

# S1 PARENT NEWSLETTER



Hello! I'm Belinda Morrison, the Head of Year for S1-S3 pupils at Stromness Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you, as a parent/guardian of one of our new S1 pupils. I have been delighted to see how quickly the youngsters have settled into the routines at Stromness Academy, particularly when they have had such a limited induction to the school. Most can now navigate their way around the school building: I haven't bumped into a lost child for the past two days! Any issues with school transport seem to have been resolved and the children are engaging fully with the procedures we have put into place before school, at interval and at lunchtime to keep everyone safe.

All new pupils who join Stromness Academy are assigned a Guidance teacher who has a personal interest in them and their progress during their time at school. They help pupils to settle in and, throughout their time at Stromness Academy, are the main link between home and school. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's Guidance Teacher, their contact details can be found below.



Melanie Johansen  
Guidance Manager  
Responsible for pupils  
in 1R



Helen Murray  
Guidance Teacher  
Responsible for pupils  
in 1T



Catherine Lennon  
Guidance Teacher  
Responsible for pupils  
in 1M

**Unfortunately Catherine Lennon is absent at the moment so, as from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, Jennifer Nixon will be looking after pupils in 1M. Please contact Mrs Nixon if you have any concerns.**

## Parental Contact

If you have any queries or concerns about your child then please get in touch with us. Guidance Staff are usually your first point of contact but you can also contact me or our Head Teacher, Jane Partridge. Here are our contact details: -

Melanie Johansen	<a href="mailto:melanie.johansen@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk">melanie.johansen@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk</a>	850660	07341788164
Helen Murray	<a href="mailto:helen.murray@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk">helen.murray@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk</a>	850660	07341 788161
Jennifer Nixon	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Nixon@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk">Jennifer.Nixon@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk</a>	850965	
Belinda Morrison	<a href="mailto:belinda.morrison@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk">belinda.morrison@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk</a>	850660	
Jane Partridge	<a href="mailto:jane.partridge@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk">jane.partridge@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk</a>	850660	



Rachael Mehmi  
PT Support for Learning  
Responsible for pupils  
in 1R and 1T

All members of the Guidance Team work closely with Support for Learning staff. They regularly liaise with each other and a number of other support services to ensure that all of our pupils are gaining as much as possible from their time at Stromness Academy. It is very much our aim to ensure that every pupil thrives and achieves in the widest possible sense. To this end we actively encourage all our pupils to embrace the opportunities which become available to them. Contact from parents/carers is very important to us – if you feel that there is something happening in your child’s life that may affect them

in the school, please let us know so that we can support them in the most appropriate way. The role of all staff, particularly the Guidance Teacher and Support for Learning staff is to help every child, and we greatly value your help with this.



Jen Nixon  
Support for Learning  
Teacher  
Responsible for pupils in 1M

From time to time some of our young people benefit from additional support from staff from outside school and we offer a range of counselling, befriending and health care services: -



Hello, my name is June Anderson and I provide an in-school counselling service. Counselling is a confidential conversation with someone who is trained and qualified to listen and help with issues such as, stress, anxiety, low mood, anger, bullying, relationship or family difficulties, self-harm or anything else that upsets or causes distress. To get an appointment you can, contact Guidance Teachers or send a text message to 07960 745004 or email: [june.therapy@gmail.com](mailto:june.therapy@gmail.com)

I'm Imogen Kerr, the Educational Psychologist for Stromness Academy. I work with children and young people, families, and school staff, to help everyone apply what we know from psychology as we support children and young people to learn, develop, and flourish. As well as supporting individual pupils, I am also frequently involved with class-based projects and whole-school initiatives. If you would like a chance to speak with me, just ask your child's Guidance Teacher to arrange a short informal appointment. Or you can contact me direct on: [gw16kerrimogenruth@glowmail.org.uk](mailto:gw16kerrimogenruth@glowmail.org.uk)



We are the School Health Team and are normally in school every Monday offering a drop-in service at break and lunchtime. Unfortunately due to the current pandemic we are meeting pupils using video conferencing. We can offer support for anxiety, sleep, healthy lifestyles, relationships and much more. Plus we can signpost you to other people and organisations and could provide more specialised support. Again Guidance Staff can arrange appointments or you can contact: [ork-hb.schoolnurses@nhs.net](mailto:ork-hb.schoolnurses@nhs.net)

## The Curriculum

S1-S3 pupils follow a broad general education (BGE) where they study groups of subjects within a range of curricular areas. They move round the school to different classrooms to be taught by subject specialist teachers. Sometimes teachers work together to deliver inter-disciplinary projects. For example, in January S1 pupils do a Healthy Me topic in Science, Physical Education, Personal and Social Education and Home Economics.

Curriculum Area	Stromness Academy Subjects
Expressive Arts	Art & Design, Music,
Health and Wellbeing	HE, PE
Languages	English, French, German
Mathematics	Mathematics
Religious and Moral Education	RME
Sciences	S1 Science – a Mix of Biology, Chemistry & Physics
Social Studies	Geography, History
Technologies	Computing Science, Admin & IT, Food Technology, Fashion & Textiles, Practical Craft Skills



Some (not all) subjects issue homework and the amount will vary between subjects. However, all S1-S3 pupils at Stromness Academy participate in an Accelerated Reader program and are expected to do twenty minutes reading every day at home. Reading has been proven to help pupils to access the rest of the curriculum, improve connectivity of the brain, improve memory, reduce stress and increase attention span. Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Pupils pick a book at their level and read it at their own pace. Twenty minutes are allocated to this every day during class time, and twenty minutes for homework. When finished, pupils take a short quiz on the computer so teachers can gauge their level of understanding of the book read.

Instrumental lessons start next week. Any S1 pupil who plays an instrument and had lessons at primary school should check the timetable on the noticeboard in the lower floor of the music department or speak to Mr Brown to find out when their lesson is.



## The Shape of the School Day for S1 pupils

Due to the current pandemic we are, as far as possible, trying to keep junior classes (S1-S3) apart from seniors (S4-S6). This means that they go to different areas in the school building before school and at interval, and we have a staggered lunch system.

### Monday - Thursday

Registration 8.50 – 9.00	PERIOD 1 9.00 – 9.50	PERIOD 2 9.50 – 10.40	INTERVAL	PERIOD 3 10.55 – 11.45	PERIOD 4 11.45 – 12.35	LUNCH	PERIOD 5 1.15 – 2.05	PERIOD 5 1.15 – 2.05	PERIOD 7 2.50 – 3.35
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### Friday

PERIOD 1 8.50 – 9.40	PERIOD 2 9.40 – 10.30	INTERVAL	PERIOD 3 10.45 – 11.35	PERIOD 4 11.35 – 12.25	LUNCH	PERIOD 5 1.05 – 1.55
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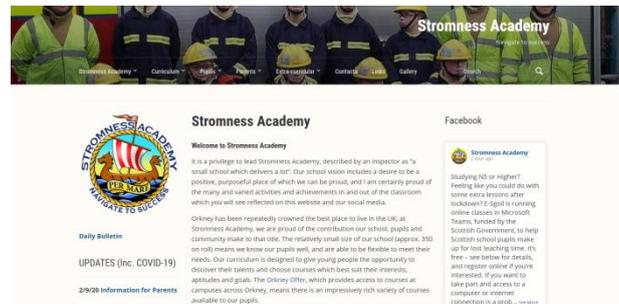
## Calendar

17 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	S1 Parents Meeting with Guidance and Support for Learning Staff
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	S1 Interim Report
12 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	October Holidays
26 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Staff In-service Days
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Start of Winter term
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	S1 Interim Report
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	Christmas Holidays
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Start of Spring Term

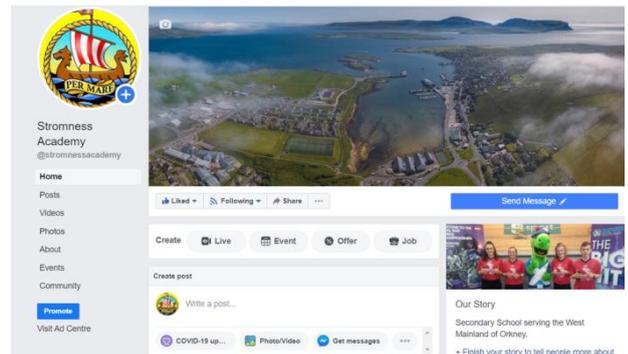
2020 Calendar			
January	February	March	April
Jan: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Feb: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Mar: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Apr: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
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May	June	July	August
May: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Jun: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Jul: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Aug: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
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September	October	November	December
Sep: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Oct: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Nov: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	Dec: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
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## Parental Contact

We want parents to be well informed about what is going on in the school. In order to do this we regularly email Parent Newsletters (if you would prefer a paper copy please let us know), and we share information on our school Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stromnessacademy/> and on the Stromness Academy School Website at <http://www.stromnessacademy.org.uk/>. We would encourage you to visit this website and navigate your way around it to get a feel of the opportunities Stromness Academy has to offer to your child.



Finally, if you would like to get more involved with the school community why not join the Stromness Academy Parent Council so that we can work in partnership with you to the benefit of all pupils. The Parent Council act as a sounding board for school policies and developments, influencing change by putting in the parent perspective. They also have a sub-committee who fund-raise for the school and have been proud to be able to respond to staff requests for equipment to enrich learning. It would be good to have some new members; if you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Parent Council via the school on [admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk](mailto:admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk) or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StromnessAcademyParents>



### S1 Settling In Evening

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 4 – 6pm**

This session we are changing the way we set up our first S1 Parent's Evening to make it covid-safe. We still want to give you an opportunity to meet staff and are planning to do this online or by phone. Details on how to book an appointment can be found at the end of this newsletter. Appointments can be made with Guidance Staff, Support for Learning staff and Year Head.

## S1 Settling In Evening

How to use the electronic Parents' Evening Booking System

The system is live from **5pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** and will be open to take your bookings until **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at 9am**. To log in, please go to: [www.parents-booking.co.uk/stromnessacademy](http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/stromnessacademy)

The details you enter must match those already held by the school, other than the email address:

**Stromness Academy**  
School contact details: School Office  
Phone: 01856 850660 Email: admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

**Parents Login Here:**

\* Fields marked with this are mandatory.

Title \* Surname\* E-Mail Address

Ms [ ] [ ] [ ]

To receive booking confirmations.

Please enter the details of the child you want to make bookings for.

Child's First Name\* Child's Surname\*

[ ] [ ]

Date of Birth \*

[ ] [ ] [ ]

Login

Once you have logged in, you see this screen:

**Step 1**  
Click on the Add/Edit/Print/Email Appointments, then choose the teacher(s) and a time.

**List of Parents' Evenings**

Name of Group	Parents' Evening	Date	Start	End
S1 Settling in Evening	S1 Settling in Evening	17/09/2020	04.00 PM	06.00 PM

**School Events**

Name of Group	Event Name	Start Time	End Time
There are no events available to book at this time.			

**School Clubs**

Name of Group	School Club Name
There are no clubs available to book at this time.	

**Having problems?**  
If you are having any problems creating an appointment please contact us at: admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Watch our Help Video's here

**Make Booking**  
Do you have any particular issues or discussion topics? Feel free to leave them in a comment.  
Press 'Make Booking' to confirm the booking.  
Make Booking

**Step 2**  
In the comment box please tell us if you would like us to call you by phone or video conference.

Troubleshooting Tips - please read if you are having problems!

- To login you need to enter the details the school has on record for you and your child. If you have recently changed your title or surname, for example, and not informed us, we will be expecting you to login with the details we have on record
- The email address you enter is only used to receive a confirmation of your appointment. If the system gives you an error when you login, it will not be the email address that is the problem
- We will send out further information about joining video conference calls once the online booking system is closed and we know which parents want to make use of this method of contact.

If you are unable to book appointments online, we will be happy to make bookings for you; please call the School Office on 850660 during school hours.

