

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

**December 2013**

*Dear Parent / Carer,*

*We have an extremely busy month ahead with lots of learning going on in amongst the annual seasonal events. I have listed below all of the events taking place this month. Apologies for any changes, but these are made due to the ever changing needs within school.*

*I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all of our staff, children and families a wonderful Christmas period.*

*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*

**Extension Work and Impact**

Work on our planned extension to the school will start in January 2014. Due to the nature of this work, a number of changes to our existing practices will be required. A new entrance off Athol Terrace will be installed and come into use when the building work commences. Also, we will be using a temporary unit to serve as our dining area. To aid the working of this, we will be required to rearrange our interval and lunch breaks. This is necessary to ensure we do not have too many children accessing different areas of the school grounds at the same time, and to keep our starting and finishing time of school consistent for parents/carers.

I have listed the changes below for your information.

Morning Break (15 minutes) Lunch (45 minutes)

10.15am – P4, 5 and 7 12.10pm – P5 and 7

10.35am – P1, 2, 3 and 6 12.20pm – P2 and 3

 12.30pm – P1, 4 and 6

Children in P1 and P2 will use their current playground at the rear of the school. P3 – P7 children will use the larger front playground area.

**CHRISTMAS EVENT INFORMATION**

**Christmas Fayre – Sat, 30th November**

Arrangements are well underway for the Fayre on Saturday 30th November. 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.

**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 party food. Please send this in to the school office.

****

**Christmas Lunches – 3rd & 4th December**

P4-P7 children will have Christmas lunch on Tuesday 3rd December and P1-P3 children and Class 1-3 on Wednesday 4th. 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.

**Bathgate West Nursery Christmas Fayre – Thurs, 5th December**

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

**Christmas Post – 9th – 16th December**

Our school post box will be in operation from Monday 9th – Monday 16th December. Please ensure that the full name and class is written on the envelope to help our P7’s with their deliveries.

**P1 Nativity – 10th & 11th December**

Primary 1 will be performing ‘Gifts for the King’ on Tuesday 10th December at 9.30am and Wednesday 11th December at 2.30pm. Tickets are currently on sale from the school office.

**Pantomime – Thurs, 12th December**

Children in P1-P6 will attend the performance of Aladdin at the Regal Theatre on Thursday 12th December. A separate letter has been issued to all classes involved.

**Church Service – Fri, 20th December**

We would like to welcome you to join us at the High Church on Friday 20th December at 9.30am for our Christmas service. The offering will be for the children’s ward at St John’s Hospital.

****

**Children in Need**

We had a fantastic day in school on Friday 15th November raising money to support this excellent cause. We managed to raise a total of £600.

**West Lothian Toy Appeal**

*Can you help someone to have a happier Christmas? We know we have a right to play and we are lucky to have toys to do this. We would like donated toys for all ages, boys and girls. Sorry we cannot accept broken toys, electronics or puzzles with missing pieces. The collection has started and will finish on15th December. Please make this the best year ever!*

*Drew, Eva, Taylor, Dave, Sam and Lily (P5)*

**Money**

**LUNCH 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.

**SCHOOL FUND**: School Fund for next term will be £3.90. All contributions are greatly appreciated and help us to provide additional experiences for our children.

**![C:\Documents and Settings\ina.meek\Desktop\images[4].jpg]()MILK**

The cost of milk for January to April is **£11.34**.

**Payments for milk should be made by FRIDAY, 13th DECEMBER.**

**We are sorry that we cannot accept any payments after this date.**

**Playground / Traffic**

Please remember that our playground is a dog free environment. We have a high number of children with allergies or fears. Please alert the school office if you have concerns over anyone not following this advice.

Our JRSOs will be issuing a leaflet updating all parent/carers of the outcome of our enforcement weeks and suggestions of how to keep our roads around the school safe.

**Staffing Update**

Mrs Carene Hay has been appointed permanent Principal Teacher at Bathgate West Nursery, following Mrs Linda Baxter being appointed Depute Headteacher at Uphall PS.

Miss Laura Baillie has been appointed Principal Teacher at Pumpherston and Uphall Station Community Primary.

*I’d like to wish Carene, Linda and Laura my very best wishes in their new roles.*

We are currently in the process of appointing permanent teachers to our staffing team and any changes will be communicated to classes affected.

**Diary Dates**

Keeping up to date! As well as our school blog, we now have a school app. This can be downloaded from

<http://apps.appshed.com/124880/> or alternatively scan the following QR code

**December**

2nd  Class 1-3 Variety Club outing

3rd P4 – P7 Christmas Lunch (P1-3 packed lunches)

4th P1 – P3 / Class 1-3 Christmas lunch (P4-7 packed lunches)

 Drumming workshops P1m, P2e, P5d, P7m

 PM – P6 party

5th PM – P5 party

 6.00pm – 8.00pm – Bathgate West Nursery Christmas Fair

6th P6m Assembly – parents welcome 9.45am

9th Choir to Royal Scot Court

 P1 dress rehearsal for school

 PM – P4 party

10th 9.30am - P1 Nativity

 PM – P3 party

11th 2.30pm - P1 Nativity

12th Nursery sessions in school

 P1-P6 Pantomime at Regal Theatre

13th P1-4 Review jotters home for parents

 Golden Club event

16th 11.00 am - Choir to Partnership Centre

 PM – P2 party

 2.00pm - Choir recording for West Lothian Council website

17th PM – P7 disco

 Choir to Tesco

18th Nursery Nativities in school

19th PM – P1 party

20th 9.30am - Church Service