



Balbardie Primary NEWS

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April 2015

Dear Parent / Carer,

This has been an extremely busy term with significant events having taken place in our school calendar. We had a successful official opening of the extension, and our P2 and P6 pupils have entertained us with their performances of 'Honey' and 'Olivia'. In addition, there have been many exciting learning experiences taking place in school and on educational visits. Next term is also an extremely busy term and we look forward to continuing to involve you in the work and efforts of our children.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or wish to highlight something positive in school. My email address is greg.welsh@westlothian.org.uk

Greg Welsh (Head Teacher)

Contacting key staff

If you wish to speak to the class teacher about your child, for any reason, then we would be grateful if you could contact the school office by telephone or in person to arrange for the class teacher to contact you. As the class teacher is responsible for the children in the class from 8.50am until 3.25pm it is not possible for them to speak to you if you come into school in the morning, but they will contact you as soon as possible. For health and safety reasons, please do not enter the school through the children's doors, but enter through the main entrance door.



If you require to speak with a member of the school's leadership team, as the class teacher is unable to help, please contact the following key person for your child –

P1 and P2	Miss Henderson	P5 and P7	Mr Welsh
P3	Mrs Hay	P6	Mrs Stutt
P4	Mrs Aitken	ARB	Miss McDonald

Support for Learning - Mrs Gray



School Uniform

Following consultation with all of our pupils, collating a parental questionnaire issued by the House Captain team, and discussing the outcome of these at Parent Council, we are now in a position to clarify our school uniform for 2015/16 onwards.

- All pupils should wear black or grey trousers / skirt with black shoes/trainers.
- The school sweatshirt / cardigan will be burgundy with a gold or white polo shirt.
- Pupils in P7 should wear shirt and tie, and an alternative P7 v-neck sweatshirt is available if desired.
- Pupils in P1-P6 may also wish to wear shirt and tie as their school uniform.

These changes will help to develop our school identity and allow all of our children to feel part of the one team.

For pupils who still have the black sweatshirt with the school badge, this can continue to be used as we phase in the more 'uniformed' uniform.

P7 Information for Academy Uniform

A blazer fitting will be held at Bathgate Academy on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd April 6.30pm-8.30pm for our P7 pupils going there after the summer holidays.



Drinks in school

It is important that children stay hydrated during the course of the school day and we encourage our children to bring in bottles of water to drink throughout the day. Please note that only still water should be brought for drinking during class times.

Parent Helpers

We are extremely grateful to the number of parents who volunteer to accompany our children on excursions or work on projects in school.

As part of our Child Protection Procedures, I would like to remind any future volunteers that the use of your own camera equipment (including mobile phones) is not permitted. I am sure that you will appreciate the need for this as you continue to help the school.



Book Fair

During parents' evenings, our Scholastics' Book Fair will be set up in the dining area. Please take time to come and visit.



Childsmile



The Childsmile team will visit to fluoride varnish P1 – P3 children's teeth on Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd April, Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th April. A separate letter from Childsmile will be issued to children in these year groups.

Help required!

Our new picnic benches have been built for the new outdoor dining area. We are looking for some volunteers to help us with the painting of these so that they can be fully used for the Spring and Summer term. If you are able to help, please contact the school office.



P2 visit Stirling Castle

“On Thursday we went to Stirling Castle. When we got there we walked around and saw lots of things. We spotted battlements, arrow loops, towers and a portcullis that we have been learning about. We got to touch the canons. We went to see the great hall, the Queen's bedroom and the kitchens. Then we got to dress up. I got to hold armour, a shield and a mace. It was really fun.”

Miles Currie p2bg

“We went to Stirling Castle. We went into lots of different rooms. We saw the jester, musical instruments, old clothes and we got to try clothes on. I liked seeing the bedrooms. We learned that Mary Queen of Scots liked to play football in the palace. My favourite bit was when we tried on the clothes. I was dressed up as an archer and I got to hold a longbow.”

Gemma Torrance

P2 news-Partial Eclipse

“Today Mrs Bonner visited our class to tell us things about the partial eclipse. She told us a lot of information about the solar system too. We found out that she is an engineer. She helped us to make a pinhole camera out of boxes, foil and paper to help us see the eclipse. We went into the playground to see it. We tried not to look at the sun as it could hurt our eyes. I got excited, I never seen such a lovely moon and sun!”

Charlotte Strachan

“Mrs Bonner came to our P2 classes and we made pinhole cameras. We shared our cameras- Suvi shared her one with me. It didn’t really work as it was very cloudy. We saw the moon, it was bright! The cameras were fun even though they didn’t work very well!”

Katie Armstrong

‘Wear it Blue’ Day



Thursday 2nd April will be a ‘Wear it Blue’ day in school to support Autism Awareness week. Our children will take part in activities, developed by the children in our Autism Resource, to further their own knowledge and understanding of how Autism affects others. We are extremely proud of the inclusive ethos within our whole school community and the part our Resource plays in this, and look forward to this being a day of celebration.

Our church collection on that day will be donated to Signpost for the work they do in our local community supporting families of children with Autism.

‘Move on day’ (change to the annual calendar)

As we continually review and evaluate the effectiveness of our school, we are making a change to the traditional ‘move on day’. To make our transition arrangements from year to year more effective, all of our children will spend a full day with their teacher for next session in their new classroom. This will now take place on Wednesday 10th June. We will inform you on Tuesday 9th June who your child’s teacher will be for session 2015/16.

The door that children enter and leave school on that day will not change.

Election Information

In the past, our Autism Resource has always been used as a polling station. Due to the need for an additional polling station, our school hall will now be used for this. I have outlined below the information I have received on how this will operate. Please note that the next election date is Thursday 7th May.

The following arrangements for elections going forward (the next being the General Election on Thursday, 7 May):

- School remains open to pupils
- Utilise new hall for polling
- Access for voters via Atholl Terrace then into hall via fire escape doors – i.e. access is straight into hall and not via any other part of new extension
- Doors leading from hall into school to be locked with no access to other parts of extension or main body of school for voters
- Dining area in new extension unaffected and operating as usual
- Appropriate signage at all other entrances into school site to indicate no access for voters and that access for voters is via Atholl Terrace only
- Temporary steel fencing to segregate playground at back of school from area where voters will enter school site – i.e. the small area between the gate and fire escape doors into hall
- Temporary fencing can be moved as necessary for deliveries

- Disabled voter parking bay to be designated in that segregated entrance area

DIARY DATES - APRIL

1 st		P3/2 visit to Callendar House From 4.00pm Parents' Consultations
2 nd	9.30am	'Wear it Blue' Day Church Service (High Church) Golden Club Event
3 rd		HOLIDAY - (break until 20th April)
20 th		All return P6 and 7 Elective programme
24 th		Assembly - Mr Bremner
26 th	Sunday	P7 leave for Belgium
27 th		P6 and P7 Elective programme
	7.00pm	Simply Play information evening (school hall)
30 th		Primary 4 Learn2swim (separate letter)

May

1 st		Dress Down Day BBB3
2 nd	Saturday	P7 return from Belgium
4 th		Holiday
5 th		Holiday (Inservice day for staff)
6 th		Children return to school

Community News

Oatridge Campus is holding a Farm Open Day on Sunday, 3rd May from 12 noon - 4 pm. Equine displays, vintage and modern machinery, lambs, calves, trailer rides, chainsaw carving and much more. Free event.