



BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

March 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the March version of our newsletter. A lot has happened in the last few weeks as you can see from the information below.

Car Park

We asked in the last newsletter that families stop using the car park at the start and end of the day when picking up and dropping off their children. Thanks to everyone who has made an effort to find an alternative place to park.

Big Walk and Wheel survey

Our school is now taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel initiative where we are recording how pupils travel to school each day over a period of two weeks. We are looking to encourage families to walk to school each day or make use of their bicycles and scooters in an effort to support a healthier lifestyle, reduce air pollution and learn how these little changes can impact positively on the world around us. Please encourage your child to walk to school each day, or limiting regular use of cars to arrive at school. More information can be found at [Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2024](#)

Ramadan

Many of our families have begun to celebrate Ramadan. Pupils are learning about Ramadan this Wednesday at assembly, led by our own pupils. For those who are fasting we are looking for them to have some quiet time in the playground sitting at the seats in the corner over by Pansy Walk. For those who are looking to pray, we are giving pupils space in the school to do so each day.



Clothing Bank

Thanks to everyone who has donated to our clothing bank. We have just had it emptied for the first time so we are excited to see what you have helped us earn. Remember- if you are having a clear out



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of clothing or bedding then please bag it up and place it in the collection point in the car park by the gate.

Principal teacher

Following Mrs Edgar's retirement in December we have appointed Mrs Murray to be our principal teacher. Mrs Murray joins Mr Napier (head teacher) and Mrs Palmer (Depute headteacher) to be part of the senior leadership team here at Balgreen.

Mrs Murray has stepped back from working in Primary 4a to take up the principal teacher role and we have recruited Miss Mendoza to work Wed-Friday in Primary 4a, alongside Mrs Hinchcliffe.

Mrs McGillivray

Many of you have noticed that our office administrator Mrs McGillivray is currently not at her desk. She has recently had surgery and is recovering from this so is absent from work until further notice. Mrs Little is working hard in the school office so please bear with us at this time. The school office is able to answer calls from 8.30-4pm but messages can be left outside of those hours on our answering machine.

Our school office is receiving a lot of calls from parents and carers asking for messages to be passed onto children throughout the school day. Please can you make robust arrangements for your child and where they are to go at the end of the day as this is taking a significant toll on the capacity of the office staff.

Milk booking

You can now book and order milk for the 25th March- 17th May. Please avoid disappointment by ordering milk now for your child via ParentPay.

Bus passes

Please continue to apply for bus passes through the library next door to Balgreen Primary. We would actively encourage you to apply for a pass for your child as this reduces the cost of any trips your child takes part in. Applying for them is fairly easy so please support us by applying for your pass now.

Security

We have asked pupils not to open the front door for adults when they come to the front door. This may seem rude to you but allows us to ensure we are managing visitors once they have entered the school building. The office staff are not always in the office as they are often called to other tasks around the school. All visitors to the school should sign in to the visitor book that is on the table beside the trophy cabinet.

Road Safety

At an assembly last week Mr Napier spoke to the children about being safe when crossing the road. We had a concern raised by a member of our community about pupils running across the road beside the island next to the tunnel. Please make sure your child is safe and crosses the road using the lights or the crossing officers who are there to ensure pupils are safe as they arrive and leave school. We would hate for any of our children to be involved in an accident.

Basketball

Basketball is a sport that has a high profile amongst our children here at Balgreen. We teach it through PE, as well as offering it to pupils as part of their break and lunchtime. During the February break we had several new boards installed so pupils have access to more hoops to show off their skills.



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We have seen our P7 team excel when playing at Tynecastle High School on Friday afternoons and we are very proud of their commitment, skill and endless energy. Thanks too to the staff who go along and support them at the high school, as well as the parents who go along to lend their support. Keep it up **#TeamBalgreen**

Astro

We have worked with the Pupil Council to look at how we can reopen the astro. We closed it at the end of last year as we were seeing so many incidents occurring over football and are relaunching the astro for pupil use. All will be revealed at assembly this week.

Green fingers and generous hearts- transforming our school garden



We would like to say a huge thank you to all of those amazing volunteers who came to lend a hand on the 24th February when we worked wonders in the school garden. We filled a skip with garden refuse and fuelled by some amazing home baking we worked wonders in the garden.

We have removed an awful lot of leaves, pruned bushes back and removed some of the more jaggy bushes and plants. We are looking forward to seeing our garden in the spring in the warmer weather. There are still some more developments to come.....

Equalities

Our Equalities reps led an assembly recently around what racism is and how it can be challenged. They created in collaboration with parents and staff a flowchart on how we manage any racist incidents that is being used to good effect.

Parents Night Consultation

Many thanks to those of you who took part in our consultation during Parent Consultations. We have feedback from over 100 of you and this will help inform our school improvement priorities for 2024-25.

Cross country running

We had a team of boys and girls from Primary 6 and Primary 7 who took part in an EPSSA Cross Country Run at Saughton Park. Congratulations to everyone who competed as they raced against schools from across the city. This saw Thambu finish in 12th place in the Primary 7 boys' race and Iona also finish 12th in the Primary 7 girls' race. Well done to everyone who took part.

Education Budget

In my last newsletter I mentioned that there were discussions taking place following on from a short fall in the budgets given by the Scottish Government to local councils. The Finance Committee have decided to protect schools and not make the proposed cuts that were mentioned in the press last month and have made a commitment to protect school budgets 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.



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Class reps

We are still looking for three class reps to help share information to classes or being the point of contact for P1a, P2b or P3b then please let the school know.

Key Dates for this term

Tues 12 th March	Parent Council meeting (face-to-face) 7pm
Fri 15 th March	Red Nose Day (Pupil Council collecting money at school gate- pupils may wear red)
Tues 19 th March	Primary 7 at the Risk Factory
Wed 20 th March	Primary 7 at Tynecastle High School for football event. Pupils dismissed from Tynecastle High School
Fri 22 nd March	Primary 4 Open Morning- Sharing our topic work around charity 11-12noon
Wed 27 th March	Primary 5 Enterprise Showcase 9.30-10.20am- all P5 parents and carers welcome to come to the class
Thurs 28 th March	Last day of term 2.40pm finish for P1/P2 3.15pm finish for P3-7
Tues 16 th April	All pupils resume

