



December 2025

Balbardie Primary School

Mindset

Acceptance

Generosity

Integrity

Community

End of Term 2

Welcome to our December newsletter. As we near the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. December has been filled with many incredible moments across our school. Our youngest pupils delighted staff and families with their performance of Whoopsie Daisy Angel, we had a successful whole school trip to the Regal Theatre to enjoy Snow White, a very talented pupil group performed festive songs at Tesco Bathgate, not forgetting Breakfast with Santa and class parties. As a staff team we have enjoyed sharing these fantastic memories with your children.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was another highlight of the month and a tremendous success. This year we utilised both the lower and upper halls to help pupils and families access and enjoy the various stalls on offer. Our school choir helped the community get into the festive spirit and we hosted a very special visitor from the North Pole. I would like to thank the Parent Council Team for organising this fantastic community event and for all community partners who contributed gifts or donations. It was greatly appreciated.

Staffing Update

Miss McDonald (Class Teacher in Class Star) begins her maternity leave today. Miss Robertson will be rejoining the Balbardie team and covering as Class Teacher in Class Star. Miss Robertson has already met the pupils and is excited to work with the team in the New Year. In mid January Mrs Whitelaw will also begin her period of maternity leave. We are currently finalising arrangements to cover Mrs Whitelaw's upcoming time away from school and will confirm this to P5H parents in the New Year. We would like to wish Miss McDonald and Mrs Whitelaw every happiness at this exciting time and we look forward to welcoming them both back in the future.

After School Club Opportunities

Throughout term 2 pupils had opportunities to attend a range of lunchtime/after school clubs. I would like to thank all adults (staff, parents, community partners) who made this possible. In the New Year we will be reviewing the various initiatives on offer to ensure that pupils continue to have access to range of fantastic wider opportunities.



School website

Our school website has recently been updated. This now provides you with a live link to the weekly diary as well as access to the yearly calendar and previous newsletters. The website can be accessed through the following link <https://balbardieprimary.westlothian.org.uk>.

Balbardie Primary School Float

The pupils recently voted for their preferred float theme—with Minecraft being nominated as the most popular choice. All classes have already contributed to the design process with winning entries selected across each stage. We look forward to working alongside the Float Committee during term 3 to help plan and prepare the float in preparation for the summer.

Bathgate Procession Pageant Roles

The Bathgate Procession pageant roles have now been distributed to all pupils who were successful in the ballot. Pupils involved have received a separate letter confirming their role alongside further details. If you have any further questions please contact the school office.

Learning and Teaching Key Themes Update

At Balbardie we have recently been exploring our whole school learning and teaching approaches and creating our key components that will be visible across all lessons. We held a whole school competition to create the key theme to present these components. P7D gained the most votes with their Scottish themed poster. This will be updated and shared with all classes and families in the New Year. Well done P7D.

Special Shout Outs

A special shout out to our Primary 7 pupils who recently led a whole school celebration to commemorate the Scotland Football Team qualifying for the 2026 World Cup. Tournament. The Primary 7 pupils hosted a celebration event in the upper gym hall, inviting all classes to attend, enjoy a few Scottish treats (Shortbread and Irn Bru) before participating in a penalty kick challenge.

Cameron and Euan Robertson collected and donated over 138 bags full of gifts that were split between Children's First and West Lothian Food Bank. This is an incredible act of generosity and it will ensure that many families across our community have what they need to enjoy Christmas. Well done boys!



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Substantive Head Teacher Position

I am delighted to have been appointed as substantive Head Teacher at Balbardie Primary School and Bathgate Early Years. I would like to thank everyone for their messages of support and best wishes. It is a privilege to be part of the School and ELC community and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of all staff, I would like to wish you, your children and family a very happy, restful and safe Christmas holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

Kind Regards

Mr McCabe

Head Teacher at Balbardie Primary School and Bathgate Early Years Centre

