



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

## August 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. It has been lovely welcoming back all the pupils last week after the summer holidays.

### Welcome Primary 1

We extend a warm welcome to all of the new Primary 1 pupils and their parents/carers. Primary 1 pupils have transitioned in well into Balgreen and are now working hard in the classrooms and corridors. We are loving getting to know them.

There will be a Curriculum Information Evening for all parents and carers of Primary 1 children on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September in the school hall from 6pm to 7pm. This is an opportunity to find out more about the children's learning. There will be a creche available and we ask that you email the school admin account if you wish to reserve a place for your child.

[admin@balgreen.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@balgreen.edin.sch.uk)

All parents and carers are invited to the AGM (Annual General Meeting) of the Parent Council from 7pm to 8pm in the staffroom straight after the P1 meeting.

### Welcome Primary 1

We will be running another cycle of our parenting programme Families Connect in the autumn term beginning Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00am to 10.30am.

Families Connect is a programme that helps parents and carers to support their children's learning at home. Six sessions will focus on play, literacy, numeracy as well as understanding feelings, praise and listening. Parents and carers attend the sessions and then carry out the tasks with their children at a time that suits the family. More information will be shared at the Primary 1 Curriculum Evening on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Edgar.

If you are interested in a place on this course, please let Mrs Edgar know by emailing [admin@balgreen.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@balgreen.edin.sch.uk) by 22nd September.

### Flu letters

We are sending home Flu immunisation letters today and they must be returned by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August. These returns are then uplifted by the NHS and will inform who can and cannot receive the vaccination when the nurses visit our school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.



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## Data capture letters and KiC (Key Information and consent) Annual forms

We are sending home two documents we need your help with.

Firstly the Annual Data Capture form which shows the information we hold about your child. Please check this information, making any required amendments, sign and date it and return to the school.

Secondly the KIC annual form which you must complete. This form allows us to take your child out of school for trips. Classes are beginning to organise trips already so it is essential we have these returned too with all the information.

## Playtime and lunchtime

We have tweaked our times for break times and this sees all pupils outside together 10.30-10.45am. This means P1 and P2 pupils are together and P3-7 are all outside at the same time. We have new rotas for the Astro which is always a popular place to be.

Revised times for lunch sees P1/P2/P3/P4 getting lunch 11.55-12.40pm and then for P5/P6/P7 lunch is 12.25-1.10pm.

## School day timings

Our school day starts at 8.50am and we ask that all pupils are in the line for this time. We are already starting to see pupils arrive after this time which means they have to be admitted via the main entrance and their lateness recorded separately. We have also seen children collected late from the school office.

We understand that from time to time you may be held up or delayed and would ask that you contact the school immediately if you are going to be late.

Below is a reminder of the times of the school day.

Primary 1 and Primary 2  
**Mon-Thursday 8.50-2.40pm**  
**Friday 8.50-12.15pm**

Primary 3-7  
**Mon-Thursday 8.50-3.15pm**  
**Friday 8.50-12.25pm**

## Pupil absence

When your child is unwell we ask that you contact the school on 0131 337 6066 using Option 1 to leave details of the absence. This line works 24-7 and is checked each morning. We do check emails but in the busy office environment we may not get to monitor emails until later on in the morning.

When recording an absence on the answering machine please give your child's name, their class and their reason for absence eg. Sore throat or hospital appointment. Different reasons for absence are recorded differently so we need details of the absence at the time of you calling.

If you do not call we will send you a text looking to find out the reason for your child's absence. Please respond to this text and contact the school. We will then call again and then use the emergency



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contact information to try and contact you about your child's absence. If we are still unable to contact you we will then pass on your child's absence to social services.

If your child has been vomiting/diarrhoea they need to remain absent from school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea.

## Trim trail

We have made repairs to the P3-7 Trim trail over the summer following on from a playground equipment inspection that took place in May 2023. We are in the process of having a new trim trail installed in the P1/P2 playground, using funds raised from the Sponsored walk that took place last term, along with some funds from the school.

Classes use the trim trail and playground to support learning, as part of PE (Physical education) or to give younger pupils body/brain breaks. We ask that parents and carers avoid using the trim trail in the afternoons if:

- There are classes using the P3-7 playground
- Before 2.40pm Monday-Thursday
- Before 12.15pm Friday

## Parent Council

We are having our annual Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm that will see the key roles of the Parent Council confirmed for 2023-2024. Our Parent Council run fundraising events throughout the year, share community issues and how these may impact on our school community, raise questions that our parent/carer body have about the work of the school and support communication. We would love to see you show your support for the school by attending this meeting or other meetings in the future. We all know that you are busy outside of the school, but it would be lovely to have you attend this meeting or other meetings in the future. We are keen to work alongside you to provide the best opportunities for your children.

## Evening News photographer

The Evening News have a Primary 1 supplement that sees them take photos of all the P1 classes across the city. The photographer will be in school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 9am. Please ensure your child is wearing school uniform that day.

## Support for Learning

Support for Learning this session has changed from our provision last session. Mrs Wheelaghan will be working with pupils in P1-3, providing support for literacy and numeracy. She works Mondays and Fridays.

Mrs Anderson will be supporting pupils in P4-7, providing support for literacy and numeracy. She works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

## Primary 7 Road Show

The head teacher and depute from Tynecastle High School are coming to Balgreen Primary School on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. This will see them deliver a presentation about the school and there will be the opportunity for both you and your child to ask any questions you may have about the school and the work they do.



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In November you will receive a letter from the authority indicating which high school your child is due to attend, based on your home address. If you wish for your child to attend a non-catchment high school you will be directed to a form to complete online requesting a placing request at another high school.

## Post-inspection follow-up visit

We had an authority led visit to our school in May 2023 and had a team visiting classes and speaking to staff, pupils and parents and carers. We are hoping the report has been finalised now and will share this with you once it has been shared with us.

## Flags

We have been displaying flags from some of the countries that our pupils and their families originate from. Balgreen Primary has a vibrant and diverse community and pupils in our school speak 44 different languages. Pupils, staff and our community have been eagerly watching our flag pole to see what country features next. Watch this space.....

## Parent Involvement

As part of our improvement plan this session we are looking to create opportunities for you to come and be in our school to see your child at work. Staff are busy planning activities for you to come and participate in and see your children at work.

## Clothing recycling

We are in the process of receiving a clothing recycling container that will be placed in our school car park. This should arrive in the next fortnight and will be emptied regularly, raising money for the school at the same time. Every penny counts in this current financial climate.

## Surplus jackets

We have a number of jackets that have come from lost property last year as well as donated jackets. Looking ahead to the autumn and winter months we are going to put these jackets out on a table in the P3-7 playground on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 11.45-12.15pm. If you would like a jacket for your child then please come and help yourself.

## Key Dates for this term

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	P5a start swimming block at Dalry Public baths
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Flu immunisation letters back to school Evening News Photographer in school for P1 photos
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Monday holiday- closed to all



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Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All resume 6pm Primary 1 Information evening 7pm Parent Council AGM (Annual General Meeting)- all welcome
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	6pm Information Evening at Balgreen for P7 parents and carers for pupils attending Tynecastle High School
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Flu immunisation day
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Families Connect first session (8 week block)
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> / Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4-7pm Parent Consultations
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Term ends

