

Balbardie Primary School

November 2019

NEWSLETTER NO 1, 2019/2020



Achieve, Believe, Celebrate

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this school year. A special welcome to all new families who have joined the school.

I am happy to say that all of our new Primary 1 pupils have settled beautifully well and it is already difficult to remember that they haven't been with us for very long! Our other new pupils have also settled well and our returning pupils are all looking taller and more grown-up than they did before the summer holidays.

I would also like to welcome our new members of staff ; Mrs Patience (DHT), Miss Ramsay (P6), Mrs Dorans (currently teaching Science), Mrs Andrews (Maths), Miss Baxter (P5), Miss Henderson (P4) and Mrs Lochrin Pupil Support Worker.

We have been busy already this session. Many thanks to all of you for supporting and attending the Macmillan Coffee Morning when the school raised a fantastic £703.02 . Both of the stairwells in school have been

repainted and are looking fresh and bright. Our upper school pupils are now using the space in the stairwell at break and lunchtime.

A very kind parent came into school during October and painted our new amazing Family Tree mural just at the entrance to the school. As you can see from the photo, it is a work of art and we are very grateful to Mr McCallum for giving up his time and offering his skills.

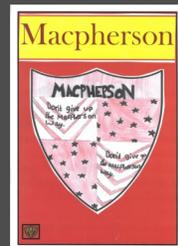


Updated term dates are included at the back of this news-

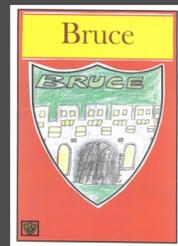
letter and please remember that all dates are in the Annual Calendar which was sent home earlier in the year and which is also on the school website.

Margaret Johns, Headteacher.

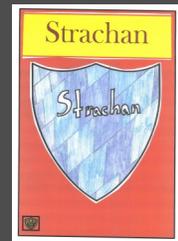
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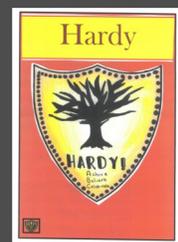
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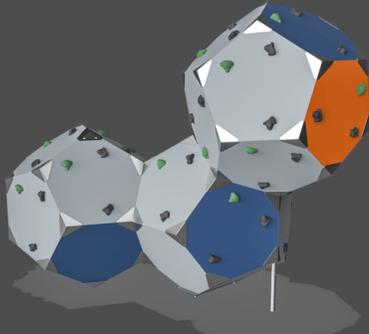
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Playground Developments

Our new plans to develop the playground are moving along, although it is taking a little longer than we had hoped it would! Our boys and girls have all taken part in developing ideas for our playground and have now voted for the final pieces of play equipment. We are now managing to fund a large installation in the front playground as well as



Clamberstack - back



Bloxx - Front

replacing the old Trim Trail in the back playground with a new single play frame. You can see both items in the pictures. We are hoping that they will be installed by January but I will do my best to ensure that they go up as soon as possible. A percentage of the total cost of the playground equipment will be funded by the money collected by the Parent Council on your behalf over the last few years. In anticipation, I would like to thank you all for the new play opportunities we will be giving our Balbardie boys and girls and the hard work

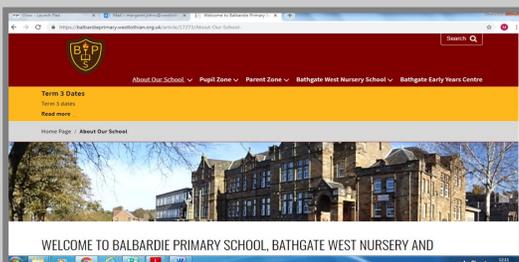
needed to raise money towards the project.

In addition to the new play equipment, we will be installing class planters for all classes to do some gardening. Each class will have their own planter and they will be placed along the front fence of the school. I am hoping they will bring some much needed greenery to our play space.



We are also delighted that our efforts to keep the playground clear of litter, which we started last year and are now continuing, show great success and we are now recycling most of our food waste as well. I hope that you have noticed a marked improvement in the playground over the last few months.

I'll also be in a better position to update you in the next Newsletter on our plans for loose parts play in both playgrounds. Our boys and girls will soon be spoiled for choice at breaktime and lunchtime!



Don't forget that all up-to-date information on school news and events can be found on the school website, including our Glow Blog and Twitter feeds. There is a Weekly Bulletin in the Parents section of the website, alongside the Annual Calendar and important school news and documents.

<https://balbardieprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

You can also get up to date news from our Twitter account so please follow us @Balbardie_PS

Pupil Lanyards

Your child may have come home from school and mentioned that they now have a new school lanyard. We have introduced lanyards to all of our boys and girls to help them to collect personal information all about their time with us at Balbardie PS and all the extra things that they may be involved in. At the moment, they have a card on their lanyards which tells everyone which House they are in. Some pupils may also have an ID Card which tells everyone about their involvement in clubs or sports. Our Head Boy and Head Girl have an extra ID Card as do our Pupil Council members and our House Team.

Here are Mia and Euan modelling their lanyards for everyone to see!



Behaviour Blueprint

Over the last year, we have been working hard to review our Positive Behaviour strategy and implement a new behaviour approach which can reward all of the wonderful behaviour we see within the school. Our new approach is called the Balbardie Behaviour Blueprint and a copy can be seen on the school website if you would like to have a look at it. All children are now collecting points for their House and the winning House will receive a reward at the end of term.



YOU WILL NOTE ON THE CALENDAR FOR THIS TERM THAT BOTH OF THE CHRISTMAS SHOW PERFORMANCES ARE ON WEDNESDAY 11TH AND THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER. PRIMARY 1 AND PRIMARY 2 WILL BE PERFORMING 'WHOOPS-A-DAISY ANGEL'.

School Residentials



Every year, pupils in P5 and P7 are given the opportunity to take part in a residential experience.

This year, P5 will be visiting Broomlee Education Centre in West Linton on Tuesday 21st April for 2 nights.



Primary 7 will be staying at Dounans Camp from Monday

23rd March until Friday 27th March. Parents are invited to a meeting on the 21st January 2020 to discuss residential trips in more detail - the P7 parents meeting will be at 6.30pm and the P5 parents meeting will take place at 7.15pm.

Christmas Fayre

This year, the Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 30th November from 10am until midday. There will be all of the usual attractions—hotdogs, teas and coffees, local businesses in the gym hall, home baking and, of course, Santa!

The children will be entertaining visitors with items for sale, games and stalls upstairs in classrooms and in the Upper Hall. Please take the time to come along and celebrate!

In preparation for the Christmas Fayre, the school will be having a Dress Down Day on Friday 22nd of November. Normally, we ask parents to send in £1 if their child is 'dressing down'. On 22nd November, in aid of the Christmas Fayre, we will be asking you to send a bottle into school if your child is dressing down. It could be a bottle of wine or spirits, cola, shampoo—please just donate a bottle!

Also, we are taking donations of used and good-quality toys, books, games and DVD's from Monday 25th November. Please leave all donations at the school office.

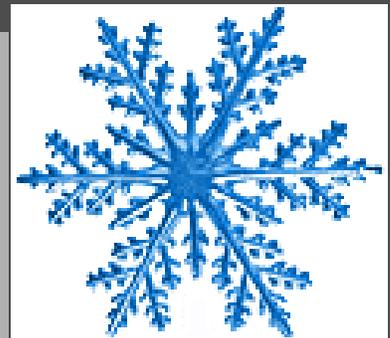


Winter Ready

For up to date information on West Lothian's Winter Ready policy and procedures, please visit the council's website.

www.westlothian.gov.uk

In the event of severe weather, the school will always keep parents up to date through the school website or Twitter.



Movie Night

We will be having another Movie Night in school on Tuesday 10th December from 6.00 to 8.00pm. Our first movie night last year was very popular and we showed 'Coco' to celebrate the theme of our Procession Float. This year, we will be showing 'Wallace and Gromit—A Grand Day Out' for the same reason as the float theme for 2020 will be 'Wallace & Gromit—30 year anniversary & Shaun the Sheep'.

Like last year boys and girls can come along with a blanket and a cuddly toy and will get a movie night treat at the intermission!

Tickets will cost £3.50 per pupil and will be on sale from Monday 2nd December. Numbers, as always, are limited and tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



Some dates for your diary

The full Annual Calendar is available on the school Website.



22.11.19	P1 to P3 Assembly—pupils only
22.11.19	DRESS DOWN DAY—BRING A BOTTLE!
27.11.19	Primary 1 medicals
29.11.19	Celebration whole school assembly Coffee Morning HT Surgery
30.11.19	10.00 to 12.00 Christmas Fayre
2.12.19	Tickets go on sale for Movie Night
4.12.19	Flu Vaccinations
4.12.19	Christmas Lunch Class Sun / Moon / Star, P1/2/3
5.12.19	Christmas Lunch P4/5/6/7
6.12.19	P6 Stage Assembly—P6 parents welcome
9.12.19	1.30pm Primary 4 Christmas Party
10.12.19	Breakfast with Santa
10.12.19	1.30pm Primary 5 Christmas Party
10.12.19	6.00 to 8.00 Movie Night
11.12.19	2.30 P1 and P2 Performance
12.12.19	9.30am P1 and P2 Performance
12.12.19	1.30 Primary 6 Christmas Party
13.12.19	9.15am P4 to P7 Assembly—pupils only
16.12.19	1.30 Primary 3 Christmas Party
17.12.19	1.30 Primary 2 Christmas Party
18.12.19	1.30 Primary 1 Christmas Party
18.12.19	6.30 Primary 7 Christmas Party
19.12.19	Pantomime for whole school in hall
20.12.19	9.30 Christmas Church Service

As always, I offer all parents my thanks for your continued support for the children and the school community.

Margaret Johns, HT

Thank you!

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