

# Balbardie Primary News

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



## January 2013

Dear Parent / Carer,

*I'd like to wish all of our children, parents and friends of the school a Happy New Year. I hope that you and your family had a fantastic festive season.*

*We return to school with a very busy term ahead of us, and I trust that the children are refreshed and ready for the challenges in store for the remainder of the school year.*

*We continue to work hard in providing exciting learning experiences for your children and value your support with this. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions about any aspect of your child's education.*

Greg Welsh (Head Teacher) [greg.welsh@wled.org.uk](mailto:greg.welsh@wled.org.uk)

### School Review

West Lothian Council will be undertaking a review of the education service provided by the school on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. As part of this process, the review team would like to speak with a group of parents to gather your views on the work of the school. Neil Quinn, Chair of the Parent Council, is co-ordinating the formation of this group. If you would like to be involved, the group will meet on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm in school, please email myself or let the office know.

### School Blog – Sharing Learning and Information

Our school blog is now well established and is used by all classes, each week, to share their learning with you. We would greatly appreciate any feedback through the use of the comments section. We will also use the school blog to share information with you more quickly. The blog can be accessed through – <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/Balbardie/>



### Scottish Celebrations

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January, P7 children and invited guests will celebrate Burns with their own Burns Supper.

All teachers will be introducing Scottish poetry, stories and songs throughout January. A poetry recitation competition will take place and we would value your support in helping your child with this. The P3-P7 final will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>. Good luck to everyone!



### Staffing Update

Mrs Aitken's secondment at Stoneyburn PS will continue this term, with Mrs Ghafoor continuing to teach P4a. Mr Andrew Jeffries will join our staff team to teach PE to all classes. Mrs Marietta Zaloni starts in January teaching Class 2. Mr Gary Marsden also joins our team, supporting Class 1. I'd like to thank Mrs Phillips and Mrs Moffat who had been teaching classes last term for their hard work, and wish them well for the future.

### Support in School

We continually have additional adult support in classes for our children. This term we have a number of teaching students coming in to school. Ms Clark will work with P5ms, Ms Boyes with P2/1b, Ms Shepherd with P7m, Ms Beaton with P3lm and Ms Walker P5a. This gives our children additional opportunities to work with other adults and enhances the service we provide.

### IT Procurement

As a school, we are continually striving to give our children access to modern and up to date technologies to support their learning. As part of our strategy, our nursery and Autism Resource children have been using iPads to support learning in their class. We are now extending this provision into some of our mainstream classes. We are also awaiting delivery of 35 new Netbooks, which will be used throughout school.

I will write later in the term to invite you into school to share our longer term strategy. This is to ensure that we continue to have access to the best resources to support learning.

### Church Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our church offering for Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS). A total of £ was donated.



Children's Hospice Association Scotland  
Sharing the Caring

### Fundraising Committee's Valentine's Disco

The disco will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.  
P1-3 6pm – 7pm  
P4-P7 7.15 – 8.15pm  
Tickets priced £1.00, including refreshments, will be available from the school office from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January.



### Float Committee

The committee has now met on several occasions and plans for the float are now taking shape. The theme for this year's Procession Day is 'Madagascar 3'. The following children were winners in the design the float competition – Lewis MacCormick (2lg) Aidan Rodgers (Class 3), Zoe Parker-Forrest (3lm) and Amber Jackson (7b)

Well done also to the runners up – Jason Davidson (Class 3), Polina Derugina (3lm), Rowan Erskine (2/1b) and Ali McMichael (7b)

To help with funds, our 'Dress Down Day' on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February will be for the Float. Children are asked to donate £1 each (maximum of £2 per family) It would be fantastic if we had a higher number of children walking in the procession with us this year and we will be actively encouraging our children to come along and support this important local event.



### **Residential Information**



On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm, we are holding information meetings for parents on the residential opportunities we provide for our children. Parents of children currently in P4 and 6 are invited to discuss the experiences on offer in P5 and P7. Parents of children in P7 are invited to find out more about the itinerary for Belgium 2013.

### **Money**

A reminder that the final payment for Belgium is due on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Thank you to those who have sent in payment for 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 for this term will be £3.60. All contributions are greatly appreciated and help us to provide additional experiences for our children.

### **Water in School**



I am aware of our constant difficulties with the water fountains we have in school for providing water to our children. I would encourage all children to bring a bottle of water into school, which they are allowed to drink from during the course of the school day. These can then be refilled at the water fountains. This also reduces the spread of any infections. Thank you for your support with this.

### **DIARY DATES**

#### **January**

- 7<sup>th</sup> All return
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mr Chen working with P7 (Mandarin)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Big Balbardie Blether 2
- 14<sup>th</sup> Rock Drumming for P4-P7
- 15<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm P6 and P7 Sex Education Parents' Information Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm – P7 Academy talk in school (for parents and children)
- 18<sup>th</sup> P3b assembly – parents welcome 9.45am
- 21<sup>st</sup> Burns Poetry finals
- 24<sup>th</sup> AM - P7 to Academy Ceilidh  
PM – P7 Burns Supper
- 25<sup>th</sup> P2pg assembly – parents welcome 9.45am
- 29<sup>th</sup> School Review
- 30<sup>th</sup> School Review (parent groups 2.30pm)  
PM – Rotary Quiz (Team from P7)  
4.30-6.30pm Seafood Event for P7 parents at Academy  
6pm – Residential Information Evening  
7pm – Parent Council
- 31<sup>st</sup> School Review  
9.30am – P7 to Seafood Event at Academy  
PM – P4I reading for WL Story room

### **Important information from NHS Lothian**

#### **SEASONAL INFLUENZA AND MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

Please be aware that seasonal influenza is now circulating in Lothian and this can be a severe illness especially in those with chronic diseases such as asthma or those with low immunity due medical treatment.

Symptoms of flu include sudden onset of fever, cough as well as sore throat, aching muscles and joints. The best advice for treating flu in healthy people is to stay at home, rest, drink plenty of fluids and take pain relievers such as paracetamol. Children under 16 should not take any medicines containing aspirin.

Maintaining good cough and hand hygiene, such as covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough and sneeze, disposing of the tissue as soon as possible and cleaning your hands as soon you can are important actions that can help prevent the spread of germs and reduce the risk of transmission.

Unfortunately at this time of year the germ that causes meningitis (Meningococcus) can also be more common. NHS Lothian Health Protection Team encourages staff and parents to be vigilant for symptoms and signs of meningitis.

These are listed below:

- High temperature or feeling feverish
- Flu like aches and pains in muscles and joints
- Stiff or sore neck and back
- Severe headache
- Vomiting
- Dislike of bright lights
- Skin rash – small red or purple spots or blotches, which can appear suddenly, spread rapidly and may not fade if pressed
- Drowsiness, loss of consciousness or coma

**Anyone developing such symptoms should seek immediate health advice either from their GP or NHS24 as early treatment saves lives**