Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter - November 2025

Our Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter.

School Update

Term 1 has flown past and whilst debate rages on between staff and pupils with regard when Christmas music can be played(!), we are busy planning lots of activities and events this term. This includes staff and pupils preparing for Bring Your Parent To School Days (S4), Open Night/Games Night, Trips to the Science Fair and Lerwick Power Station (Sec) and Parents Nights (Primary); so there is plenty keeping us busy in what we all know, is a very eventful term.

It is also an exciting term for the countdown to Christmas and all the fun associated with the festive; Christmas Parties, Christmas Jumpers (if anyone wants to hand in old festive jumpers we can have a swap shop rail), Christmas Dinner and our School Concert.

As always, we are grateful for the continued support of our parents and the wider community — it makes a huge difference to what we're able to achieve together. And remember to keep an eye on our Facebook page, school emails and bag drops for updates and reminders about upcoming events. *Mr P. Thomson* (Head Teacher)

Term Dates

Term 2:
Wed 29th October to
Fri 19th December

Term 3:
Mon 5th January to
Fri 27th March

Term 4:
Mon 13th April to
Fri 3rd July

Occasional Holidays:
Wed 28th January
Fri 13th February
Mon 16th February
Tue 17th February (In Service)
Fri 22nd May
Mon 25th May

Term 2 Calendar

S1/2/3 Science Fair Trip	- Tue 4th November
S4 Bring Your Parent To School Day	- Wed 5th November
Parent Council Meeting	- Tue 11th November
Sec. Power Station Trip	- Thu 13th November
Open Night / Games Night	- Tue 18th November
Primary Parents Night	- Tue 2nd December
Christmas Jumper/Dinner Day	- Thu 11th December
S1-S6 Reports Out	- Fri 12th December
P7 - S4 School Dance	- Thu 18th December
Primary Christmas Parties	- Thu 18th December

Leah and Alvi cutting the ribbon for our new outdoor play equipment.

Bring Your Parent To School Days

Bring Your Parent To School Days have been part of the BJHS parental engagement calendar for many years now and the feedback from pupils, parents and staff is always positive. S4 have theirs this term, with P4 and P7 following in the New Year. It is a great opportunity for parents to see how their child learns in school, what their targets are, how they engage with staff, how they socialise with their friends and even how much they eat, run, jump and have fun; all the things that are hard to capture in a report card.

School staff know it can be hard to juggle personal commitments with attending these days, but we are grateful to those who are able to come in and hope you have as much as fun as we do.

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

Whole School Update

There has been lots happening since the last newsletter including an Early Years outdoor shelter installed and our new Primary Playground equipment grand opening.

Last term we were improving our numeracy skills with an Escape Room in the Library - our Lower Primary class were the fastest to escape!

We have been making good progress with our School Improvement Plan. Developing our **Play Based** Approach to learning, we have been improving our literacy and numeracy skills at our Sweet Shop, Hairdressers, Beauty Salon and Cinema.

We have also been learning more about Additional Support Needs and **Differentiation** in BJHS - performing deep dives into Autism and PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance). This allows us to understand our pupils better and provide more tailored support to match pupil needs.

We have also been looking at our **Environment**. Making modifications to the look and feel of the school, and having conversations with the Local Authority about schedules of work for painting and refreshing the classrooms and corridors.

Adverse Weather

A reminder that, as we head into the season of wilder weather, we may encounter days in which the school is unable to open. These decisions are either made by the Shetland Islands Council (for all schools) or by the Headteacher (after consulting with the Roads Dept. and Jamiesons).

We will aim to make this decision before 7am and will post this on our Facebook page. From 8am, we will then phone each household that has not liked the Facebook post. It is therefore important to ensure your contact details are up to date and you check our Facebook page. Our school website will also have links to follow, for any work that pupils should look to complete if the adverse weather is prolonged.