

Dounby



Community School

Newsletter

January 2010

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Welcome to (a chilly) 2010

Welcome back to the New Year at Dounby Community School. It has been a very cold start to the new term and that has caused us all some difficulties with getting children safely to and from the school. We have tried to stay open and ensure that the children have been able to attend through this cold weather. I am aware that a few children have not always been able to get here because of the difficulty travelling on icy roads. Orkney Islands Council are now managing to grit and salt most of our minor roads and the bus drivers will, I hope, shortly be able to get to everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our conveyers for safely getting through to as many families as they could during this spell of cold weather.

Please remember to listen to Radio Orkney between 7:30a.m. and 8:00a.m. to find out about school closures. We will usually put information on our website <http://www.dounby.orkney.sch.uk/> (click the "School Closures" button on the left side panel) as an additional source of information about school opening and closing during adverse weather conditions.

We have decided to telephone all families before putting children on a bus if we need to close during the school day. During the winter months, if there is a severe weather warning in force please make sure there will be someone available to receive your child at home if we have to close.

Head Lice



Head lice are continuing to be a problem. Please check your child's hair every week using the wet combing method and then treat their hair if you find head lice. If head lice are found you do need to check everyone else in your family as well. Advice on treatment of head lice can be found at:

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

Advice can also be obtained from the doctor's surgery, the school nurse, pharmacists and we can also give advice in school. We will print the advice leaflet for you if that would be helpful.

The chemists in Kirkwall do have the "Nitty Gritty" comb in stock. This comb is especially effective and does remove eggs as well as lice.

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

Grit bin empty



School nearly did not open on 6th January because the grit from our bin had been taken. Donald, our janitor had ensured that the bin was full before the end of last term.

Fortunately, Donald managed to obtain a little salt and was able to clear the route to the fire exit. Donald was unable to make the paths across the playground safe though because of the lack of grit and salt.

The cost of the grit and salt we use on the playground and footpaths around school is paid from school budget. Orkney Islands Council do not supply grit and salt to us free of charge. Replacing the grit taken from the bin has cost us £80. We are now purchasing a lock for our grit bin because we cannot afford to have it taken again. This is because of the cost and because it might prevent us from opening school if we do not have adequate supplies when we need them.

Royal British Legion



The Royal British Legion were very pleased with our fund raising efforts on their part during our Christmas Concert. Thank you for your generosity, over £300 was raised. We are continuing to sell copies of the Class 7 book of poems.

Christmas cards and calendars

The sale of Christmas cards and calendars raised £149.91 and £282.06 respectively for FODS funds and for School Fund. Thank you for purchasing these as the money will make a real difference to what we can offer the children.

Tree Lighting Collection

£151.39 has been forwarded to the Breast Cancer Campaign. Thank you to all who contributed.

School lending library

We are intending to set up a lending library for children so that they can borrow books from school. We intend to do this using donated books.

For this to happen we need your help. We need donations of good quality children's books which we will then organise into fiction and non-fiction and by age and put on the shelves by the fish tank. The library will work on an honesty system although we will do our best to keep track of the books that you give.

We recognise that the libraries in Kirkwall and Stromness are very good and that the service provided by the library bus is also a good one. However, we want to make good books freely available to the children to encourage reading.

Many families have children's books that are no longer read taking up shelf space at home. These books are often in good condition and we would very much like to give them a new lease of life. If you can help bring in your books to Dounby Community School. Thank you.



Diary dates

Wednesday 10th February
Thursday 11th February
Friday 12th February
Friday 19th February
Saturday 20th March
Friday 26th March

In-service days, school closed to pupils
Mid-term break
Valentine Disco
Class 7 Fundraising - Race Night at The Merkister
Last day of term

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