



Balbardie Primary NEWS

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

September 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you receive this month's newsletter I am delighted to be able to report that our Primary 1 pupils have all settled very well into our full day sessions although I am sure that there are a lot of little, tired people being collected at the end of the day. All of our children have now settled into the new school session and have been extremely positive about their new classes. Having visited all of our classrooms, there is plenty of exciting learning going on and we look forward to sharing your child's successes with you as the year progresses. I had the immense pleasure in leading our whole school assembly and was also very impressed during the P6 and P7 gathering at the lovely ethos which exists within Balbardie. The children sang the Balbardie Anthem and although I am still a stranger here, I was very moved by the huge sense of pride and respect which exists here and is very evident as the children sang so beautifully.

We are very excited about the year ahead with lots of activities and events already in the pipeline - I have sent home our annual planner to help you with your organisation. I look forward to meeting you all soon at our Meet the Teacher event and also our Macmillan Coffee Morning fundraising event and value your support greatly at these events.

As ever, if you have any worries, questions or concerns about any aspect of school life, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Lesley Dunbar (Acting Head Teacher)

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Meet the Teacher

Our annual Meet the teacher event has been arranged for Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 6pm. Class teachers will be sharing lots of information including their expectations for the year and will tell you about the planned contexts of learning your child will experience this session. Information will also be shared about Golden Time at this meeting. I look forward to meeting many of our parents and carers during this liaison time.

School Fund



As you are aware at Balbardie we hold on the first Friday of every month a Dress Down day to help raise money for our school funds. We ask that all children come to school in their dress down gear and donate £1 for this. In addition to this we ask for a voluntary contribution of £2.40 for this term or full year contribution of £11.40 to provide additional resources for your child, not provided within the DSM school budget, to enhance your child's experiences and add sparkle to their learning.

Class Assemblies

Our class assemblies will be beginning next week with P7A and parents are welcome to attend their own child's class assembly. Dates are noted on the annual calendar which has now been issued and is also available on the school blog. Parents are welcome to join us at 9.20am and stay for a refreshment with their child afterwards.

Parking

A reminder to all parents/carers to park a safe distance from the school gates. In addition, the school car park **MUST NOT** be used as a pedestrian walk through for children or adults. This is to ensure everyone's safety.

We would strongly encourage all parents/carers who drive children to school to use the local car parks which are a few minutes' walk from the school. This will reduce congestion outside school and the dangers to our children.

As courtesy to residents in the local area, please do not park across drive ways.

Allergies

As we have a number of children in school with severe allergies, we discourage children from swapping food items, we would also discourage sandwiches filled with peanut butter or Nutella as their high nut content may affect other children. We fully appreciate and value your support with this.



School Uniform

It is lovely to see so many of our children looking incredibly smart in their new school uniforms. Further to the information issued last session, I would reiterate that the Balbardie Primary School uniform is :-

White shirt with burgundy & gold striped tie or

Gold or white polo shirt

Burgundy jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt

Dark skirt/pinafore/trousers

Black trainers or black shoes.

All P7 pupils wear a shirt and tie.

It was agreed at the last Parent Council that girls may wear the yellow/white checked dress and that hoodies have only to be worn for outdoor PE and not in class. Coloured trainers are not part of our uniform. Please refer to the school handbook for further information. Can I also ask that all pieces of clothing (including shoes if possible) are labelled. This will minimise items becoming mixed up as even after our first few days we have some left over bits and pieces. It is our intention to allow pupils outside at playtimes whenever safe to do so. Therefore, we require children to wear / bring appropriate footwear, jackets, gloves etc. so that they are comfortable outside.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



This will take place on Friday 30th September 2016 led by our Primary 7 pupils. Please note that a letter will be sent home this week identifying the timetable of events. Again, I look forward to meeting many of you during this very worthwhile charitable event.

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 all staff will deliver lessons on this subject to provide a consistent message to our children.

Pokemon - A Guide for Parents

As we are all aware many of our children have been caught up in the recent Pokemon Go craze which is sweeping the world. We have received information from the police and guidance has been issued from the NSPCC relating to the Pokemon Go App and keeping children safe when using this. I hope you find this helpful when speaking with you children and in helping to keep them safe -

<http://www.itv.com/news/granada/2016-07-15/police-warn-of-the-dangers-of-pokemon-go-to-children/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/pokemon-go-parents-guide/>

Annual Returns, EE2 and Medical Information

Thank you to all parents/carers who have already returned the EE2 which was issued the first week of the session. This is a green EE2 form and gives us instructions about your child's medical needs and permission for any emergency treatment if required. If you have not completed this form, please return this to school as soon as possible.



If your child requires medication during the course of the school day, please complete an 'Administering Medication in School' form which can be obtained from the school office. Other than inhalers, children should not carry or administer medication in school by themselves.



Harvest Festival Service

The Church collection will be in aid of the ex-service men and women who work in the Lady Haig Poppy Factory.

We will also be delighted to receive any donations of tinned or packaged foods for the local Food Bank and these can be handed into the school office.

Credit Union

The collection of savings for Credit Union will begin in the next few weeks on a Thursday morning. If you wish to join this scheme please ask the school office for a registration card. To open an account please complete the form and your first deposit and return to the school office (suggested minimum of £1.00) and a book will be issued the following week.



School Photographer

Due to a family emergency, there will only be one photographer in school on Monday and she will take individual photographs on this day. She will return on Tuesday to take family group photographs.

Diary Dates

September

1 st	Parent Council Meeting at 6.15 pm
5 th	School Photographer (separate letter)
6 th	Courier Photographer to take Primary 1 class photographs
7 th	Meet the Teacher evening 6.00 pm
9 th	P7a Assembly (9.15am - parents welcome)
16 th	P6a Assembly (9.15am - parents welcome)
19 th	HOLIDAY
20 th	Inservice Day for Staff
23 rd	Chaplain Assembly
26 th	Group 1 to Low Port - bus leaves at 9 am
28 th	Group 2 to Low Port - bus leaves at 9 am and Group 1 return from Low Port 1 pm
30 th	Macmillan Coffee Morning (separate letter) Group 2 return from Low Port 1 pm

October

4 th	P1 and P2 Shared Start 8.55 am - 9.20 am
5 th	P3/2 and P3 Shared Start 8.55 am - 9.20 am
6 th	P1 - P4 Review Jotters home
7 th	P4a Assembly (9.15am - parents welcome)
14 th	Church Service 9.30 am in Bathgate High Church
w/b 17 th	October Holiday week
24 th	Inservice Day for staff
25 th	Pupils resume
28 th	Chaplain Assembly