

Balbardie Primary News



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

November 2013

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 will take part in our first Big Balbardie Blether of the session on Friday. This is a fantastic way for all of our children to have their say on important issues in school. The theme of the first 'blether' will be about the school's House System and how this can be improved to further enhance the ethos of the school. I am looking forward to hearing our children's ideas.

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

Home Learning

Following the first term of using our new Home Learning procedures, there will be a slight change for future terms. Home Learning activities will still be issued on a Wednesday but should now be **returned** on a **Monday**. This will allow our children more time to share what they have been learning at home with their teacher and others in their class. An update of our policy and procedures can be found on our school blog.

Our P1-P3 home learning club will start next week with Mrs Wilson. This will take place Monday lunchtime. The P4-7 club will take place with Mrs Collings at Thursday lunchtime. Our staff will identify children who will benefit from attending these clubs. If you wish your child to be considered, please speak with your child's class teacher or Mrs Waddell, Principal Teacher Support for Learning.

'Dress Up' Day

Our next Dress Down Day will have a twist and be a **Dress Up Day** on **Friday 1st November**. I am already looking forward to seeing what our children and staff come up with! Donations (£1 per child / family) will go to our Float Committee.

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.



After School Clubs

Remembrance Day

The school will be represented by staff and pupils at the Remembrance Service at Bathgate War Memorial at



11am on Friday 8th 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. Due to our numbers, it may not be possible for all children with a wooden cross to attend the service.

P1 Intake (August 2014)

If your child is due to begin Primary 1 in August 2014, 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.**

Procession Float Meeting

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 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.

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.



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 3rd December and P1-P3 and Class 1-3 on Wednesday 4th December.

P1 Nativity

Tickets for performances on Tuesday 10th (9.30am) and Wednesday 11th (2.30pm) will be on sale from Monday 18th November at a cost of £1.50.

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

WINTER READY

West Lothian Council has launched its public information campaign Winter Ready West Lothian.

As with previous years the council has:

- Maintained salt stocks.
- Set up contracts with local suppliers for snow clearing support.
- Provided an email alert so that regular information can be sent direct to your inbox.
- Delivered refresher training to staff on all snow clearing equipment.
- Published a Winter Ready supplement in the winter issue of Bulletin, the council newspaper.

The council is also asking residents and local businesses to help:

- Park sensibly – abandoned vehicles can cause serious issues.
- Share information with friends and neighbours, and spare a moment for vulnerable neighbours.
- Sign up for the email alert on the council's website.
- If you are able, clear the path and pavement in front of your home.
- Prepare your car and home ahead of the winter.
- Keep the winter issue of Bulletin handy (to be distributed from Monday 18 November).

Parents and carers should also ensure that their child's school has up to date contact information. Should severe weather hit, Groupcall is the way that schools will inform parents and carers about closures.

More information about the council's preparations are available online: www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter. To sign up for the eBulletin or eAlert visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/email. Follow the West Lothian Council on Facebook and Twitter. Download the council's free App for iPhone, iPad and iPod. Winter information is also available for Android users on the Big Local App West Lothian.

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.

Continuation of Learning

In the event of any school closure, our staff will provide learning experiences through our school blog. If you are not

already familiar with this, please use the address at the top of the newsletter.

Diary Dates

November

- 1st Dress Up Day (costumes welcome!)
Big Balbardie Blether
- 5th P6 Basketball Workshops (outdoors)
- 6th Drumming Workshops (P1m, P2e, P5d, P7m)
7pm Parent Council
7pm Autism parents' network
- 8th P5m Assembly (parents welcome 9.45am)
- 11th Remembrance Day (11am moments silence)
- 15th Assembly – Mr MacDonald
- 20th Drumming Workshops (P1m, P2e, P5d, P7m)
- 22nd P4g Assembly (parents welcome 9.45am)
- 30th SAT – Christmas Fair

Additions to Annual Calendar

Dec

- 3rd P4-P7 Christmas Lunch
- 4th P1-P3 and Class 1-3 Christmas Lunch

March

- 18th and 19th P6 Wizard of Oz performance

Changes to Annual Calendar

15th May – Celebrating Success

9.30am - P1 and P6

11am – P2 and P3

1.30pm – P4 and P5

28th May – Sports Day

9.15am P4 and P5

10.30am – P1, 2 and 3

1.15pm – P6 and P7