

# Dounby Community School

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## Headteacher's report to Parent Group May 2013

### Pupil numbers

Class	Girls	Boys	Total	Notes on deferrals etc	
Nursery year	11	13	24	One additional child has requested a place.	
Pre-school year	16	16	32	There will be deferrals from this group – there are 5 automatic deferrals and two or three discretionary deferrals. One child is leaving in May. Two additional children have requested a place.	
<b>Total nursery/pre-school</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>		
				<b>Notes</b>	
Shapinsay Class (P1)	5	11	16	Possible additional pupil to join in June	
Rousay Class (P2)	12	11	23	One child is leaving in May.	
Graemsay Class (P3)	9	9	18		
Hoy Class (P4)	10	15	25		
				<b>Composite</b>	<b>Composite</b>
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>88</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>182</b>		

The new cohort who entered Nursery at April 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. With the discretionary deferrals added to a child leaving and the automatic deferrals the school could then organise with single age cohort classes.

If the school does not receive an additional teacher, it would be possible to organise the school P1, P2, P3 and with three composite classes P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7. These three composite classes would each be at the maximum size of 25, so if a child arrived in those age groups a teacher would have to be appointed and the school reorganised. It is likely that there will be two composite Primary 1/2 classes because of the numbers entering Primary 1 this year (P1 is legally limited to 25 children).

## Pupil numbers (continued)

### 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

Charis Hourston began work with us as an additional early years worker in our nursery on 18th February.

## Headteacher activity

Currently I am working on:

- School Improvement Plan
- Monitoring of planning and assessment
- Monitoring via pupil's view pastoral care and learning
- Assessment
- Staff continuing professional development
- Development of the learning and teaching of reading
- Use of technology in school and the technology curriculum
- Children's play
- Monitoring of the teaching and safety of swimming arrangements

I am supporting the learning of reading in P5/6; 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 am supporting excursions for a number of classes.

I attended and spoke at a meeting hosted by CEM and Highland and Islands Council in Stirling on 26th February.

I attended the Chaplains' Conference and the Headteachers' Conference, both OIC organised events in Kirkwall. I attended the probationary teachers' "Peedie Projects" presentation afternoon in Kirkwall.

## Roots & Shoots

The school is planning to have an environmental theme running through its work in the next two years. This will encourage teachers to ensure that children understand the environmental issues that affect them, for example, global warming and pollution.

## School Council

School Council held a coffee morning at the end of last term to raise money for a school in Malawi. The coffee morning raised £88.38. The School Council will repeat this event but for another cause later this term.

## School Improvement Plan

The new plan will take in the following areas. The plan is not completed at this time as I am awaiting confirmation of the local authority priorities. The school's priorities are:

- Talking and listening.
- Maths – especially the teaching of maths in the early years and First Level.
- Science – developing teacher's knowledge of scientific method and how that is taught.
- Health and well-being – including children's play.
- ICT – pupil safety and learning about how to use ICT safely and appropriately.

The plan needs to include the local authority priorities and national initiatives.

## Anti-bullying policy

The policy has been presented to the Parent Group previously and following some minor adjustments and the completion of the pupil survey it now requires formal approval.

## Nursery inspection

The final report was published in March and is attached with the other papers for this meeting.

## 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.
Mend or replace automatic doors to front of school and the nursery	Nov 2011	7 Feb 2013 school front doors.  Broke again within a week or so.	Further discussions with the technical services officer revealed that the work has been hampered by the contract that was in place. A new approach has been agreed and it is likely that both the school front electric doors and the nursery electric doors will be mended soon.
Remove rocks from playground	Not OIC	Completed 03-05-13	Work can now commence developing these two areas.
Redesign office accommodation and reception area	November 2012	Completed successfully in March 2013.	
Play park development	November 2012		Play Dounby continues to meet. Plans close to ready for submission to OIC. Beginning to obtain costs and seek the means of funding and installation. Parent Group to be consulted at this meeting.
Alterations to nursery	April 2013		Technical Services officer met with Nicola Moar and Alastair Forsyth on 2 May. There was general agreement about the work that is required. In process.

## 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.