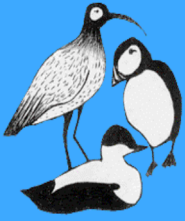


Dounby



Community School

Newsletter

September 2009

Contact us: ☎ 771234 ✉ admin.dounby@orkneyschools.org.uk

From the Head Teacher

Welcome to a new school year at Dounby Community School. A special welcome to all the new children in the Nursery and Pre-School and to children and families who have joined the school since last term.

We welcome a new teacher to the school, Ben Harris has joined us to teach Class 6 this year.

Being new to the school and to Orkney myself I have been very pleased to have had plenty of help from the school community to make settling in to my new post a very good experience. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome.

I am hoping that I will have the opportunity to meet most parents and carers in the next few weeks. I hope parents and carers of children in Class 1 will be able to come along to our meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evening (3rd September) where EmmaJane Rendall, the Class 1 teacher, and I will talk about learning in Primary 1 and what you can do at home to support your child's education.

If any parent or carer has any worries or concerns about your child in school please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact details above. I will always try to see parents and carers as quickly as possible so that we can resolve problems promptly.

School Vision

Last year the school staff worked together to develop a vision statement, this was following an initiative of Orkney Islands Council which asked all schools to consider their aims and values.

The staff agreed a statement – “With challenge and support, together we develop, grow and achieve in a thinking learning community.”

In order to make this vision accessible to the children and memorable for all of us a shortened version –

Thinking Learning Community

will appear around school and on letters and on the website. The three words will also provide themes for assemblies and learning and teaching in the classes.

Art teaching

Many of you may know that Carole Harvey has been unwell. During her absence we have temporarily covered Carole's art teaching role by employing Lynn Runciman and Shona Ritch. We are in the process of recruiting a teacher to carry out Carole's work whilst she receives further treatment.

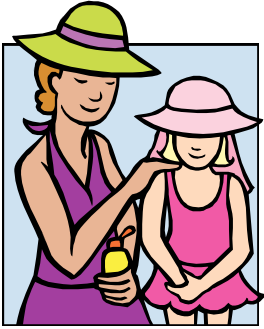
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<http://www.dounby.orkney.sch.uk/default.htm>

Health and Well-being



During September and early October we still need to think about protecting ourselves from the sun. Children play outside for a considerable part of their day at school, especially if they are in Nursery or Pre-school.

Don't forget the sunscreen

Ensuring that the children are healthy and happy is an important part of our role in school.

Head lice

Head lice cause parents and carers a great deal of stress. Some children seem to be much more susceptible than others to hosting them. This has nothing to do with cleanliness, head lice like clean hair.

We would advise that the wet combing method is the best way of controlling these pests. Instructions for using this method can be found on the web at:



<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/7524-Head%20lice%20-%20information%20for%20parents.pdf>

However, there are medicated shampoos on the market that are also effective treatments once an infestation has been found.

If we want to keep head lice to a minimum in our community we all need to check for them once a week and if live lice are found they need to be treated quickly by one of the methods above.

We will place the head lice advice from the Scottish Government on our website soon.

School Improvement Plan

Each year I will write a School Development Plan which will guide the work of the school over the next twelve months. The decisions about the content of this plan are based on the school's self-evaluation of its recent performance. However, parent input to the plan would be welcome. The current plan will look at the learning of English and mathematics, it will also focus on leadership within the school, the self-evaluation process assessment and the development of Curriculum for Excellence.

The school also has as priorities work on the development of Glow, Eco Schools and Behaviour Policy. I am also keen to gradually improve the outside environment of the school.

If you have an opinion about what we should include in the School Improvement Plan or other items you think we should work on please email me at alastair.forsyth@orkneyschools.org.uk

Diary dates

03-09-09 3.30 – 5.00p.m.	Netball coaching begins
03-09-09 6.00 p.m.	Meeting for parents of Class 1
10-09-09 6.30p.m.	Fund raising meeting for Lagganlia Class 7 trip
18-09-09	School closed for staff training
24-09-09 7.00p.m.	Parent Group AGM
12 to 23-10-09	School closed, October break

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<http://www.dounbv.orknev.sch.uk/default.htm>