

Dunrossness Primary School – Update on Temporary Classroom – December 2025

Following the September update on the temporary classrooms at Dunrossness Primary School that was issued on 18 September 2025, please find a further update.

As outlined in September, the contract notice for the demolition works was advertised on Public Contracts Scotland and that tenders were expected by 22 September 2025. Notification of the award of the contract was published on Public Contracts Scotland on 5 December 2025. This information was shared with the Learning Estates Team on 11 December 2025 and communication was shared with the Head Teacher and the Parent Council Chair on 12 December 2025 by email. This email confirmed that the work will commence in January 2026 and will take in the region of four weeks.

This update provides further details around what is being planned.

Please be assured that the Health and Safety of the school community is at the centre of the planning that is underway.

Why has the timeline changed?

Within the update in September, it was highlighted that the project timeline may be subject to change. The revised date is partly due to the procurement process, during which our preferred bidder, who met the technical requirements and offered Best Value, confirmed that the work could be completed more quickly than originally anticipated.

An important aspect of the overall project is the internal refurbishment that will take place once the temporary classrooms have been removed. Undertaking the removal of the temporary classrooms will enable this to be progressed more quickly.

Will the school be safe for our children during the work?

As part of the procurement process, the appointed contractor has demonstrated that they can safely carry out the work during term time while fully complying with the Construction Design & Management Regulations (CDM). The contractor is responsible for completing risk assessments and has experience in building removal on a live site. All assessments will be thoroughly checked by Assets, Commissioning & Procurement (ACP) before any work commences.

How will the site be managed?

When further details are confirmed by the contractor, ACP will share the site layout with the Head Teacher and the Learning Estates team. The contractor's working area will be external to the live school environment. They will only require access to the school when making good the existing access point to the link, which will be scheduled outside school hours. The demolition area will be enclosed with a minimum 2.4m high Heras security fencing or hoarding and kept secure throughout the works, with regular inspections.

The contractor has been provided with school pick-up and drop-off times. Deliveries of plant and materials will be scheduled at least 15 minutes clear of pick-up and drop-off times.

What about parking?

Parking at the back of the building will be reduced and some staff may have to park at the front of the building. This will be communicated once confirmed by the contractor.

Will it be noisy?

There will be some noise. However, as the structure is lightweight and will be dismantled rather than demolished, this will reduce the impact. ACP will monitor this and maintain dialogue with the school. If particularly noisy works are planned, the contractor will liaise with ACP and the school to schedule these outside school hours. Contractor working hours are 8:00am – 6:00pm on weekdays and 8:00am – 4:00 pm on weekends.

How will the project be managed?

The ACP team will manage the works for the Council. Whilst it is not necessary to have a Project Manager on site every day, ACP will maintain close contact and meet with the contractor regularly. Any issues that arise from the school community perspective will be shared with ACP and will be discussed with the contractor at the earliest opportunity.

Is the school prepared for the earlier start?

The Dunrossness staff have made a great effort to clear the temporary classrooms. The Learning Estates team will visit the school to ensure that all items are safely removed and will liaise with the staff as necessary.

The Council has communicated with the contractor that the preferred start date is 12 January 2026 which will allow additional time for preparation after the Christmas break. Children's Services staff will support this process to ease pressure on Dunrossness staff.

Where are the plans for the internal refurbishment at?

The proposed plans for the internal refurbishment have been shared with the Head Teacher for consideration and further consultation with school staff. Once feedback has been received from school staff, further consultation will take place with key stakeholders.

Following meetings and discussions with parents, the plans for refurbishment now include additional toilet provision.

Staying in Touch

This update is part of a series to keep stakeholders informed. Communication will continue throughout the Project as required. If there are any further questions, please contact Neil Beattie by phone at **01595 744 129** or email neil.beattie@shetland.gov.uk

Learning Estates Liaison Group, Shetland Islands Council
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