

DounbyCommunitySchool

Orkney KW17 2JA

☎ 01856 771234

☎ 01856 771701

✉ admin.dounby@orkneyschools.org.uk

Headteacher's report to Parent Group April 2012

Pupil numbers

Class	Girls	Boys	Total	Notes re deferrals	
Nursery year	13	16	29		
Pre-school year	7	13	20	Three automatic and two discretionary deferrals	
Total nursery/pre-school	20	29	49		
				Composite	Composite
Shapinsay Class (P1)	12	10	22		
Rousay Class (P2)	10	10	20		
Graemsay Class (P3)	10	14	24		
Hoy Class (P4/5)	12	9	21	P4 = 14	P5 = 7
Westray Class (P5/6)	14	10	24	P5 = 12	P6 = 12
Flotta Class (P7)	6	13	19		
Total P1 – P7	54	66	130		
Total all children	74	95	179		

Implications for school organisation from these pupil numbers

It may be that the school will require another teacher, and will be opening another class from August 2013. Primary 1 classes may only be of 25 children maximum. The structure would be: P1; P1/2 composite; P3; P4; P5; P6; P7. This will depend on how many children are expected in the Primary 1 class in August 2013.

Support for learning pupils

Stage of intervention	Number of pupils	Reason for intervention	Number of pupils
1	13	Autistic Spectrum Disorder*	7
2	7	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**	1
3	19	Behaviour	8
4	2	Dyslexia	9
5	0	General learning / non-specific concern	11
Total	41	Speech and language	10
		Other(A range of less common identified reasons for intervention.)	2
*** Some children have been identified as presenting with more than one reason for intervention thus the total is greater than 41.			

* Diagnosis by panel including health and education professionals

** Clinical diagnosis

Staffing

The school is currently advertising for a Principal Teacher as Greer Norquoy will retire at the end of this school year. This post will be interviewed for on 15th May.

Anne Phillips is retiring at the end of this school year. The school is awaiting a decision from Orkney Islands Council in respect of advertising this vacancy.

The school currently has quite a large number of temporary appointments in post, we are awaiting a decision from Orkney Islands Council in respect of advertising these posts as permanent positions.

Jonathon McCabe will complete his probationary year as a teacher with the end of this school year. Orkney Islands Council has informed me that a new probationary teacher will be placed with us for next academic year.

I am awaiting the appointment to the Principal Teacher post before making final decisions about which teachers will be allocated to which year groups for August 2012. The only decisions that have been made to this point are that the current teaching teams in the Nursery and in Primary 1 will remain as they are for next school year.

Charis Hourston has joined the nursery staff for this term as an additional early years worker as the number of children in one nursery session a day has more than twenty children attending. I welcome Charis to the staff of the school.

School improvement plan – progress

We have focused this year on developing reading and mathematics. Considerable progress has been made towards developing the teaching of these areas this year. We will be looking closely at the standards the children achieve in order to judge the impact of these initiatives. It is likely that we will continue to develop these two important areas of the curriculum next school year. The outcomes will be written guidance for teachers and support staff to ensure consistency and progression across the school in the learning of reading and mathematics across the school.

I have observed all the teachers delivering a PE lesson. This was to monitor the impact of the training delivered by Orkney Active Schools and to audit our delivery of two hours of curriculum based PE for every child.

ICT

There has been a focus this year on using ICT to enhance the learning of children with additional learning needs. Funding was found for new equipment and software for a number of children, this has been supported by the IT section of Orkney Islands Council. The school is in the process of developing its general ICT provision in partnership with Orkney Islands Council.

Finance from Parent Group via friends of Dounby School has been used to purchase new cameras for each class and a new video camera. Further video equipment will also be bought using FODS money. Many thanks to parents, carers, and their families and friends for supporting FODS events.

The school has continued to use electronic means to communicate with parents and carers. The Dounby School Diary which can be accessed via the school website is used to show parents and carers the range of events that children are involved in at school.

Building and grounds

The school has informed Orkney Islands Council about the following items that require repair or replacement.

Item	Date OIC informed	Date work completed	Notes
Fence to the front of school and enclosing the playground	Approx Apr 2011		Front fence has been removed, order placed with contractor by OIC 12-04-12
Holes in the foyer floor	Approx Apr 2010		The expansion joints require repair as does the carpet.
Expansion joints to floor, school office	Approx Apr 2010		The expansion joints require repair as does the carpet.
Play park and bowling green development	Not OIC maintenance project		Questionnaire out to community w/b 30-04-12
Electrical work in the nursery	Dec 2011		
Replace door by school entrance	?		
Mend or replace automatic doors to front of school and the nursery	Nov 2011		
Mend panels to front of school	Nov 2011		
Mend bicycle shelter	Nov 2011		
Replace play house	Nov 2011	Feb 2012	
Remove rocks from playground	Not OIC		

Headteacher comment

This Headteacher Report is part of an initiative to help Parent Group meetings to be more focused. I would welcome comments in relation to this report. In particular would parents and carers like me to report on any other areas of interest other than those included this time? If you would like to comment please email me: alastair.forsyth@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk or ring: 771234. Thank you.