

Balbardie Primary News



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

December 2012

Dear Parent / Carer,

You should already have received some important internet safety advice from the school. I have listed this advice again below, and have updated the correct link to CEOP's Jigsaw film, which we use to illustrate the importance of online safety.

I am also frustrated that social networking sites are used to comment on the work of the school or individual members of my staff. This may lead to inaccurate information about the school being viewed publically. As always, if you wish to discuss any aspect of the school, please do not hesitate to contact me personally. (greg.welsh@wled.org.uk).
Greg Welsh - Head Teacher

Internet Safety

Due to a recent influx of parental and school concerns over the use of social networking sites, such as Facebook, we wish to share the following information -

* Facebook accounts should only be held by people over the age of 13

* Safe networking sites for children should have the CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) button

* We continue to educate our children on safe use of the internet and use the following film with our P4 to P7 pupils to highlight the importance of safety -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o8auwnJtqE

Other clips providing information can be found on www.youtube.com by searching for CEOP



Outdoor Clothing

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.



West Lothian's Young Musician

I am delighted to report that Emilio Leith (P7m) recently won two awards at the Young Musician competition held in Bathgate Academy. **Well done Emilio!**



Children in Need

We had a fantastic day in school on Friday 16th November raising money to support this excellent cause. Everyone managed to have an extra 20 minutes in bed, as we arrived with our pyjamas and slippers still on! An

amazing total of £535 was raised!



Procession Float Update

The theme chosen from the children's suggestions for next year's procession is Madagascar 3. Work will start in February and any helping hands would be most welcome.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Inspiring Reading

We are looking for interested parents or grandparents to read with small groups of children on a Thursday afternoon.

This will start after the Christmas break. The aim is to further our children's experience and enjoyment of reading.

Advice and guidance will be provided at an information session prior to the group starting. We would very much appreciate any support offered. If you are interested in helping with this, please leave details with the school office or contact Miss Henderson.



Severe Weather Arrangements

Please ensure that the school office has up-to-date contact numbers for your child in the event of a school closure due to severe weather.

Please be aware that in the event of heavy snow, the janitor will clear and salt one initial footpath to allow staff and pupils to access the building. Our cleared path will be from the front gate to the main entrance. Other footpaths and grounds will be addressed by

FMA staff as soon as possible during the daylight hours and following completion of the existing essential duties.



Residential Experiences

Following a review of our current practice, discussion with Parent Council and enquiring about other schools' provision, the decision has been taken to reduce the number of residential experiences we offer. Next session, P5 will be offered the opportunity of a three day visit to Low Port Centre and P7 offered a week's visit to Belgium. We believe this still provides our children with valuable learning experiences and takes in to account the current financial climate.

Money

We currently have a high number of children with outstanding lunch money. As we don't fund the lunches, any outstanding payments have to be met by the school, which reduces funds available for all of our children. Please send any outstanding amounts as soon as possible.

The cost of milk for January to March is £9.69. Payments for milk should be made by Friday 14th December. We are sorry that we cannot accept any payments after this date.

School Fund for next term will be £3.60. All contributions are greatly appreciated and help us to provide additional experiences for our children.

CHRISTMAS EVENT INFORMATION

Christmas Fayre

Arrangements are well underway for the Fayre on Saturday 1st December. Stalls will include local businesses, prize draw, tombola, new toys, nearly new toys, books, CD's, DVD's, Santa's Grotto, tea/coffee, homebaking etc. Our pupils will also be selling their Business Enterprise items.



P1 Nativity



Primary 1 will be performing 'The Innkeeper's Breakfast' this year. The boys and girls (and teachers!) have been working very hard preparing for their performance. We are looking forward to watching our little stars on stage!

Bathgate West Nursery Christmas Fayre

The nursery will be holding their fayre on Wednesday 5th December in the nursery 6-8pm. All visitors are welcome to attend and support this event.

Class Parties

All of our classes will have their annual Christmas party. Please refer to the dates list for your child's class party date. A reminder that parents are asked to contribute £1 towards the cost of the party. Please send this in to school.



Church Service

We would like to welcome you to join us at the High Church on Friday 21st December at 9.30am for our Christmas service. The offering will be for CHAS.

Christmas Lunch

P1-P3 children will have Christmas lunch on Tuesday 4th December and P4-P7 children on Wednesday 5th. Due to the split dates, children should bring a packed lunch on the alternate date of their Christmas lunch. Children entitled to free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch on their alternate day.



Christmas Post

Our school post box will be in operation from Monday 10th – Monday 17th December. Please ensure that the full name and class is written on the envelope to help our P7's with their deliveries.

Cinderella Pantomime

Children in P1-P5 will attend a performance of Cinderella in school on Thursday 20th December. The cost of this will be £3. A separate letter will be issued.

Design a Light

Congratulations to Sasha Brown in P4I for winning our school's entry for 'Design a Christmas Light' competition run by Enterprising Bathgate.

Staffing Update

As Mrs Clark is currently teaching Class 2 in the Autism Resource, Mrs Moffat will be supporting some of our children in class until Christmas. I will update individual classes with any changes in December.

Clean Up

On Friday 9th November the JET's went on a clean up to Balbardie Park of Peace. Last time they filled 12 bags of rubbish! This time we just filled 5 bags but that a good thing because people are learning not to throw rubbish down. We had fun and the down side was it was raining. We found some interesting pieces of litter. One was a Peppa Pig toy. The other was half a table! It was awesome and the best part was we had an hour out of school. I think the Peppa Pig toy was abandoned by a boy or girl who left it. I'm not sure why somebody would leave half a table!
Isla Ross, Primary 3b

Poppy Factory Report P7M

On Monday 29th of October both P7 classes visited The Lady Haig Poppy Factory in Edinburgh. When we arrived there we heard a presentation from two ex-servicemen. Peter explained about how the different gas masks were used. He gave me a baby doll to demonstrate it with. I accidentally blew up the baby!! Then Robyn and Cameron dressed up in army outfits. It was funny! We then had a guided tour around the factory and were shown how the poppies were made and how the machines worked. We were able to make our very own poppies and take them home! The ex-servicemen then made us our second school poppy reef. We will lay one at the Memorial and take the other one to Belgium.
By Ellie-Mae Waugh 7M

Diary Dates

December

- Sat 1st Christmas Fair
- 4th P1-P3 Christmas Lunch (P4-7 packed lunches)
- 5th P4-P7 Christmas Lunch (P1-P3 packed lunches)
- 6th 6pm – Bathgate West Christmas Fair
P6 and 7 to Regal Theatre (Cinderella)
P5 Christmas Party
- 7th Assembly P4I
Dress Down Day (£1 donation)
- 10th P6 Christmas Party
- 11th AM P1 Nativity
P4 Christmas Party
- 12th P4 to Bathgate Academy (The Grinch)
PM - P1 Nativity
7pm – Parent Council
- 13th P3 Christmas Party
- 14th Golden Club Event
- 17th P2 Christmas Party
- 18th Choir to Royal Scot Court to perform
P1 Christmas Party
6pm-8pm P7 Disco
- 19th Bathgate West Nativity (in school hall)
- 20th P1-P5 Panto in school (Cinderella)
- 21st Church Service (High Church 9.30am)

West Lothian Toy Appeal Needs Your Help
New and Second-hand toys wanted!



Do you have good quality second hand toys that you no longer need? Or maybe duplicate toys that your children never opened?

We would love to have them. We currently need items for 10 - 12 year olds.

There are over 1,500 children in need across West Lothian and these toys can bring a lot of joy and happiness throughout the year, but especially at Christmas.

Maybe you have friends and family who can help too? We really appreciate any support you can offer.

Last year, the West Lothian Toy Appeal distributed over 6,000 toys at Christmas, to children who otherwise, would have received no presents.

This year, local support agencies have already identified even more children who, without your help, will not receive a gift this Christmas.

Extract from The West Lothian Toy Appeal River Kids website.



West Lothian Toy Appeal is run by River Kids. River Kids is a registered charity (SC037312), helping children in need, across West Lothian.

If you have any toys that you feel could benefit this good cause, can you please hand them in to 7M's classroom and Miss McDougall.

Many thanks, Miss Bollen, Miss Brodie, and Miss McDougall (Rights Respecting School Group).

West Lothian Council (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee considers appeals against the refusal of school placing requests or against exclusion from schools.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee must be a parent of a child of school age in education at a West Lothian school. However, an employee of the Council would be excluded if employed in the education service in an administrative or advisory role.

Any parents interested in joining the committee can contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609.

The deadline for applications is 25th January 2013.

Education Scotland re-launches Parentzone

Education Scotland has refreshed the [Parentzone section](#) on their website. Parentzone aims to develop partnerships between parents and schools and provides information to help parents to find out how they can support their child's education in Scotland.

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/index.asp

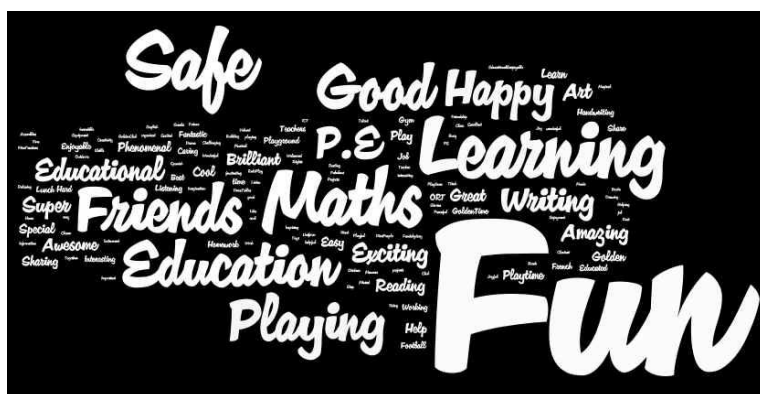
Parental Views

Thank you to all parent/carers who returned their thoughts on the key words for our school.

What our parents are looking for.....



What our children said we do.....



It is interesting to see the many similarities between what parents view as the important role of the school, and what our children are experiencing. For me, I am delighted to see Education, Learning, Safe and Fun appearing as the most common words on both lists!