



# Balbardie Primary NEWS

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

November 2016

*Dear Parent / Carer,*

*I hope you all had an enjoyable October Break - it certainly went in very quickly! The weather is crisper and colder and the days are quite a bit shorter. It's very important that our youngsters come to school wearing warm jackets. Our JRSOs would like to remind you how important it is that all our pupils can be seen in the dark by having reflective gear on their coats or bags too. There is now quite a lot going on before the Christmas Break - keep checking our blog for details! Our next Parent Council Meeting is on Thursday 10th November at 6.15 pm and anyone is welcome to attend.*

*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 Head Teacher (Acting)*

## Dress Down Day



This November our Dress Down day will now be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November which is our Children In Need day (this means there is **no dress down day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November**). Our ARB pupils are organising this event and have sent home a letter giving details of goodies for sale to support this fundraiser.

## Parent's Night

Our first parental consultations of the session will take place this Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2016. Appointment times have been issued by all teachers and I look forward to meeting many more of our parents then, do please stop to say hello.

## Scholastic Book Fair

In October we held our Scholastic Book Fair in school. All children had the opportunity to visit this. We raised a fantastic £300 of commission which will be used to buy additional reading resources for our children. Thank you for your support.

## Handball Tournament

Our P5 pupils attended the first mini handball festival, organised by our Active Schools team, of the session on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Bathgate Sports centre from 9.20 - 11.30 a.m. Children all had a great time at this and were a credit to their school!

### Fund Raising News

We raised a fantastic £719.07 on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Care at our recent coffee morning. A huge thank you to our army of volunteers for their help on the day.

### Christmas Fayre - Saturday 26th November

Our hugely popular Fayre takes place on Saturday 26th November from 10 a.m. ~ 12 noon. Organised by the Parent Council, we already have lots of confirmed stalls, as well as class crafts, home-baking, Santa's Grotto and prizes galore! Please come along and bring a friend or two! Any donations for the raffle, tombola, used toys etc. can now be handed into the school office. If you are able to help on this morning, can you please let Mrs. White know.



We would like to raise funds to enhance the school playground and next year we shall be holding a Ladies Night at the beginning of March and a whole school family get fit sponsor. More information next year.

### Big Balbardie Blether

Our first Big Balbardie Blether of this academic session will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of November. All children will be in house groups to give us feedback regarding our work in Balbardie in connection to Numeracy and Maths. We will use this feedback to identify our next steps and shape our plans for improvement.

### P1-3 Theatre Workshops

Our P1-P3 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in Hairy Maclary Theatre Workshops on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of November from One Day Creative Education.

Our Scottish themed Hairy Maclary creative story telling workshops will provide a practical and engaging opportunity for our wee ones to explore being Scottish and living in Scotland through drama. Our children will have the opportunity to bring one of our Scottish tales to life, creating the action, living the twists and turns of the stories through action whilst having lots of fun meeting Scottish characters along the way! This will help our children to begin to celebrate St Andrew's Day on 30<sup>th</sup> of November.



### Talent Show - The Balbardie Factor

Our enthusiastic House captain team continue to organise The Balbardie Factor. Our children in each class are very busy at present voting for one of our fantastic performers, in each class, who will go through to the final, which is scheduled for Monday 28th November in the afternoon. Please look out for invites and save the date as parents of finalists will be invited to come along. This will be hosted and judged by Scott, Paulina, Aaron, Rebecca, Louise and Clara. All children will have the opportunity to watch the finalists on that morning during our gathering times!

### Cluster Choir



This December we have been invited to take part in the Bathgate Academy Cluster Choir. Our P7 pupils will begin rehearsals for this very shortly. Children will be supported in this by S6 pupils from the academy. We look forward to working in partnerships with the Academy young people and further developing our musical talents Parents/carers will have the opportunity to come along to the show at Bathgate Academy on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of December.



### P6 Show - Pirates of the Curry Bean - 23 and 24 November

Our P6 pupils are very busy at present rehearsing for their fantastic Pirates of the Curry Bean show which will be performed on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of November. Our pupils have designed tickets, posters and our programmes and a letter will be sent home to parents/carers giving more information later this week.

### Gate Locks

Please note that the gate at the back of the school will be locked during school hours, to ensure the safety of all pupils. Equally, the green gate between the front and the back of the school will also be locked. Both gates will be unlocked at until 3pm, Monday - Thursday, and 12 o'clock on Fridays.



### Fire Safety



As we know it will very soon be bonfire night where we remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. Our hope is that everyone has a fun evening if they are at firework events but very importantly that they remain safe. I have included the link below to share with you some advice we have received from the Scottish Fire and Rescue service which has been posted onto our blog and also on the council website.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/12358/Community-Safety-Partners-issues-firework-safety-warning>

### Health Updates

We have received this information from NHS Lothian regarding Norovirus.

Norovirus is sometimes called 'winter vomiting disease' because it usually occurs during the winter months. Norovirus is very infectious and high numbers of children and staff can be affected at once. The symptoms of norovirus include sudden onset of nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/or diarrhoea and usually last 12 to 60 hours. A person can become infected as a result of contact with an infectious case, contact with a surface contaminated with the virus or ingesting contaminated food or drink. Thorough hand washing is the simplest and most important infection control measure. Please advise that all children and staff wash their hands frequently using warm water and soap, especially after using the toilet and before eating and preparing food. Children and staff must be excluded until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

## Diary Dates

### November

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parent Consultations	4.00pm - 6.30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Consultations	4.00pm - 6.30pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Big Balbardie Blether - Pupil Voice	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Hairy Maclairy in Scots' - One Day Creative for P1-P3	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Choir Showcase	3.45pm
	Parent Council Meeting	6.15pm
	P1 and P7 Dental Inspection (separate letter)	
11 <sup>th</sup>	P7 pupils to church re Remembrance Service	
18 <sup>th</sup>	ARB Assembly - Children in Need <b>Dress Down Day</b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	P6 Show - Upper Hall	7.00pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	P6 Show - Upper Hall	7.00pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly P1A	9.20am
26 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	School Christmas Fayre	10.30am
29 <sup>th</sup>	P1 & P2 Shared Start	
30 <sup>th</sup>	P3/2 & P3 Shared Start	