

Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter - May 2023

A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!

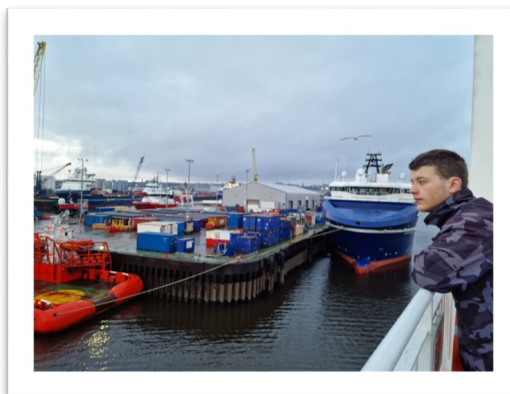


SCHOOL UPDATE

As we welcome in the warmer weather (at last!), it is a good time to share an update across the school in this latest newsletter. There is a real buzz about the school at the moment; especially so as we welcome back school trips, parent events and getting out and about in our community.

Our first school trips off Shetland since 2019 have taken place and we have even had BJHS students represent Shetland at national competitions. We have also taken all of our P6 and P7 pupils to Loch Insh on a residential trip where they excelled at paddle boarding, skiing, wayfinding and lots more. A fantastic experience for them all and one they will never forget.

All of this was funded through generous donations from Cooke Aquaculture, the Sandison Trust, Unst Community Council, North Yell Development Council and school funds/fundraising. We are all incredibly lucky to be so well supported by local companies, organisations and the North Isles community - as it allows **everyone** to take part, which is at the heart of everything we aim to do in BJHS.



On The Northlink

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

LOCH INSH



STAFFING INFORMATION & TEAM IMPROVEMENT VISIT

We find out this term if we have been successful in securing a Home Economics Probationer Teacher - so we all have our fingers crossed. We also welcome back Mrs Johnson who will continue working with Mrs Fordyce in our Lower Primary class.

At the end of April we welcomed a group of Teachers, Head Teachers and staff from Children's Services who came to BJHS to speak with pupils, parents, staff members and senior management. They really enjoyed the experience of being in school and highlighted our strengths which included well spoken, well behaved, confident and hard working pupils as well as strong relationships between staff, pupils and parents. A detailed report including areas to work on will be forthcoming and this will be shared with the school community.

TERM DATES

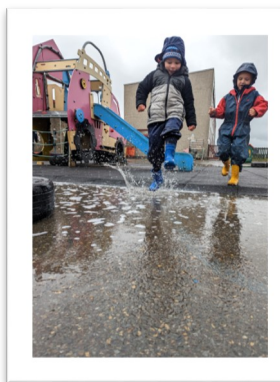
OCCASIONAL DAYS: Fri 19th May & Mon 22nd May.

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

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

EARLY YEARS

This term is all about exploring, playing and learning outdoors. We are making the most of the (slightly) better weather. We've tidied up and prepared the polycrub, it is now ready for planting. We've also been making obstacle courses, searching for bugs and practicing for our sports day.



Indoors, we've been learning some signs for animals, colours, clothes and food. Cindy and Vaila from the Shetland Pre School Home Visiting Service have been along us a couple of times to run Sign-a-Long sessions with us. We play games, sing songs, listen to stories as well as learning signs. It was so much fun.

Finally, we held a Coronation Tea Party recently. Parents were invited to come along. We helped to decorate the setting as well as baking cakes and biscuits. It was great to have our parents along, we were able to show them our Learning Stories and enjoy some yummy treats.

PRIMARY

In Lower Primary, we are learning about the history of toys and how they developed through the ages. We have also been baking for the Coronation Tea Party in school.



In Upper Primary, we have had Barry Nisbet in from the Lost Songs Project to teach us old songs from Shetland, learning old Norse words along the way.

P4/5 also went to Unst Health Centre to plant trees. They worked really hard and helped plant 100 trees in about an hour. Hopefully we can see them grow big and strong over the next few years.



We are also learning about France as the pupils chose this for their country study.

SECONDARY

Our S4 pupils have been finishing off their unit assessments and preparing for their N5 exams. It is an important time in their education and all the staff wish them all the best of luck in their next steps.

Our S1 and S2 pupils are preparing for their trip to Glasgow in June. We are planning various activities including Foxlake outdoor adventure arena. There is still a little bit of fundraising to be done so watch this space for more information.

