

# Baltasound Junior High School

## Newsletter - March 2024

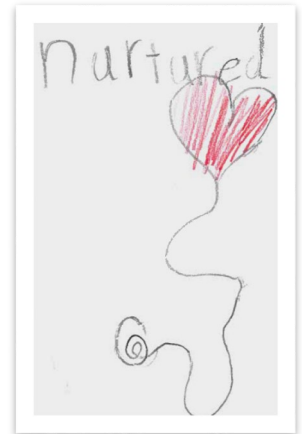
A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!



### SCHOOL UPDATE

This latest newsletter comes to you at the start of meteorological Spring, with the days becoming longer and signs of new life in the parks around us beginning to emerge. This is always an exciting time of year, as we welcome back the lighter nights and the better weather, and look forward to more outside activities and experiences for our pupils, parents and staff.

Over the course of the next few weeks we are planning and preparing for Neurodiversity Week (18th March) and World Planting Day (20th March) as well as looking to organise an Off Timetable, Inter-Disciplinary Week in Term 4 which will see pupils from Early Years to S3 working on a range of projects linked to Unst, our fantastic island home. If any members of the community would like to work with us on any of these days/weeks, please contact us - we would love to involve as many members of our community as possible.



What 'nurture' means to our Middle Primary class.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

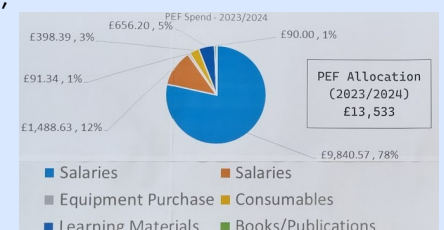
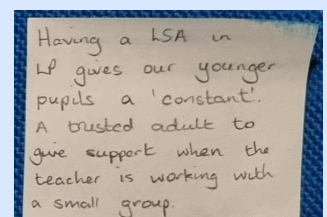
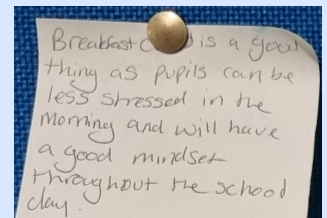
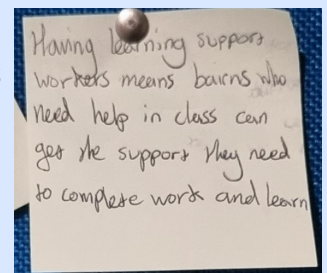
### PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING (PEF)

The school receives funding directly each year, to help improve outcomes for pupils. This provides for any interventions or resources we would require in order to improve literacy, numeracy or wellbeing within our cohort of students. The amount of money is linked to the number of pupils who are registered for Free School Meals and this past financial year, it was around £10,000.

In consultation with pupils, staff and the parent council most of this money (90%) has been spent on additional Learning Support Workers and ASN Teacher Time in BJHS. The reason for this is we believe that we can see a real difference in pupil attainment when we have additional support in our classes. This allows us to have smaller, more dedicated groups for literacy and numeracy as well as supporting the health and wellbeing of pupils when issues arise throughout the year.

Although, as I'm sure you are aware, this funding still does not provide a great deal of additional hours so we supplement this further by Head Teacher Mr Thomson teaching Business & Computing in Secondary; this frees up further funding to bolster our Learning Support Worker team. Therefore the support we provide our pupils is greater and it allows all of our pupils to achieve their full potential in BJHS.

With regard PEF, we spend most of the remaining funding on our Secondary Breakfast Club - free breakfast for all of our S1 to S4 pupils each day. Allowing them to fuel up for the day and be in the best position to learn in school. As we have reached the end of the financial year, we asked our pupils and staff for feedback as to whether they believed the money was spent well. Their feedback is shown in the post-it notes; if you would like to personally feedback on this or offer views on future PEF spend, please get in touch.



**BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE**

## EARLY YEARS

Our youngest learners have been listening to Viking themed stories, mark making, been on outside adventures and have been playing dress up.



## PRIMARY

Our Primary pupils have been learning about transportation, which included a visit from Amber Johnson; Amber is Super Intendant with Northlink and is also a former BJHS pupil! Farm To Fork has been a topic for our Middle Primary and we were lucky to have Cooke Aquaculture in school where we got to learn about the fish farming industry, including the Science behind growing salmon in the waters around Unst.



Our Upper Primary pupils have also been learning about Space, with visits from another former pupil (Bryden Priest) and Dynamic Earth; where all of our pupils got to experience the Planetarium which was fantastic.

And not forgetting, our very own Mr Spence brought his band of fearsome story-telling Vikings into school and our Secondary pupils organised a coffee afternoon.

## SECONDARY

Our Secondary pupils have been busy learning about the area of 2D shapes, the role of sports media, World Book Day, Native Americans and the Great Plains, making tray bakes for the coffee afternoon, the impact of Artificial Intelligence and taking part in prelims to get ready for the exam diet in May.



## TERM DATES / HOLIDAYS

**EASTER HOLIDAYS:** Fri 29th March - Sun 14th April (last day of term Thu 28th March)

**OCCASIONAL DAY:** Mon 27th May

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS:** Sat 29th June - Tue 15th August (first day back Wed 16th August)

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