



August 2025

Balbardie Primary School

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Mindset

Acceptance

Generosity

Integrity

Community

Welcome Back

Welcome to the beginning of the new school year. We are delighted to have the children back to school after what we hope has been a relaxing summer break. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Primary 1 children and their families to Balbardie Primary School. The children have settled in well to their new classes and are becoming familiar with the routines and structures in place. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead and providing opportunities that will enable you to engage with your children's learning and the wider life of the school.

Yearly Overview

Alongside the newsletter we have issued a draft copy of the yearly calendar. This is to help parents/carers plan ahead for any events listed. Please be mindful that due to circumstances, dates may change or be altered. We will endeavour to communicate any changes as promptly as possible. We will add any additional key dates and timings as the year progresses. If you have any ideas regarding future themes or areas of focus throughout the year ahead, please contact the school on the email provided and we can include your suggestions within the calendar. The calendar will be re-issued at the beginning of each new term.

Meet the Staff Opportunity

On **Thursday 4th September** we are hosting a "Meet the Staff" event at Balbardie Primary School. This is running from **5.00-6.00pm**. During this time we are inviting parents/families to visit their child's classrooms. You will be able to meet with the Class Teacher and support staff. The Class Teacher will share further information about the class routines and can discuss aspects such as class topics/learning themes and homework approaches.

Staffing News

I would like to welcome a number of new staff members to Balbardie Primary School. Miss Duncan has rejoined the school team as Class Teacher to P7D. Miss Brown and Miss Cargill are new members of teaching staff. Miss Brown is Class Teacher to P7BL and Miss Cargill is Class Teacher to P4P. Miss Miller has also joined the staff team and is working between Primary 7 and Primary 2. I would also like to wish both Mrs Johns (Substantive Head Teacher) and Mr Weir (Substantive Depute Head Teacher) good luck in their new roles and thank them for their hard work and input at Balbardie Primary and Bathgate Early Years Centre.



Mrs Myra Macpherson MBE

It is with sadness that we share the news that Mrs Myra Macpherson has passed away. Mrs Macpherson was Head Teacher at Balbardie Primary School for 22 years. She was also an appointed member of West Lothian Council's Education Executive committee for many years. Mrs Macpherson is fondly remembered at Balbardie Primary for her dedication and passion to providing pupils with the highest quality of education and experiences. Mrs Macpherson was awarded an MBE to recognise her service to education and the wider community, a well deserved award. On behalf of the school community we would like to extend our condolences to Mrs Macpherson's family.

Parent Council

Mrs Stutt (Acting Depute Head Teacher) and I, look forward to working with the Parent Council Team in the weeks ahead. Building strong partnerships with parents/carers is vital to supporting our pupils. I am already aware of the great work undertaken by the Parent Council in supporting the school with its improvement priorities as well as providing pupils and families with a range of experiences and supports. The first Parent Council meeting of the school year will be held within the school on **Tuesday 2nd September at 7.00pm.**

Celebrating Success

We have had a very positive start to the school year. Class Teachers and Support Staff have worked incredibly hard to enable pupils to access and enjoy their new learning environments. We are currently exploring the various approaches we utilise to celebrating pupils' successes across the School and Enhanced Learning Resource. In the weeks ahead we will continue to promote/celebrate our MAGIC values. Next week we will send families a digital link to enable them to nominate their children for a positive shout out at our upcoming celebration assemblies. This nomination can be linked with how your child has demonstrated our school values at home or within their local community. We are excited to promote and celebrate these various achievements together.

School Premises Updates

At the beginning of the school year we would like to remind families of a few regular safety provisions. We kindly ask that pupils travelling to and from school do not enter/exit via the staff car park. In the interests of safety, If your child walks to school independently, please remind them to enter the premises using the main gateways. Please be aware that our school follows a strict nut free policy in order to ensure the safety of children with allergies. We would also like to share that West Lothian Council generally prohibits pets on school grounds, with exceptions only for assistance dogs. As we have a number of pupils who are fearful of animals, we would politely request that pets do not accompany families into the playground areas.



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Communication Approach

The school team is committed to providing families with open and consistent communication. A key feature of this goal will be sharing a weekly update with parents and carers. These updates will include key information and upcoming events within the week ahead. This will be sent via group call to families each Friday and will begin from next **Friday 29th August**. I hope this regular contact helps keep everyone informed and involved in school life.

Thank you

I would like to again thank the pupils, staff and families for their kindness, positivity and support since the beginning of the new term. Mrs Stutt and I, are delighted to be re-joining the Senior Leadership Team at Balbardie Primary School. Over the weeks ahead, we are looking forward to spending time with the children and staff, celebrating their various successes and familiarising ourselves with local community partners.

Kind Regards

Mr McCabe

Acting Head Teacher at Balbardie Primary School

