

Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter - February 2023

A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!



SCHOOL UPDATE

We have just reached the half way point in Term 3, so there are plenty of school updates to share with the community.

We recently welcomed the Uyeasound Up Helly Aa Jarl's Squad to school and hosted our Coffee Morning - which was organised by the S4 pupils as part of their Enterprise & Employability Award. It was great to see so many family members and former pupils in school as we celebrated the beginning of lighter nights and longer days.

We have also had a successful Primary Parents Evening as well as further Bring Your Parent To School Days - having hosted parents of P1, P4 and P7 since August last year. We still have more to look forward to in Term 3 and into Term 4, including a residential trip for P6 and P7 to Loch Insh - exciting times indeed!

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

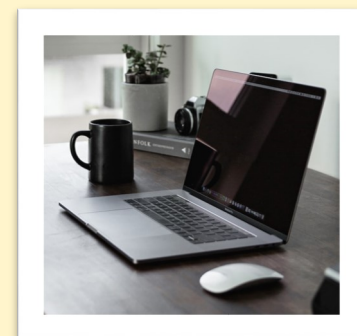


Our Early Years Vikings!

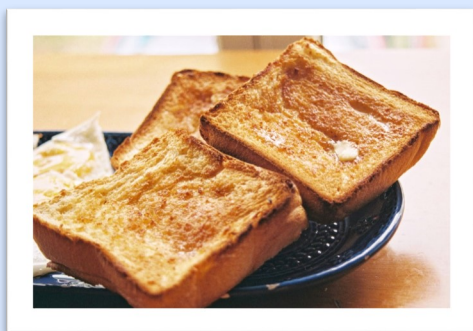
DIGITAL INCLUSION

The school still have a few digital inclusion devices (laptops) that are available for pupils who have no access to a machine for school work at home. We may also be able to apply to the Local Authority for more devices if there were demand.

If you feel that your child would benefit from access to a device, please contact the school office.



SECONDARY BREAKFAST CLUB



The school have been trialling a breakfast club for Secondary pupils and this has shown to be extremely popular. Initial estimates would suggest up to a third of BJHS Secondary pupils having tea, toast or cereal in school before first period.

Feedback from pupils has been very positive with suggestions and modifications taken on-board by school staff. From Monday 20th Feb, it will also be available during first break for those who have not had time before school starts.

TERM DATES

LONG WEEKEND: Fri 24th Feb and Mon 27th Feb

POSSIBLE INDUSTRIAL ACTION DAYS: Tue 28th Feb and Wed 1st Mar*

EASTER HOLIDAYS: Sat 1st Apr - Sun 16th Apr (first day back Mon 17th)

OCCASIONAL DAYS: Fri 19th May & Mon 22nd May.

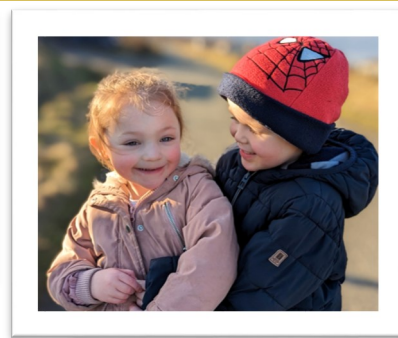
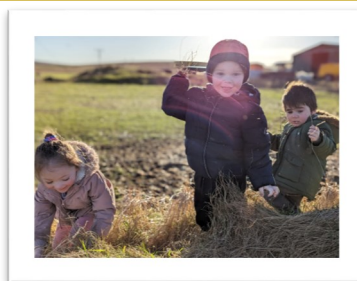
SUMMER HOLIDAYS: Sat 1st Jul - Tue 15th Aug (first day back Wed 16th)

* further information around these industrial action dates will be shared when we know more

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

EARLY YEARS

In BJHS Early Years, in-between storm force winds and hail-puckles(!), we make the most of our outdoor spaces. On this walk we were looking for lambs and making shadows that we had to jump over!



PRIMARY

Since our last newsletter, our Lower Primary class have welcomed P1 parents into school. For the whole day, our P1s were able to demonstrate their learning to Mums and Dads - showing the great progress they are making. We have also been taking part in Global Play Day and learning about Space and our Solar System.

In Upper Primary, we have been learning all about Water. We had a home design challenge where families were asked to construct their own boat and to see which design could carry the most weight. We have also had our P4 and P7 Bring Your Parent To School Days which was a great experience for all of us.

An on top of this, we have been baking for the Coffee Morning and designing Viking Shields for Up Helly Aa!



SECONDARY

Secondary pupils this term have been learning about Future Technology (including Artificial Intelligence), Algebra, Still Life Drawing, Creative Writing, French Greetings, Philanthropy & Unst Charities, Survival Swimming & Lifesaving, Electrical Components and Circuits, Social Inequalities, Making Wooden Stools and more!

In Secondary, we are also recruiting to our Home Economics department as Ms Kiraly has moved on to pastures new. Ms Ward will continue teaching H.E. until the summer - please share the job advert on social media if you see it.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

One of our priorities this year is **Reading** and we are working towards getting core accreditation from Reading Schools. This has involved us building a reading culture for our learners and communities. We are encouraging and promoting reading for pleasure as this is central in supporting equity, wellbeing, developing critical thinking, creativity and resilience.

We are also looking forward to the Norik Up Helly Aa Jarl's Squad coming into school - sharing Viking themed stories and reading with our Early Years and Primary pupils.

