



BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

November 2024

Below is the November edition of our newsletter. Primary 3 are rehearsing furiously for their Christmas show and are already looking forward to their performances.

Spooky Doo disco

We had an amazing disco on Wednesday 30th October that saw pupils in P4-7 arrive in some incredible costumes and face paint. Costumes were incredibly creative and everyone had an amazing time. We were delighted that the fire alarm did not go off this time as it did at the last disco. Thank you to the large number of volunteers who came to help out at the disco, ensuring everyone had drinks, snacks and were kept safe.

Balgreen Basketball Stars



Our incredible Primary 7 pupils regularly take part in a basketball league that covers the West of Edinburgh schools.

We recorded our first ever win over Sciennes last week, winning 34-28. The children played brilliantly and our staff were incredibly proud of everyone who took part on Friday. We are one of the few teams that consistently plays a mixed team, valuing the skill, energy and passion of both boys and girls. Other teams are not as equitable. Go #teambalgreen

Primary 1 Open Day

We welcomed a large number of prospective parents who are looking to send their children to Balgreen in August 2025. It is always a pleasure getting to meet families at this early stage and we had some phenomenal Primary 7b pupils lead the tours. We had some great feedback from parents and carers about their clarity, knowledge and helpfulness. Well done Primary 7b.

Youth Workers

Our learning community (made up of Dalry PS, Stenhouse PS, Craiglockhart PS, Tynecastle Nursery, Tynecastle HS and Balgreen Nursery) put in a bid to recruit two youth workers who will work across our settings. They are going to work at Balgreen every Wednesday and initially will be working with P3-6 to teach pupils new playground games and to support them at lunchtimes. Please see the attached flier regarding their contact information.



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Nut free

We have several pupils who have nut allergies so can we remind you not to send in snacks or foods that contain nuts. If children bring in foods that contain nuts they will be asked to keep them in their bags and other snacks will be found for them.

Primary 6 Science Fair

It was a pleasure to see so many of our parents and carers come and visit P6a and P6b as part of their science topic covered in recent weeks. There was such a wide range of experiments taking place and pupils took great delight in showcasing their knowledge and skill to all the visitors. We took the P6 classes to Tynecastle High School to take part in some science experiments where we made full use of their amazing facilities.

Pupil/sibling portraits

We had the photographer in school recently who took photos of pupils and their siblings. If you order before Wednesday 13th November then postage is free.

Sickness

This is a reminder that if your child has vomited then they are unable to return to school for 48 hours. This is to limit the spread of any illness to other children.

Calling all Tesco Shoppers

This is a reminder that we have been successful in our Parent Council application to 'Tesco Stronger Starts' and that our school project has been put forward to a customer vote in local Tesco stores from now until the middle of January 2025. If we are successful we could be awarded up to £1500 to help make essential repairs to our Trim Trails in the playground. Please look out for the school and the blue tokens and help support our school. Tell your friends, neighbours and family!

You can vote for the school in Tesco at Corstorphine, Hermiston Gate, Roseburn, Haymarket, Stenhouse and Glasgow Road branches.

Recruitment

We have recently undertaken some recruitment here at Balgreen and I can share with you that Mrs McNeill is now a permanent member of staff. Mrs Anderson was successful in being appointed as our new Support for Learning teacher having been filling the post in an acting capacity. We have also been successful in appointing Miss McFarlane as a permanent member of staff. She joined us three years ago as a probationer and we have retained her services for the last few years, and she excelled at interview this week.

We are delighted to have retained these amazing staff members.

Next we have interviews this week for the maternity post in Primary 7b and will share with you the outcome of these interviews once we have appointed a candidate.

Fundraising Walk

Thank you to everyone who supported our school as part of the sponsored walk. The weather held out and your amazing children literally stepped up to the challenge. Please send back your forms and sponsor money so it can be added to our total which we will share with you shortly. Thank you to everyone who supported the walk, the drinks afterwards and for those involved in sponsoring the children.



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Appropriate clothing

With the weather now finally cooling after a rather mild October can you please make sure that children are coming to school with a jacket, particularly on a day when pupils have outdoor learning. Classes have outdoor learning each week and this sees us take pupils into the woods within our school grounds, as well as Pansy Walk and Saughton Park. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Sharing the learning

This a reminder that we are no longer posting using the platform X (previously Twitter) and have moved to the new platform within Padlet. This can be accessed using the link or QR code below. Teachers will post every 1-2 weeks.

<https://padlet.com/9080072/balgreen-primary-school-ajbbb5edkryt4v>



School Camp

We are preparing to take our Primary 7 children to school camp and Mr Napier had a briefing last week about the camp. We will be sending home some paperwork for our P7 campers that needs completed and returned to school. We will also be consulting with the pupils around their room mates and their preferred choices for dinners at camp which are chosen prior to us going to Lagganlia.

Balgreen School Library

Our literacy development group have been working with funding we received from a literacy project. This has seen us receive some library furniture, books and soft furnishings. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Traill, Mr Riches and Mrs Gillies for their hard work in setting up the library in school.. I am sure you agree that it looks amazing and we are ready for pupils to begin using it.



School dinners

Can you check please that you have ordered lunches for your children. We have multiple children on a daily basis who have not ordered a lunch. This results in the office having to contact families to let



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them know this. Please also check that your child likes the lunches you have ordered on ParentPay- please go through the menu and check with them that they are happy with the lunches you have ordered for them.

The Christmas lunch takes place on Tuesday 10th December so if you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch here at Balgreen please order this on ParentPay.

Breakfast Club

We are seeing numbers grow at Breakfast Club and in order to ensure we have the right numbers of staff can we remind parents and carers to book places for their child on ParentPay. We have children each day who appear for the club who have not been booked in. Thanks for your support with this.

Football cards

While we actively support pupil interests in and out of school can we ask that football cards remain at home. Some pupils are becoming distressed and distracted when they misplace their cards or swap cards with others.

Key Dates

Mon 11 th Nov	Anti-Bullying week starts
Tues 12 th Nov	Parent Council meeting 6.30pm- postponed
Tues 19 th Nov	P1-3 Book Bug Launch. All P1-3 Parents and carers invited to attend a presentation at 1.30pm in school
Thu 21 st Nov	6pm Jingo Bingo- Parent Council run evening. All welcome to attend.
Thurs 12 th Dec	1.30pm P3 Christmas Performance
Fri 13 th Dec	9.15am P3 Christmas Performance
Mon 16 th Dec	1.30pm Whole school Christmas Concert P1-7
Tues 17 th Dec	9.15am Whole School Christmas Concert P1-7
Fri 20 th Dec	Last day of term

