



School Update

Term 2 finished on such a positive note with an excellent Christmas Play & Concert - all the pupils on stage and behind the scenes were fantastic and a credit to the school. And this term we get to look forward to the excitement of Up Helly Aa, the lighter nights and the longer days.



As is tradition, we plan on hosting our Uyeasound Up Helly Aa Coffee Morning on the 14th February and we also host the Norik Up Helly Aa Jarl Squad in school the following week. This is a great opportunity for us all to learn about our Viking heritage and the pupils get to quiz our local Vikings about their designs for shields, helmets and axes - finding out the inspiration behind the motifs and the stories of the Viking legends they portray.



We will also continue our fundraising campaign to get our P6 and P7 pupils to Loch Insh during Term 4; the deposit has been paid and the dates are set so the excitement is beginning build amongst the pupils and staff.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

Term Dates

Term 3:

Tue 7th January to
Fri 4th April

Term 4:

Tue 22nd April to
Fri 27th June

Occasional Holidays:

Wed 29th January
Fri 21st February
Mon 24th February
Mon 21st April
Mon 26th May



Important Dates

Lerwick Up Helly Aa Holiday	Wed 29th Jan
S4 Prelims Begin	Mon 3rd Feb
P7 BYPTSD	Thu 13th Feb
Long Weekend	Fri 21st Feb & Mon 24th Feb
Uyeasound Up Helly Aa Coffee Morning	Fri 14th Feb
S3/S4 Parents Evening	Thu 6th Mar
S1/S2 Parents Evening	Thu 13th Mar

Our Outdoor Play Environment

Play is so important in Baltasound JHS and we understand the role of play in developing the numeracy, literacy and social skills of our pupils.

This is one of our school improvement priorities this year and we have been working closely with Shetland Islands Council in acquiring new outdoor play facilities; the pupils have highlighted their preferred options and the parts have started to arrive on site. Hopefully we will get this installed in the better weather and organise a grand opening - watch this space!



Early Years (Photo) Update



Primary Update

Last term saw our pupils excel on the stage in The Wiggly Nativity and Peter Pan. This showcased how confident they are and how keen they were to perform for the Unst community. Before the holidays, we also had Christmas parties and Christmas Jumper Day as well as a visit to Nordalea, storytelling with Richard Fordyce and learning about Johnnie Notions who pioneered the smallpox inoculation in the late 18th Century.

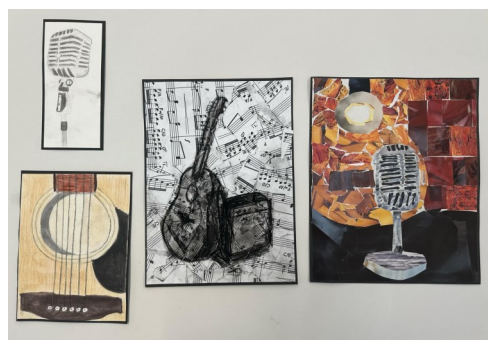


This term we look forward to learning about when dinosaurs roamed the Earth (Lower Primary), categorizing plants, humans and animals (Middle Primary) and World War 2 (Upper Primary). And we also learn about our Viking heritage as our 2 Up Helly Aas approach - exciting times indeed.



Secondary Update

In Secondary this term, the pupils are working on their art portfolios, learning how to design and code android/apple apps, reading The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas, learning about food cultures, fair trade and food miles, solving problems using Pythagoras Theorem and improving their swimming skills. We also have prelims beginning in February including performances in Music with a visiting teacher.



A reminder that homework club is available Mon, Tue, Wed after school with Mrs Tarby, Mrs Fraser, Mr Thomson, Mrs Hunter and Mr Spence. This is the term where we need S4 pupils to take ownership of their learning and really push themselves on to achieve their full potential - homework club, BBC Bitesize and past papers proving invaluable in consolidating learning.

