

# Balbardie Primary News



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

**September 2013**

Dear Parent / Carer,

*My apologies for the lateness of this month's newsletter. It has been an extremely busy and exciting start to the school year, and I trust that your child(ren) has now settled into their new class and enjoying the start of the new school session. 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.*

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

*(greg.welsh@wled.org.uk).*

*Greg Welsh - Head Teacher*

## **Breakfast Club**



The school's Breakfast Club runs from 8.15am – 8.45am each morning in the dining hall, supervised by Mrs Stewart and Mrs McFarlane. The last entry to the hall will be at 8.40am to allow enough time for children to eat before the start of the school day. As our numbers increase, we may have

to change our 'drop in' approach but I will inform you of any changes to this practice.

## **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.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers and PC Arnott will be running a number of initiatives this session to address this serious issue.

## **Questions and Concerns**

As always, we operate an open door policy for parents/carers so that any questions you may have can be answered as quickly as possible. In the first instance, your child's class teacher should be contacted as they have responsibility for the education and pastoral care of the children in their care. If you wish to discuss anything further, I have outlined the school's management team's areas of responsibility.

P1 – P3 Miss Henderson

P4 and P5 Mrs Spence

P6 and P7 Mr Welsh

Class 1 – Class 3 Mrs Stewart

Support for Learning / Home Learning Club – Mrs Waddell



## **Mobile Phones / Electrical Devices**



Please be aware of the school's position with regards to -

**Mobile Phones** – If your child requires to bring a mobile phone to school it should be handed in to the class teacher in the morning for return at the end of the school day. This is to ensure safety of the device and for the safety of others.

**Electrical Devices** – As part of our IT work, pupils in P6 and P7 can bring their own devices into school to support their learning. These will be stored securely by the class teacher during break and lunch. Children have responsibility for looking after their own device on the way to and from school.

## **Child Protection**

'It's Everyone's Job to make Sure I'm Alright' is a document produced by the Scottish Executive that emphasises that all children in Scotland have the right to be cared for and protected from harm. All of our staff are trained annually in Child Protection procedures. Posters detailing the procedures are located throughout the school and the Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection in school are Mr Welsh and Miss Henderson.

Remember, 'It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright' and if you have any concerns about any child please contact Bathgate Social Work on 01506 777600 or Police Family Unit on 01506 652615.

## **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](http://www.thinkuknow.com) or CEOP videos from [www.youtube.com](http://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.

## **PE and Outdoor Clothing**

We have seen a marked improvement in the number of pupils with full PE kit since our return this session – thank you! A reminder that only roll on deodorants should be used in school. 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.



### Lost Property

At our 'Meet the Teacher' night, we displayed all of our lost property to date. Any items still in the lost property on 13<sup>th</sup> September will be donated to charity. Please ensure that your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name and class so that we can ensure its return if lost.



### 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.



### Playground Safety and Dogs

Thank you to those who no longer bring dogs into the playground when collecting your child. We have a high number of children with a fear of dogs or severe allergies and your help with this matter is appreciated. Also, could we please ask that you **do not** tie dogs to the school fence surrounding the gates as this creates an uncomfortable exit for many of our children.

### West Lothian Onesie Walk



Our school will be participating in the West Lothian Onesie Walk on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. We will leave school at 10am and walk around Balbardie Park to promote walking as a healthy lifestyle. Parents and siblings are more than welcome to join us for this event.

### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

#### Parent Council

The Parent Council's AGM was held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Minutes of the meeting are available from the school office and a reminder that all parents can attend Parent Council meetings – dates of future meetings are noted on the annual parent/carer



Balbardie Primary School  
Torphichen Street  
Bathgate  
West Lothian  
EH48 4HL

calendar.

Mr Neil Quinn will remain as Chair this session with Mrs Liesa McLean as Vice-Chair. All year representative parents are noted below and can be contacted to raise any issues on your behalf.

Nursery – Gillian Greenwell and Nicola McFarlane

P1 – Alison Currie and Dorthe Davidson

P2 – Leigh Maybury and Karen Smillie

P3 – Kirsten Gamble and Karen Bonnar

P4 – Margaret Hendry, Marion McCallum and Lorna Nicol

P5 – David Ross

P6 – Lynne Bell

P7 – Jacqueline Harkins and Rupert Pugh

Fundraising – Mrs White

Float – Audrey Templeton

Teacher reps – Mrs Mooney, Mr Berginis and Miss Macintyre

Nursery staff reps – Miss Wilkins and Mrs Bett

### Parent Consultations

A letter has been issued today to invite you to our first parent consultation of the session. These will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 6pm-8.30pm and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 4pm-6.30pm. Please return this by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to allow us to issue appointments on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### EE2 and Medical Information

You will soon receive our annual update for your child's medical information. This is a green EE2 form and gives us instructions about your child's medical needs and permission for any emergency treatment if required. Please return these 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.

### Are you creative?

We are looking for creative volunteers to help us improve our school environment. This will include creating wall displays and playground markings/murals. If you would like to become involved, please contact Miss Henderson.

### Diary Dates

#### September

- 5<sup>th</sup> Lunchtime pipe and drumming club begins
- 6<sup>th</sup> DRESS DOWN DAY – School Fund Assembly – Mrs Spence
- 9<sup>th</sup> P5d leave for Low Port residential  
P6 and P7 Childline Workshops  
P5m visit Bible World
- 11<sup>th</sup> School nurse / doctor in school  
P5m leave for Low Port residential  
1.30pm – P5d return from Low Port  
ASD Classes to Variety Club outing
- 12<sup>th</sup> P5d visit Bible World
- 13<sup>th</sup> School nurse / doctor in school  
Assembly – Mr Macdonald
- 16<sup>th</sup> HOLIDAY
- 17<sup>th</sup> INSET Day / Pupil holiday
- 20<sup>th</sup> WL Onesie Walk
- 24<sup>th</sup> P3/2 visit Xcite Bathgate
- 27<sup>th</sup> Macmillan Coffee Morning (separate letter issued)