



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

## February 2025

Below is the February edition of our newsletter. We hope you find it helpful.

### Parent Consultations

Thank you to everyone who has booked appointments for our Parent Consultations that are taking place on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> and Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 4-7pm. We have booked interpreters for those who have requested them.

### Book Fair

As in previous years we will be running a book fair on the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> Feb in our corridor just outside the gym hall. Classes will be visiting the fair over that week. Please see the attached letter for more information about the Book Fair and how to order books.

If any parents are able to offer their support in supporting the fair then please contact the school office to let us know when you are free. Ideally, this would see you support the fair for no longer than an hour on your chosen day.

### Hot chocolate and marshmallows

As part of our outdoor learning we are using fires in our woods, as well as offering the children hot chocolate and marshmallows. If you are near a shop and able to buy some hot chocolate and marshmallows for classes to use this would be a great support to the children in these colder weathers.

### Primary 6 Netball

Miss Gaunt has been accompanying our Primary 6 pupils to a tournament seeing Edinburgh schools compete against each other. While a skilled player herself, Miss Gaunt has been a great support to the school and ably coached the pupils to a series of wins in the competition. We have another tournament coming up so we will keep our fingers crossed for further successes.

### Primary 7 Cross country

We had some incredible performances on Monday at the EPSSA cross-country event that saw nine of our Primary 7 pupils take part in a lengthy (and muddy) route round Saughton Park. Two of our pupils finished within the top 20 in their race. Bearing in mind this saw schools from across Edinburgh this was an amazing achievement.

### Car park

Can we remind parent and carers to refrain from parking vehicles in the car park at drop-off and pick-up time as this is not permitted. We have multiple taxis dropping off and collecting pupils, as well as deliveries to the school throughout the school day and the car park needs to be accessible to these vehicles.



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

## Snacks

We are seeing increasing numbers of children arrive for school each day without a snack. For some children they are arriving at school having not had breakfast, so a snack is really helpful in helping children improve their concentration and resilience for learning. Given we currently have cycling for P4 and P6 as well as PE for every class, please send in a healthy snack for your child (fruit/cereal bars/popcorn/crisps) to support their participation in physical activity and learning in class. Can we ask that children do not swap or share snacks given we have so many children with allergies. If possible can you chat this over with your child.

## Nurture

Our nurture room PSO Miss Carr is currently absent from work so there are no nurture groups running at this time. We will let you know when these will resume.

## Glow Disco

Our Parent Council ran an amazing Glow disco last week and we had an amazing group of volunteers who helped ensure the night ran smoothly. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the disco- there were some very tired children on the Friday morning!

## Pansy Walk

We are working with local community groups who are looking at protecting the verges on Pansy Walk which can be congested with parked vehicles when there are football or rugby matches on. There have been trees planted on one side to limit cars parking on the grass, as well as a bollard installed half way long Pansy Walk to limit vehicular access. During the Six Nations there will also be gate in place at the end of Pansy Walk to prevent cars parking on the verges.

## Safe Internet Day

The 11<sup>th</sup> Feb marked Safe Internet day. If you would like to view some materials and resources to support your child's safety online then please go to [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) to access some strategies and resources that will help keep your child safe.

## Playground Markings

Our amazing Parent Council are looking to fund some new playground markings that will enrich the experience that pupils have at break and lunchtimes. We will be sharing our options for markings with pupils at assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> February and will be asking you to choose your favourite markings when you are in school for the Parent Consultations on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Parent Council have dedicated £2500 towards the markings so we are really excited to get these installed in the playground.

## Lunches

Please take some time to review your child's choices for school lunches and ensure that they are happy with the lunches that have been chosen for them. Please also ensure you have booked lunches for your child on ParentPay as we regularly have children who have not booked lunches. If you are unsure on how to do this please visit our school office where our office staff will be happy to assist you. At a recent Parent Council meeting we were discussing a point raised by yourselves regarding children feeling they did not always have enough time to eat their lunch. It is worth sharing that our lunch hall is quite a pressured space over lunchtime that sees pupils eat lunches on a staggered basis to avoid lengthy queues and excessive noise.



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

P1 and P2 arrive at 11.55 and have until 12.40pm to finish their lunch. P3 come to the lunch hall at 12.10pm and P4 arrive at 12.15pm. P5 and P6 come at 12.25pm and P7 arrive at 12.40pm. P3/P4/P7 all have some time outside before they come into the dining room. Given the lunch hall is also our PE hall we need to have pupils out of the dining room to allow for the floor to be swept, mopped and dry when classes then arrive for PE from 1.10pm. We endeavour to give pupils the time they need to finish their lunches, and recognise the value of the time over lunch as a positive social experience, but we do need to have pupils out the hall in time for PE to begin for 1.10pm. We do not let pupils take food outside at lunchtime as this has led to increased rubbish and food being spilled in the playground, which attracts vermin. We will offer the garden to P7 pupils once the weather improves.

## Timekeeping

We continue to see pupils arrive after the start of the school day. Even if it is only 2-5 minutes late it impacts on the work of the office who manually record each child who is late, as well as then recording this on our registration programme. We have a Pupil Support Officer who is looking at the number lates some children have with a view to helping support improved timekeeping.

## Primary 7 Transition

Our Primary 7 pupils have several planned visits to Tynecastle High School planned in the coming weeks. This will see pupils visit several areas of the school and be taught by their Primary 7 class teachers in high school classrooms but also have instruction from high school staff too. This will hopefully enable pupils to learn how the high school operates and ultimately reduce any concerns or anxiety that some may have about the imminent move to high school. Primary 7 were amazing at a recent transition ceilidh that saw Primary 7 pupils from across our learning community take part in several dances, supported by S2 ex-Balgreen pupils.

## Early years reading books

A request has come home from the Primary 1 and 2 teachers regarding the reading books that are being sent home that sees you support your child with reading at home. Not all of our books are being returned, as well as some coming back damaged. Please help your child value books by making sure books are returned in the same condition that they were sent home in. We have several sets of books that we can no longer use as so many have been lost and damaged. In this current financial climate we need to look after every book as it is expensive to replace lost and damaged books. Thanks for your help with this.

## Sickness and diarrhoea

There are a lot of colds and bugs doing the rounds just now. If your child has been sick or had diarrhea they cannot return to school until 48 hours after their last episode of illness. This helps prevent the bug being passed onto others, protecting staff and children alike.

## Key Dates

Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All return
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Glow Disco 6-7pm P1-3 and 7.30-8.30pm for P4-7
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Climate Change workshops for P3 in the gym hall



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	4-7pm Parent Consultations
4 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm Parent Council meeting in the staffroom- all welcome
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	All resume

