

# Balbardie Primary News



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/Balbardie/>

**October 2013**

Dear Parent / Carer,

*I can't believe how quickly the first six weeks of the new session have passed! Already our children have been engaged in many exciting new learning experiences, both in school, on residential visits, and excursions, and it is lovely to see how quickly our Primary 1 children have settled in school.*

*I firmly believe that effective partnership between the school and our parents provides the best opportunity for our children, and we will continue to create opportunities for us to work together.*

*If you wish to discuss any aspect of the school, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or by email.*

Greg Welsh - Head Teacher [greg.welsh@wled.org.uk](mailto:greg.welsh@wled.org.uk)

## School Photographer

Our school photographer will be in school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October to take our annual photographs. A separate letter has been issued to give further information. If you have not received this, please contact the school office.



## Dress Down Day

Thank you to all the children and families who contributed to our first dress down day on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The total amount raised was £227.50 and has contributed to our school funds. The next dress down day on 4<sup>th</sup> October will be donated to the Float Committee fund.

## PE Provision / Outdoor Clothing

To meet the Scottish Government's requirement of providing 2 hours of PE per week, you should now have received our indoor and outdoor PE timetable for all classes. This also lists the clothing required for each session. Thank you for your support in helping keep our children healthy and active in school. **Please remember to name all of your children's clothing.**



During intervals, it is also our intention to allow pupils outside whenever safe to do so. Therefore, we require children to wear / bring appropriate footwear, jackets, gloves etc. so that they are comfortable outside.

## Breakfast Club

Given the success of the school's breakfast club, with over 50 children attending most mornings, we are making some adjustments to how this operates. Children can arrive from 8.15am but will not be allowed to leave the hall until they are collected by Mrs McNeill at 8.35am. This ensures that children are supervised at all times. We will provide activities in the hall for children who have finished eating before this time. I'm sure that you share our priority in ensuring that our children remain safe at all times.



## Parking

**P** We would strongly encourage parents to park in the car parks on Marjoribanks Street and Gideon Street, and walk children to the school. This will alleviate a number of the congestion problems outside the school. Please also consider our local residents when parking cars.

## HARVEST OFFERING

If you would like to donate any non perishable food items e.g. tinned food for the school's Harvest offering, this would be greatly appreciated. These will be collected week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> October by the school office and will be distributed to residents in Royal Scot Court and Meadowvale Nursing Home.

Our Harvest Service will take place in the High Church at 9.30am on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. All parents and friends of the school are warmly invited to attend. The church offering this term will be donated to Jeans for Genes charity. Please note that children should still wear school uniform to church on this day.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

### Keeping up to date!

Our Parent Council now has a section on the school blog to inform you of the work it undertakes. Please visit the school blog for important information and updates of the learning taking place in your child's classroom. The address is at the top of the newsletter.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

We held our annual coffee morning in support of Macmillan on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. I would like to thank our children, staff, parents, grandparents and friends of the school who helped plan, co-ordinate and serve on the day. A special thank you to all of our school community who attended in support of this worthy cause. The positive feedback on the day was greatly appreciated. A total of £610.14 will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.. Thank you all!



### Heart of Midlothian Season Ticket

As part of Heart of Midlothian's community initiative, the school has received a season ticket for an adult and child to attend each of Hearts' home SPFL fixtures at Tynecastle Stadium, Edinburgh. The tickets will be issued to any interested children to be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to use these tickets to take your child along to experience a Hearts home game, please let me know and I will make arrangements for the tickets to be used by as many of our pupils as possible.



## MONEY

**Milk Money** – The cost for milk next term (29<sup>th</sup> Oct. – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.) is £7.02. **This must be paid by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October to allow us to arrange orders.**

**School Fund** – A reminder that school fund contribution for this term is £2.40 or 30p per week. This contribution allows us to heavily subsidise additional experiences for our children.



**P7 Belgium** – The fifth payment of £50 is due by 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. A reminder also that passport photographs, passport form and European Health Cards should be handed in to the school office.

### P5 Residential to Low Port

*Most of our class went to Low Port and we had fun. We went sailing, a walk around the loch, on a jungle adventure, visited Linlithgow Palace and went along the canal. Our favourite part was the sailing. The food was yummy and it was so much fun! By*



*Ava and Katie P5m*

### West Lothian Onesie Walk

*On Friday 20th September the whole school took part in a Onesie walk! We walked from the school, around Balbardie park and back again. We had the opportunity to wear our onesies and lots of people did. The primary 7s walked beside their P1 buddies. Just like last year's Welly Walk, the Onesie Walk encourages pupils to do more walking and exercising. We had so much fun!*  
*by Rabeea Mirza P7b*

### P4 Visit to the Library

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September both P4 classes visited the Partnership Centre to go to the library.

“It was fun and I looked at books that I really liked.” Lucy  
“I like getting books. Scary books are the best!” Roan

“I got a book called The Ersatz Elevator” Madeleine



### European Day of Languages

*With Mrs Ghafoor, we have been learning about different countries in Europe. We designed flags for them too. Earlier this morning we went to the dinner hall and identified the flags and their capital cities. I thought that it was easy to identify some flags but some of the other ones are hard. There were 48 flags in total. It was lots of fun and I think everyone enjoyed it. We are looking forward to finding out who won!* Lewis Gemmell, p6m



*With Mrs Ghafoor's help, we learned some flag names and that helped us a bit since we had 48 to find out. It was a bit hard. I liked the European flag competition it was fun and I'm sure everyone else had a great time. We all enjoyed it very much we are all super excited to hear who won.*  
Cheryl Leech, p6m



## Diary Dates

### **October**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Dress Down Day (£1 donation to participate)  
Pupil Fundraiser – bake sale for UNICEF  
Assembly P7m (parents welcome 9.45am)
- 7<sup>th</sup> West Lothian Money Focus Week  
P6 and P7 Street Dancing workshop
- 8<sup>th</sup> P6 Basketball workshop (outdoors)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Football v Boghall  
P7 Academy Open Evening 6pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> P1-4 Review Jotters sent home  
Assembly P6a (parents welcome 9.45am)  
11am – Head boy/girl to meet Depute Chief Executive
- 14<sup>th</sup> School Photographer in
- 15<sup>th</sup> P6 Basketball workshop (outdoors)  
Parents' consultations 6pm – 8.30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Lidl Health Bus for P3 and P4 pupils  
AM – P4 Handball Festival (Xcite)  
Parents' consultations 4pm - 6.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Lidl Health Bus for P5 and P6 pupils
- 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am - Church Service (High Church)  
11am – House Captain photos  
**BREAK FOR HOLIDAY**
- 28<sup>th</sup> INSET for staff
- 29<sup>th</sup> PUPILS RETURN  
P6 Basketball workshop (outdoors)
- 30<sup>th</sup> P6 and Class 3 visit Dynamic Earth
- 31<sup>st</sup> AM – P3 to Multi Sports (Xcite)

### **November**

- 1<sup>st</sup> **DRESS DOWN DAY – School Fund**  
**BIG BALBARDIE BLETHER**

### **Stop Press!**

*On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, we participated in the West Lothian Swimming Trials. Melissa, Rebecca and Maia were also in our team. We both got a medal, Jennifer a silver and Natalie a bronze in the 50m breaststroke. We all swam fantastically and got good times.*  
Natalie Reilly and Jennifer Houston P7