like to donate then please hand it in to the office and/or visit our swap shop if you need a replacement. There is no cost at our swap shop as we believe in spreading Christmas cheer more than profit. Please take note of the following Christmas diary dates/events:

- Festive Friday 1 (Christmas jumpers welcome) Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.
- P1-P7 Christmas party (pupils only): Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2 to 3 PM.
- Christmas Crafternoon (all welcome): Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2 to 3 PM.
- Festive Friday 2 (Christmas jumpers welcome) Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.
- Nursery Christmas party (pupils only): Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2:45 to 3:30 PM.
- Christmas service at the Kirk (all welcome): Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December (PM - Exact time TBC).
- Festive Friday 3 (Christmas jumpers welcome) Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.



## Parent Forum

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 6 PM.

Please find below information and an invite from Liz Johnston, Chair of the Orphir Community school Forum along with a surveymonkey to complete about helping with the show in December.

## Request for help with Finding Nemo Preparation and notice of Parent Forum meeting.

We have our Term 2 Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm at the School.

As always, we would welcome any parents who are keen to come along and take part, or just see what it is about and how we can support the school in delivering education to our children.

A focus of this meeting will be the school show, Finding Nemo. This is planned to be performed on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Nearer the time we will ask for helpers on the night for make-up, front of house etc.

As you will be aware, there is also a lot of work that needs to happen before these dates.

If you are keen to see how you can help, please come along to the meeting next week or complete the form to say how you feel you can help. We are also happy for any interested friends or family to help out too!

We need help with backdrop painting and props (no artistic skill required), organisation of the raffle, help with costumes and if anyone is keen to volunteer their photography or recording skills for the night that would also be very welcome.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8QSS69N>

And a reminder that any donations aqua style glittery material/clothing will all be welcomed. Please state on the bag whether you are happy for the clothes to be altered or not. Once we see what we have available, we will ask for plain clothing for legs and arms thereafter - the colour will depend on what sparkly material/clothing we get.

I look forward to seeing you there!



### **Children in Need Coffee Morning**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

We warmly invite you into a coffee morning (donations for Children in Need) on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November for Children in Need Day with baking provided by the P4-7 class - we'll clarify exact timings next week. Anyone wishing to donate baking for sale are more than welcome to do so - drop off on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Children are welcome to dress up with the spotty theme of Pudsey Bear or superheroes.

### **Reporting Progress Evenings**

A reminder that our Reporting Progress Evenings are scheduled for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November & Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 here in school. Shona will be in touch soon with times but please make advance contact if there are better days for you.

**Finally from me...** Have a restful weekend (or not if you are at the Harvest Home!), enjoy the family time and I look forward to seeing some of you at the Parent Forum meeting next week.

Kind regards as always,

*Grant Thomson*

Grant Thomson  
Head Teacher