



Balbardie Primary NEWS

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

February 2014

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the term progresses, our children are engaging in a wide range of learning experiences. You will be able to access a weekly update of the learning taking place in your child's classroom (and outwith!) on the school blog, and we fully appreciate and value any comments you wish to leave and for your support with their learning.

To further include you in your child's learning, we have our annual Open Morning this month where you will be invited into school to see your child 'in action'. This will be followed up with our Parents' Consultations at the beginning of April. Dates for these can be found below.

If at any point you have a question, query or worry, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or through email at greg.welsh@wled.org.uk

Greg Welsh (Head Teacher)

Open Morning

Our annual Open Morning will take place on Friday, 28th February between 11.00am and 12.00pm. This provides all parents/carers with the opportunity to visit the school whilst the children are participating in their learning experiences. The feedback from previous years has been very positive and I look forward to seeing many of you in school that morning.

Parent Consultations



The next scheduled parents' consultations will take place on 1st and 2nd April. A letter will be sent home outlining these arrangements on Wednesday, 26th February and should be returned to all class teachers by Wednesday, 5th March. This will allow us to issue appointment times on Friday, 14th March.

Children in P3-P7 should attend this meeting, as it is important for them to share their learning and their next steps in learning. If there are confidential issues to discuss, the teacher will make arrangements for this to happen.

Annual Data Check

We are still in the process of updating the information we hold in school. Please return your annual data check when you receive this so that we hold relevant and current information. The form should be signed and returned even if there are no changes required.

Fundraising Group



The Valentine disco will be held on Thursday, 13th February.

P1-P3 6.00pm – 7.00pm

P4-P7 7.15pm – 8.15pm

Tickets priced £1.00 are available from the school office. Glow sticks are also on sale at £1.00 each. There will be a tuck shop selling sweets 10p, crisps 15p and juice 10p.

School Blog

Our school blog is designed to provide a wide variety of information. Our school handbook, lunch menus, Parent Council information, as well as a record of our children's learning, are all available on the blog.

An analysis of the number of visitors we have to the blog indicates that it is being well used and we would now like to encourage you to leave comments/responses to the updates. There will be a whole school Home Learning activity to encourage our children to access the blog at home with you.

You can also follow the school blog updates through our Twitter account @Balbardie

Internet Safety

The following information is shared widely in West Lothian schools to provide parents with guidance on ensuring children are using the internet safely in school and at home.

- * Facebook accounts should only be held by people over the age of 13
- * Safe networking sites should have the CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) button
- * We continue to educate our children on safe use of the internet and use clips from www.thinkuknow.com or CEOP videos from www.youtube.com to highlight the importance of internet safety.



We continually emphasise responsible use of the internet in school and work closely with PC Arnott in delivering a consistent message to our children.

Bus Provision

As you are aware, a bus service operates to and from school from the Belvedere area and Boghall. It is a parental choice to use this service as the school does not provide any supervision on the bus. We do use our support staff to support the younger children going on to the bus at the end of the school day. If you have a child in P1-P3, please send a note to the class teacher advising them if your child will be using the bus so that arrangements can be made to ensure they get on the bus. If there are any issues regarding the bus service, this should be taken up with the bus provider in the first instance.

Boghall 8.30am/Ramsay Crescent/Crosshill Drive 8.38am (WS Hamilton 08000509290)

Easton 8.20am /Belvedere 8.25am (Prentice Westwood 01506871231)

Drama and Music Updates

Choir - The school choir has been showcasing its talent over the festive period. The children were a credit to this school, their families and to themselves! Choir rehearsals are suspended until 21st March.

The annual primary six show this year is 'The Wizard of Oz'. This will take place in Bathgate Academy on 18th and 19th March. Please take time to come along and support this very talented year group.

Our Primary 2 children will be performing 'Mister Skellybones' for their parents on Friday, 28th March at 11am in the High Church Hall. A separate letter will be issued to ensure that we can make appropriate arrangements for the numbers wishing to attend.

Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) Group

Every year, UNICEF UK's Day for Change focuses on a different theme. In 2014, Day for Change is all about education. Going to school gives children the chance of a brighter future but about 68 million children around the world still don't have access to education.

Together, we can change this. By taking part in Day for Change, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to go to school. We will use the donations from our Dress Down Day on **Friday, 7th February** for this fantastic cause. Change your clothes to help change a life - support Day for Change!



UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. They work with families, local communities, partners and governments in more than 190 countries to help every child realise their full potential. UNICEF supports children by providing health care, nutrition and education.

To find out more information about UNICEF, please visit www.unicef.org.uk.

Thank you in advance for your support.

P7b Cinderella Rockerfella

On the 17th of January, our class, P7b, finished our block of drama by putting on a play called Cinderella Rockerfella. This small play had turned into a huge production and parents were invited to watch. The two main characters were of course Cinderella (Isla Picken) and Rockerfella (Alistair Dalling). The fairy brigade was especially good and very funny (Rebecca Gegg, Jane Harkins, Eve Rodger and Louise Graham). The ugly sisters were very, very funny and looked great in their make-up and dresses! (Fraser Mclean and Zenaib Chaudhry). The costumes and make-up were great. The audience especially enjoyed our performance. Miss Henderson enjoyed our performance so much she was laughing the whole way through. :) Thank you to Mrs Innes for preparing everything and to our class and the choir for putting on such an amazing show. Well done to everyone!

Report by Freya Coyle 7b

P4g visit the High Church

Mr MacDonald showed us around the church and there was a pulpit, a font, alter and an organ. It was very interesting.

By Annie and Louise

Bathgate High Church Food Bank

Bathgate High Church Food Bank collects and redistributes donated food from the Bathgate community to the Bathgate community. It's about sharing resources and endeavouring to ensure that no one goes without the daily essential food. Anyone who needs help can apply. More information can be obtained from the High Church or school office.

Residential Experiences

Our information evening for this year and next year's Belgium visit (current P6 and 7), and next year's Low Port (current P4) visit will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 29th January.

A reminder that the final payment for this year's Belgium visit of £40 is to be paid by Friday 31st January. Spending money of £50 is to be due by Friday 28th March.

Low Port, Sept 2014 (current P4) Deposit of £35 due by Friday, 14th February

Belgium 2015 (current P6) Deposit of £30 due by Friday, 14th February.

Save the date!

We will be organising our first 'Family Quiz Night' on **Thursday 6th March**. We hope that this will take place in the British Legion, starting at 6.30pm. More information will follow.

Dressing Down with a Difference

Our March 'Dress Down Day' on Friday, 7th March will have a 'Wizard of Oz' theme in support of the float committee and our P6 school show. Children are encouraged to come to school dressed as a character from the film. This will also give them the chance to have their costumes ready for John Newland's Procession day in June.

DIARY DATES - FEBRUARY

3 rd	Launch P6/7 Sports Elective Whole school home learning task (parents and pupils)
4 th	P7 visit to Botany
7 th	Dress Down Day P11 Assembly (9.45am parents welcome) 12.30pm – P6 Wizard rehearsals
Sat 8 th	P6 bag packing in Morrison's
12 th	P7 team to Rotary Quiz
13 th	Valentine' Disco (times above)
14 th	Class 1, 2 and 3 assembly (parents welcome 9.30am) 12.30pm – P6 Wizard rehearsals
17 th	HOLIDAY
18 th	Inservice for staff – Pupil HOLIDAY
20 th	Netball Festival
21 st	12.30pm – P6 Wizard rehearsals
24 th	P7 Glow Meet with Academy
28 th	11am – Open Morning (details above) 12.30pm – P6 Wizard rehearsals