

# Dounby Community School

Orkney KW17 2JA

☎ 01856 771234

☎ 01856 771701

✉ admin.dounby@orkneyschools.org.uk

## Headteacher's report to Parent Group February 2013

### Pupil numbers

Class	Girls	Boys	Total	Notes on deferrals etc	
Nursery year	9	10	19	Currently in school, more will come in at the beginning of the summer term.	
Pre-school year	15	19	34	There will be deferrals from this group – there are 5 likely automatic deferrals	
<b>Total nursery/pre-school</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>53</b>		
				<b>Composite</b>	<b>Composite</b>
Shapinsay Class (P1)	5	11	16		
Rousay Class (P2)	12	11	23		
Graemsay Class (P3)	9	9	18		
Hoy Class (P4)	10	15	25		
Westray Class (P5/6)	12	9	21	P5 = 14	P6 = 7
Flotta Class (P6/7)	13	10	23	P6 = 11	P7 = 12
<b>Total P1 – P7</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>126</b>		
<b>Total all children</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>179</b>		

The new cohort who entered Nursery at January 2013 are now included in the totals.

### Implications for school organisation from these pupil numbers

It is likely, but not certain, that the school would become a seven class school with a nursery/pre-school in August 2013. Following discussions with staff and the Education Dept the most sustainable model would be to open two parallel, composite Primary 1/2 classes. The rest of the school would be organised in single cohort classes. So we would have – P1/2; P1/P2; P3; P4; P5; P6; P7.

If we do not receive an additional class teacher the school could be composited: P1/2/3; P1/2/3; P3/4; P4/5; P5/6; P7. It is hoped that this could be avoided, but it does depend on the school being given an additional class teacher.

### Support for learning pupils

Stage of intervention	Number of pupils	Reason for intervention	% of pupils
1	16	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	3.9
2	2	Behaviour	7.3
3	27	Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia)	5.6
4	2	General learning / non-specific concern	5.6
5	0	Speech and language	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	Other (Medical and other less common reasons for intervention.)	3.9

Stage 1 is the lowest stage of intervention and Stage 5 the highest. Stage 3 involves outside agencies.

## Staffing

Kerry Flett has been appointed as a part-time auxiliary. Kerry is now in post. Charis Hourston has been appointed as the additional early years worker for nursery and pre-school. Charis will begin work on 18th February. We welcome both Kerry and Charis to the staff of the school.

## Headteacher activity

Currently I am working on:

- School Improvement Plan
- Anti-bullying policy
- Staff continuing professional development
- Development of the learning and teaching of reading
- Use of technology in school and the technology curriculum
- Children's play
- Further development of support for learning

I am supporting the learning of reading in two classes; I teach one session a week in P1 and I teach one session with P7 each week, developing the Primary 7 profiles. Recently I have been covering absence more than usual as we are having difficulty obtaining supply cover for teachers.

I have attended departmental headteacher meetings. I have attended my annual staffing meeting with Education, Leisure and Housing Services.

The school is hosting an in-service training session for teachers across the authority on the morning of 7th February. Teachers from Dounby will lead a number of the sections of the training on that day.

I have been invited, with a member of the department staff, to speak at a meeting hosted by CEM and Highland and Islands Council in Stirling on 26th February.

## Roots & Shoots

We published a Fair Trade cookbook for the Christmas Fayre.

I have been establishing links with a school in Malawi with the aim of the children exchanging information and we as a school supporting them with resources occasionally. This link came about through a Fair Trade representative, Kester Chiwalo who manages a fair trade tea estate in Malawi. Kester visited school last year.

## School Council

I have re-established a traditional school council and this is now meeting weekly.

## Standards and Quality Report

The Standards and Quality report has been agreed and is now published.

### Anti-bullying policy

Surveys of the staff and of the parents have been completed. An analysis of the parent responses has been made and is attached to this report, it can also be found here - [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B717\\_7guSpvnN2JDUV9aTnMzbEE/edit](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B717_7guSpvnN2JDUV9aTnMzbEE/edit). The compilation of staff responses may be found here - [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B717\\_7guSpvnWHRwcVJaazc3TTg/edit](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B717_7guSpvnWHRwcVJaazc3TTg/edit)

The next step is to put pupil questionnaires to the children to better understand their view of bullying.

### Nursery inspection

The school nursery and pre-school was inspected on Friday 11th January and the school is in possession of the draft report. The report is very positive with gradings of very good in all areas. This is a good opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of all our staff who work in the nursery and have worked there in the last year. In particular Nicola Moar's leadership should be recognised, as well as the very good work of Phyllis Ballantyne, Helen Johnstone, Hazel McKinlay, Rachel Garson, Charis Hourston and all the other staff who have played a part in the further development of our nursery and pre-school.

### ICT

The school is in the process of self-evaluating the the learning and teaching of ICT skills and knowledge. From this should come a new programme of learning for ICT across the school.

### Building and grounds

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date OIC informed</b>	<b>Date work completed</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Fence to the front of school and enclosing the playground	Approx Apr 2011		All completed but for plastic tops for some of the fence posts.
Play park and bowling green development	Not OIC maintenance project		The play park will not be developed under this initiative but the bowling green Leader funding is in place and this development will go ahead.

Item	Date OIC informed	Date work completed	Notes
Mend or replace automatic doors to front of school and the nursery	Nov 2011	7 Feb 2013 school front doors.	No progress at November 2012. Doors now have broken hinges. Work being carried out but not completed.
Remove rocks from playground	Not OIC		Some removed, no further progress.
Redesign office accommodation and reception area	November 2012	Close to completion at 13 Feb 2013	Scheduled for the February in-service.
Play park development	November 2012		Play Dounby group formed, two meetings held and leaflet put out to the community.

### 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](mailto:alastair.forsyth@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk) or ring: 771234. Thank you.