

Dounby Community School

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Headteacher's report to Parent Group November 2012

Pupil numbers

Class	Girls	Boys	Total	Notes on deferrals etc	
Nursery year	3	7	10	Currently in school, more will come in at January and April	
Pre-school year	15	19	34	There will be deferrals from this group – there are 5 likely automatic deferrals	
Total nursery/pre-school	18	26	44		
				Composite	Composite
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
Total P1 – P7	61	65	126		
Total all children	79	91	170		

Numbers have not changed since the August report in which there was an error, these figures are correct at end of October 2012.

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 defer entry into Primary 1, the current estimate is 5 but this number is not certain.

Support for learning pupils

Stage of intervention	Number of pupils	Reason for intervention	Number of pupils
1	16	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	6
2	2	Behaviour	13
3	27	Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia)	10
4	2	General learning / non-specific concern	10
5	0	Speech and language	16
Total	47	Other (Medical and other less common reasons for intervention.)	7
* Some children have been identified as presenting with more than one reason for intervention thus the total is greater than 47.			

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

The “Behaviour” category is significantly larger than in the previous report, this is due to a wider definition of “behaviour” being used.

Staffing

Helen Johnstone has been appointed as a part-time nursery and pre-school teacher (0.3) as Nicola Moar has reduced her hours to 0.8. The additional 0.1 (above 1.0) provides the McCrone time for nursery and pre-school teachers. Helen began work in this post after the October break. Helen’s appointment is temporary for this year.

Lorraine Buchan has been appointed as support for learning assistant and began work in her post following the October break. This is a permanent appointment.

The school currently has a part-time auxiliary post advertised. Clare Flett has returned to her substantive post as part-time auxiliary from the October break.

Headteacher activity

Currently I am working on:

- Staff annual reviews
- Formal, documented observations of teaching
- School Improvement Plan
- Staff continuing professional development
- Development of the learning and teaching of reading
- Use of technology in school and the technology curriculum

I am supporting the learning of reading in one class, and I am supporting the support for learning team with the use of ICT interventions for particular children. I teach one session a week in P1 each week.

As well as the usual departmental headteacher meetings I attended an evening meeting on autistic spectrum disorders which was presented by staff from Studio 3.

I prepared and presented a session on “Raising attainment” to a meeting of OIC headteachers in October. Much of this material was used and will be used in the future for staff CPD.

I am running an after school badminton club for children of the school, 15:30 to 16:30 on a Tuesday.

School Council

We have begun work as a school on Roots and Shoots, this is a web based resource set up by the Jane Goodall Foundation. Our School Council is currently the Primary 6 cohort but all children are involved in Roots and Shoots. <http://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk/> We see Roots and Shoots as amore child friendly alternative to EcoSchools.

We are focusing on Fair Trade; transport and the school grounds.

Standards and Quality Report

The draft Standards and Quality report was circulated to parents and carers prior to this meeting. It is for Parent Group to agree the report at this meeting.

School Improvement Plan

Is close to finalisation and will be brought to the next meeting.

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.

Item	Date OIC informed	Date work completed	Notes
Fence to the front of school and enclosing the playground	Approx Apr 2011		One gate and one small section of fencing are outstanding but otherwise this work was substantially completed at 16th October 2012.
Holes in the foyer floor	Approx Apr 2010	26th October 2012	
Expansion joints to floor, school office	Approx Apr 2010	29th October 2012	
Play park and bowling green development	Not OIC maintenance project		Questionnaire out to community w/b 30-04-12 Update: Funding now partially in place, planning for new facilities now .
Mend or replace automatic doors to front of school and the nursery	Nov 2011		No progress at November 2012
Mend panels to front of school	Nov 2011	October 2012	

Item	Date OIC informed	Date work completed	Notes
Mend bicycle shelter	Nov 2011	October 2012	
Remove rocks from playground	Not OIC		Some removed, no further progress.
New carpet for Hoy Class, classroom	Aug 2012	October 2012	
Redesign office accommodation and reception area	November 2012		

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.