

Balbardie Primary News

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



June 2013

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have a host of events coming up this month, many of which rely upon our Scottish weather – fingers crossed that we have a sustained period of dry weather! I will send out an updated newsletter towards the end of the month to inform you of confirmed staffing changes and structures for next session.

Our children continue to be involved in highly engaging learning experiences as the term progresses and I look forward to seeing many of you at the events planned for this month.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Greg Welsh (Head Teacher)

School Roll 2013 – 2014 / Class Structure

Our school roll continues to increase next session, and we have had confirmation that we will have 16 mainstream classes from August. On the current numbers we have available, this means that the likelihood is that we will have a composite class at P2/3, rather than at P1/2 as in previous years. I will inform the parents of any children that will be in the composite class as soon as our numbers are confirmed.

This means that we are currently making provision for the additional class by moving our Support for Learning base to the top floor of the school.

Five Sisters Zoo

Due to Council policy, and the fact that the Five Sisters Zoo is a privately owned zoo, we have been unable to make our donation to the fund at this time. The Council is working with the zoo to make appropriate changes to allow schools to contribute to their fire fund. At this stage, we have banked the previous dress down day donations into our school fund and will make the donation when this becomes possible.

Breakfast Club



From August 2013, all children in school can attend the breakfast club and receive breakfast for free. Currently, only children entitled to free school meals have this opportunity, but the Council is extending this to all children. Our club is run very

effectively by Mrs Stewart and Mrs McFarlane, and currently operates out of the dining hall between 8.15am-8.45am. **Please note that there is no adult supervision before 8.15am.**

Milk Money 2013-2014

I can confirm the cost of milk for next session will be 18p per 200ml carton. This is subsidised through the European Union School Milk Subsidy Scheme.

26/8 – 18/10	£6.84
29/10 – 20/12	£7.02
6/1 – 4/4	£11.34



Payment for term 1's milk is required between 20/8/13 and 23/08/13. (First week of new session)

Residential Payments

The final payment of £30 for next year's P5 visit to Low Port is due to be paid by Friday 21st June. The total cost of this residential is £90.

The third payment of £50 for P7's residential to Belgium is due to be paid by 21st June, with the fourth payment of £50 due on 30th August.

Curriculum Evening

Due to the uncertainty about the planned start to the school's building works and the scale of a whole school curriculum evening, we have taken the decision to postpone our Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Fayre for this term. As staff had already begun to make plans for this, we will reschedule this for the new school session. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Education for All Day – Friday 21st June

As part of our work surrounding Rights Respecting Schools, we will highlight the importance of Education for All through a series of assemblies on this date. This is in support of the work being undertaken by the Steve Sinnott Foundation, and will heighten our children's awareness of others who are less fortunate in terms of the educational opportunities available.

More information on the work of the Steve Sinnott Foundation can be found on

www.stevesinnottfoundation.org.uk/

An Author in Residence

Lewis Gemmill in Primary 5a has had his own book published. The book called, "The Shrinking Boy" is all about the adventures of a boy who finds himself shrinking. We are very proud of his achievement. Lewis commented, "It was great fun writing the book and I hope you all enjoy reading it".



The book is available to order for £3 with profits going to the school fund. If you would like to order a copy then please send £3 with your child to Miss Henderson who will order the book for you. Lewis will personally sign all copies, if requested.

Spring Clean

On Saturday 11th May, parent helpers and some pupil helpers helped clean up the school grounds. Some of us were gardening and some did litter picking. The weather was miserable but we managed to make the school playground a lot cleaner. Plant pots were cleaned out and the gardens were weeded. Some of us worked 3 – 4 hours some



worked an hour or more. Mrs White kindly made us some bacon and sausage rolls and biscuits which were absolutely delicious. We would like to thank all the staff who came and helped as well as the parent helpers and last but not least the pupils and Mrs Waddell who arranged the whole thing.
By Lauren Kirk and Antonia Evans (5ms)

P7 Visit Belgium

On Sunday the 28th of April Primary 7 went to Belgium. 40 pupils went with Mr Welsh, Mr Berginis, Miss McDougall, Mr Jeffries and Mrs White.

We did lots of fun and interesting things when we were there. The most interesting thing we saw was Tyne Cot Cemetery because we learned that 30,000 allied soldiers and 4 German graves were there. We also went to the Menin Gate where Ross and Kirstie, head boy and girl, laid the wreath. On Friday we went to Plopsaland. I went on the Anubis and I went on it 8 times and I sat at the front. I also went on the big chairplane. Belgium was the best.

By **Christopher Muirhead**



On Sunday the 28th of April, 40 of the primary 7s went to Belgium. We went with Mrs White, Mr Berginis, Mr Jeffries, Miss McDougall and Mr Welsh.

Lots of things went on that week - fun things and educational things. When we got off the ferry we went to Dunkirk beach. We saw a memorial for the soldiers that died on the beach during WW2. Roose's Chocolate Factory was fun seeing how they made chocolate and how they collected coco, and I bought some nice fudge that day. Thursday we went to places to do with WW1 and WW2. We went to Tyne Cot Cemetery. There are loads of graves and there is a giant wall with 33,000 names on it. At the Menin Gate - last post there was a ceremony. There is a ceremony every night at 8:00pm and people take a wreath and lay it down at the memorial. Kirstie and Ross did it for our school. Friday was our last day and we went to Plopsaland. There were so many rides but my favourites were the water rides and the ANUBIS, which had to be my favourite ride ever it was so fast.

I LOVED BELGIUM! It was a blast.

By **Robyn-Jaye Finlayson**

West Lothian's Summer Safe Campaign

West Lothian Council and West Lothian Community Safety Unit have launched "Summer Safe West Lothian" which is a campaign aimed at keeping the area's young people and children safe.

The campaign aims to highlight various ways that parents/carers and teachers can help to avoid accidents by talking about various issues with children and teens and raising awareness of possible dangers.

Advice for parents/carers can be found at

www.westlothian.gov.uk/summersafe

Procession Day 2013

All children who are walking with the school should meet at the Old Academy at 11.45am on Saturday 1st June. All children in P1-P3 must be accompanied by an adult. Although staff are also walking as part of the procession, parents are responsible for their children participating. It would be fantastic to see lots of children and adults participating and helping to make the day special.

Diary Dates

June

- 1st Procession Day
- 3rd HOLIDAY
- 5th P4 Lawn bowling
Football v St Columba's
6pm – New P1 parents' information meeting
- 6th 6pm – P7 Belgium DVD and waffles evening
- 7th Dress Down Day – School Fund
P1b assembly – parents welcome 9.45am
- 10th Alan Maybury working with P4/6/7
AM – P5 Rugby Festival (Xcite Bathgate)
- 11th P6 X Country event (Xcite Bathgate)
PM – Golden Club Event
- 12th P4 Lawn bowling
P7 Bathgate Academy Transition Day
3.45pm – Staff transition information
7pm – Parent Council
- 13th AM – New P1 pupils visit
P7 Bathgate Academy Transition Day
- 17th Health and Fitness Fortnight begins
- 18th End of session reports issued
- 19th Sports Day – Park of Peace
9.30am P1-P4; 1.30pm – P5-P7
- 20th AM – P7 Athletics Festival (Xcite Bathgate)
- 21st 11am – P1-P6 Move On Day
- 25th AM – P7 to Risk Factory (leave at 9am sharp)
Sports Day back up (if 19th cancelled due to weather)
2.30pm – Parent Helper Thank You Tea
- 27th 1.30pm – P7 Oscars Ceremony (parents welcome)
7pm – P7 Oscars Party (British Legion)
- 28th 9.30am – Church Service (High Church)