

Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter – August 2026

Our Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter.



School Update

And just like that, the summer holidays are over, and we are all back at school. No doubt the sun will come out and we'll see the weather we'd hoped for at the start of July. If so, we will be out and about in school; making the most of the fine weather and taking learning outdoors where we can.

This new academic session brings further changes to our staff (see below) as well as beginning our fundraising challenge to get all of our P6 and P7 pupils to Loch Insh in June 2027. We also start the term with our new School Improvement Plan, directed by the guidance received in our whole school inspection in April this year.

As we start the year, the school staff look forward to working with parents and the community in making sure we are providing the best learning environment for all our children. If you have suggestions, ideas or feedback - please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

Term Dates

Term 1:

Wed 19 Aug - Fri 9 Oct

Term 2:

Wed 28 Oct - Fri 18 Dec

Term 3:

Tue 5 Jan - Wed 24 Mar

Term 4:

Wed 7 Apr - Fri 2 Jul

Holiday Dates

Wed 27 Jan

Fri 12 Feb

Mon 15 Feb

Fri 21 May

+ 1 to be set by Parent Council

In Service (Staff Only) Dates

Mon 26 Oct

Tue 27 Oct

Tue 16 Feb

Staffing Update

We have a few staffing changes this year, which we have tried to capture below.

Early Years: Lisa Johnson, Julie Thomson, Jaclyn Thomson, Naomi Brown & Helen Priest.

Primary: Mrs Thomason (P1/2/3), Ms Melvin (P4/5) & Ms Nicholson (P6/7).

Secondary: Ms Risk (Maths/Physics), Ms Mitchell (English), Ms Nicholson & Mrs Johnson (Social Subjects), Mrs Priest (H.E.), Mrs Tarby (Science), Mr Thomson (Bus/Comp), Ms Shaw (Art), Mr Ronalds & Mr Thomson (Technical), Mrs Strachan (Music), Ms Boulay (French), Mrs Smith (S1/2 Flex) and Mrs Hunter (P.E.).

Learning Support Team: Mrs Fordyce (ASN Teacher), Anna Niven, Hazel Spence, Brenda Priest, Carly Smith, Lousie Doull (also our Play Worker), Tracey Arnold, Peter Wood & Gill Laurenson.

Clerical Team: Hazel Sinclair & Valerie McMillan.

Janitor: Mr Hunter

Senior Leadership Team: Mr Thomson (Head Teacher), Mr Spence (Depute Head Teacher) & Mrs Hunter (Pupil Support).

School Improvement Plan

Alongside feedback from parents, pupils, staff and our HMIE Inspection, our priority areas for the school are outlined below:

What Makes A Good Lesson / EY Session

Exploring what should be within a high quality learning experience for pupils, with inclusion of support, pace and challenge and play.

Assessment

Exploring methods of assessment, sharing good practice and incorporating real life, hands-on, play-based, and investigative tasks.

Numeracy

Improve core maths confidence and connecting numeracy to real-life applications. To also close learning gaps and provide better resources to help families support maths learning at home.

If anyone would like to be part of these working groups, please contact the school.

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

P6/7 Residential Trip To Loch Insh

At Baltasound JHS, we understand the importance of providing experiences to pupils that would be hard to replicate at home. We also know that providing a residential trip (off Shetland) is a great opportunity for pupils to see the wider world, take part in activities not available locally and to learn more about themselves; resilience, independence and problem solving.

We look to provide this opportunity every 2 years to our P6 and P7 pupils (across the whole North Isles) and work has already begun with regard our next trip. We have provisionally booked the Loch Insh Outdoor Centre at the start of June and we will be having meetings soon to explore fundraisers and funding applications; we have been well supported in the past by Cooke Scotland, Viking Community Fund, Sandison's Trust, Unst and Yell Community Councils and North Yell Development Council.

So watch this space for upcoming events to make sure we can continue to offer this fantastic experience to all our pupils.



BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE