

Balbardie Primary News



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

November 2012

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. I know that the children have returned to school ready for the busy term ahead and already some fantastic learning has been taking place.

The children took part in the Big Balbardie Bletcher on Friday, which allowed all of our children to share with us their thoughts of what our school is like. This will help us to review the school's vision, values and aims.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the school, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or by email (greg.welsh@wled.org.uk).

Greg Welsh - Head Teacher

'Dress Up' Day

Thank you to all the children and families who contributed to our dress down day on 5th October, raising £ for Jeans for Genes. Our next day will be a **Dress Up Day** on Friday 2nd December for school funds.

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.



Proposed Extension Work

On the evening of parents' consultations, proposed plans for extending the school were on display in the school hall. This exciting project, designed to enhance our PE and dining facilities, will hopefully begin later in the current session. During the course of the works, we will have to adapt our current systems for entering the building and lunch provision. I will keep you updated as to any changes that may affect the children.

Youth Music Theatre

Our P3 pupils will participate in a workshop from YMI on 7th November. The group also offer FREE sessions for P3 children to participate in Play and Singing Games. These take place at St Nicholas PS on Mondays (6.30-7.30pm 14th Jan – 27th May 2013); St Mary's PS Polbeth (6.30-7.30pm 15th Jan – 28th May 2013); Murrayfield PS (6.30-7.30pm 16th Jan – 29th May 2013). Our P3 children will receive further information about this following their workshop.

After School Clubs

Given the planned changes to our building, we have not produced an annual calendar of after school clubs on offer for the session due to the uncertainty of the resources we will have available. After school opportunities are extremely important for children and a number of staff will provide these as the session progresses.

Please look out for information coming home!

Bus Services

The bus services operating to and from school are not provided by the school.

Cochrane's run a service from/to

Destination's run a service from/to

We endeavour to ensure that all of our P1 and P2 children using these services are escorted across the road by our Pupil Support Workers. There is an expectation that children will behave sensibly on the bus and any issues brought to our attention by the driver will be communicated back to parents. For our children's safety, please ensure that you and your child are confident about the service before using it.

Remembrance Day

The school will be represented by staff and pupils at the Remembrance Service at Bathgate War Memorial at 11am on Friday 9th November. Pupils will lay a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the school.

All pupils will have the opportunity to get their poppy in school by donating 50p or donate £1 for a wooden cross.

If your child has donated for a wooden cross and they would like this placed at the War Memorial, they should bring this to the school office on Wednesday 7th November.



P1 Intake (August 2013)

If your child is due to begin Primary 1 in August 2013, Mr Welsh will be available to accept these at Bathgate West Nursery on Thursday 8th November at 9am and 12.20pm. If neither of these times are suitable, please bring them to the school office and arrangements can be made for accepting these. **Please bring your child's birth certificate with you.**

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Procession Float Meeting

A meeting for all interested parents and friends of the school will take place in the staffroom on Wednesday 7th November at 7pm. Without support from our parent body, it will not be possible to enter a float in next year's procession.

Please come along if you are able to help in any way!

Fund Raising Committee – 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.

If you would like to donate any please hand in to the school office.



Any volunteers for manning stalls would be greatly appreciated. If you can help in any way please leave your name with the school office staff.

Better Budget

West Lothian Council is currently undertaking an extensive consultation about the services provided. Information about this important consultation, which affects all residents, can be obtained from Council buildings or

HELP!

If you have any unwanted reading materials (books, magazines, comics, encyclopaedias etc) in good condition, please send in to Miss Henderson. We are currently updating and resourcing our class libraries and any donations would be greatly received.

MONEY

Due to necessary changes in processing money in school, all payments (excluding lunch and dress down days) should be brought to school in an envelope marked with your child's name, class, amount and reason for payment. For example, John Smith – P2a - £7.20 – milk money.

To aide with this, we have school money envelopes available at £1 for 15 from the school office.

School Christmas Lunch

Children have been issued with their lunch order form and this should be returned to school **no later** than Friday 11th November. Due to the number of orders, **late returns cannot be accepted**. The cost of lunch is £1.70. P4-P7 lunch will be on Tuesday 13th December and P1-P3 on Wednesday 14th December.

P1 Nativity

Tickets for performances on Tuesday 6th (9.30am) and Wednesday 7th (2.30pm) will be on sale from 14th November at a cost of £1.50.

Details of class parties and other seasonal events will be detailed in next month's newsletter.

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.

Balbardie Peer Mediator Team

Our Peer Mediators from Primary 6 has recently been chosen and completed their training. The children are trained in being able to help other children with minor conflicts and this has proved to be very successful in the past. This session the Peer Mediators will be identified by their new red caps which they are very excited about wearing! Graeme Young, our Active Schools Co-ordinator, has worked with the children on being able to deliver

playground games as this may be one of the ways in which they help others to get along. A number of Primary 7 children have volunteered to be Peer Mediator Leaders and they will be available to help our new peer mediator children whilst they 'learn the ropes'. The Peer Mediators will present to the school on their role at assembly in the very near future so that they are all aware of who they are and what they can help with. Miss Henderson will meet regularly with the children to offer advice and additional training, as required

Big Balbardie Blether

On Friday 26th October 2012, we held our first Big Balbardie Blether. This session, the children will be working in vertical house groups (children from P1-7 and Autism classes in each group). Our first Big Balbardie Blether of the year was all about the school and what the children think is important for their school to be. When they were finished all of the words they came up with were put into a big Wordle and the most highlighted words are going to be used to inform our school vision, values and aims. We are very pleased with how well the children worked together and the fantastic suggestions they came up with.

Science Report by Lewis Gemmell P5a

1. Resources and Equipment

Before we started our exciting experiment, we had to get all of our equipment out :

One bowl of BICARBONATE OF SODA

One beaker of VINEGAR

One cup of WATER

Six TEST TUBES

One SYRINGE

One plastic SPOON

One DROPPER

One test tube RACK that can hold six test tubes

A table COVER for all four of the tables

2. Method

First I used the DROPPER to put two mm of water into my test tube. Next I decided to use SYRINGE to put an equal amount of VINEGAR to join the water inside my test tube. I could feel my heart pounding as my TEST TUBE filled with lots of little fizzing bubbles. I had just witnessed my first chemical reaction! It wasn't a major reaction but it was a start. Then I thought- what would BICARBONATE OF SODA do...

3. Conclusion

The BICARBONATE OF SODA didn't give me the reaction I wanted. But it did stay a solution from the start to the finish. Result : Success!

Diary Dates

November

- 2nd Dress Up Day (costumes welcome!)
P7m Assembly (parents welcome 9.45am)
- 5th St Joseph's PS Learning Council visiting school
- 6th P6 K'nex Challenge
- 7th P3 Singing Games workshop
7pm – Float Meeting (Staff room)
- 9th P6h Assembly (parents welcome 9.45am)
JETs Autumn Clean
Remembrance Service



- 12th P2 and P3 Great Scots Music workshop
- 13th P6 group to St Joseph's for K'nex challenge
- 14th P5 visit New Lanark
- 16th Assembly – Mr MacDonald
- 22nd Netball Festival – Boghall PS
- 23rd Pupil Fundraiser – Cancer Research
P5a Assembly (parents welcome 9.45am)
- 29th P4 Sports Festival (Sports Centre)

December

Sat 1st Christmas Fair

Changes to Annual Calendar

P5 Christmas party will now be 6th December and P6 on 10th December.

3rd Dec – P1-P3 Christmas Lunch

4th Dec – P4-P7 Christmas Lunch

6th Dec – P6 and P7 Panto (1pm at Regal)

6th March – Curriculum Fair (moved from 13th March)

7th March – P2 Mothers' Day Performance (PM)

12th and 13th March – P6 Production