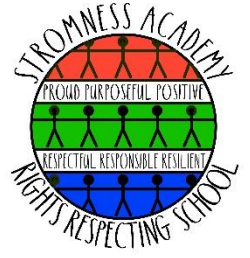




Stromness Academy Newsletter

November 2024



Dear Parent / Carer,

As we settle into the second term of the school year, there are a few updates I would like to share with you.

S1 – S6: Attendance and Punctuality

As you will be aware, attendance in school is closely monitored. Not only is it essential that we know where students are throughout the day, but research has proven that when attendance falls, attainment is directly affected.

The school day begins at 08:50 every day and all pupils are expected to be at the school by that time. In addition, pupils also have an official registration immediately after lunch. This makes up the 10 openings for the school in a week and is where attendance is calculated from.

If pupils are not attending school, parents/carers are expected to contact the school by 09:00, either by phone, email or text message. **You must inform the school every day your child is absent.** Please use either (01856) 850660 or admin.sa@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

If pupils will be out of school for any planned reason, e.g. sports events or medical appointments, parents/carers should inform the school as soon as possible.

If a pupil is unwell during the school day, they should go to the sick bay, informing the front office. They will be seen by a First Aider and if they feel that the pupil requires to go home, parents/carers will be contacted by the school office.

S1 – S6: Use of Aerosols

Stromness Academy are going to stop the use of aerosols in the school building with immediate effect. There are some serious health conditions affecting some members of our school community, who could become seriously ill if aerosols are used near to them. These include spray deodorants and aerosol-based perfumes.

Furthermore, we have quite a lot of asthmatics in the school and aerosols are a potential trigger for them. We therefore ask that aerosols are not taken into school. There are range of alternatives to spray deodorants, such as roll-on or stick.

We will address this issue with pupils via notices in the school bulletin and put up notices in the school, but your assistance with implementing this would be most appreciated.

S1-S6: Christmas lunch

Christmas lunch will be served in the school Dining Room on Wednesday 11th December. A 2-course meal of either roast turkey with all the trimmings or a feta and red onion tart, a choice of puddings and drinks costs the usual 2-course lunch price.





S1-S6: Christmas Service

Our Christmas Service will take place on Monday 16th at 7pm in Stromness Kirk. All are welcome.

S1 – S6: Armed Forces

There has been a request from Orkney Islands Council for us to record information for pupils who have a family member serving in the Armed Forces. Could you please let us know if a Parent/Carer/Guardian is currently a serving member or has previously served in the Armed Forces and therefore fits into one of the following categories:

- Regular
- Reserve
- Veteran
- Parent/Guardian does not wish to disclose this information

By not responding to this by **Friday 29th November**, we will assume that there is not anyone in the family who is or has been a member of the Armed Forces.

Going forward, this will be part of our Annual Data capture and on enrolment forms.

S1-S6: Car Park

Please can we remind parents who use the car park to drop off pupils to use the “top lane”, furthest away from the school building. Pupils have had reminders to keep to the pavement and not to play/gather in the car park.

Older pupils who bring cars to school should complete a form available from the Front Office so that we know who to contact if there is any issue with your vehicle. Pupils are permitted to park in the school park, but priority is given to staff if space is tight.

S1-S6: Reports and Parents’ Evenings this term

Parents/carers are informed of their children’s academic progress each term, either by report or by Parents’ Evening:

S2	Report	Thursday 28 th November
S1	Parents’ Evening	Wednesday 4 th December 4:30pm – 6:30pm
S4 – S6	Report	Wednesday 18 th December

S1-S6: Winter Newsletter from OIC

You will have received the Winter Newsletter from Orkney Islands Council. We have had concerns raised by members of the public and older pupils who have seen pupils get off their school bus and immediately cross the road, while their view of oncoming traffic is still blocked by the bus. Please can you impress on your children how dangerous this is; they must wait until the bus has moved off and they are able to clearly see whether it is safe to cross. Please also encourage them to wear something hi-vis; we all know from driving how difficult pedestrians are to spot on Orkney roads without it.

S3: DofE

Why S3 Pupils Should Consider the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic opportunity for S3 pupils to challenge themselves, develop new skills, and grow in confidence. Participating in the award encourages personal responsibility, teamwork, and resilience—key qualities that will serve them well both now and in the future.

Through the award, pupils will engage in a variety of activities that help them explore their interests and develop practical skills. They will contribute to their community through volunteering, push themselves physically through a fitness or outdoor activity, and enjoy the camaraderie of completing an expedition with their peers.

The skills gained through the Duke of Edinburgh Award are not only valuable for personal development but also enhance a pupil's future prospects, as the award is highly regarded by schools, colleges, and employers. Taking part will also give them a sense of accomplishment, help them build lasting friendships, and give them the chance to make a positive impact on others.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fun, rewarding, and challenging experience, and we strongly encourage all S3 pupils to get involved!

There will be a DofE assembly for S3 pupils on **Wednesday 4th December**.



Stromness
Academy
Group

Calendar of upcoming events

25 th – 29 th November	S3 Careers Week
28 th November	S2 Reports
2 nd – 10 th December	S3 SNSAs
4 th December	S1 Parents' Evening
11 th December	Christmas Lunch
16 th December	Christmas Service
19 th December	Christmas Formal 7pm – 9:30pm
18 th December	YPI final (S3)
18 th December	Senior Phase Reports (S4 – S6)
20 th December	Christmas Assembly and end of term!

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the events and parents' evenings over the course of this year.

P Barber

Paul Barber
Headteacher