



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

November Newsletter

Welcome to the November version of our newsletter

## Primary 1 Enrolments

Primary 1 enrolments for 2023-24 are now underway with parents and carers able to enrol online via the City of Edinburgh website. Our numbers are starting to grow. You are able to enrol up to the 18<sup>th</sup> November. The link will take you to the page to enrol your child.

[Start primary school – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

Our Primary 7 pupils were amazing tour guides to the prospective parents and carers on Wednesday.

## Lunches

We are pleased that the difficulties experienced by the kitchen that provides our school lunches are now over and that pupils are now having hot school lunches again. This is particularly important as we move into the colder months.

## Attendance

We are continuing to monitor attendance here in school and would remind you that when your child is going to be absent you should contact the school absence line. This is 0131 337 6066 Option 1 and allows you to leave a message that is monitored daily. Some of you are emailing in absences and we would ask you to use the absence line so we can update our records first thing. Given the school office can be very busy, particularly at the start of the school day we do not always get to the emails before we begin to send out the absence texts.

Can we remind you that calls can be left on the absence line 24-7.

## Individual/Family photographs

We are having the photographer back in school next week who will be taking individual and family photographs. We will use the lists we have of siblings to ensure we are taking photographs of siblings together, as well as individual photographs. Pupils should wear school uniform that day. All siblings should wear school uniform for their photographs on the Wednesday.

The planned photographs are:

Wednesday: All sibling photographs and P2b/ P4b/ P6a/ P6b/ P7a/ P7b

Thursday: P1a/ P1b/ P2a/ P3a/ P3b/ P4a/ P5a/ P5b

## Lates

We are having increasing numbers of children arrive late at school. On Wednesday 10% of our school population were late meaning they were not in the line when the bell went. Many pupils are arriving between 8.50-9am. We need all pupils to be in the line for 8.50am so they can enter the school with their classmates. We will be sending out late letters where there are high numbers of lateness, and if lateness continues to be an issue we will meet with families to look at what further support may be needed.



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## Diwali

We had a phenomenal group of volunteers who helped Mrs Palmer celebrate Diwali with the whole school. There were art activities, some very delicious samosas and a fascinating assembly that all of our children really enjoyed. Thank you to all of our families who helped make this happen.

## Time sensitive bookings

We have had several activities in school where there have been cut off dates. This has included the tea towel ordering, Spooky Doo disco, Parent Consultations and class photographs. We have had lots of requests/orders after these cut off dates and this has led to some upset and disappointment. Please be aware we are not able to process requests after the specified dates and times and look at communications sharing when the cut-off dates are.

## Pansy Walk

For parents parking on Pansy Walk in the morning and at the end of the day please be wary of pedestrians when parking or leaving the area as there have been reports of a few near misses between pedestrians and vehicles. Please be wary of the soft ground now that there is more rain if using the grass verges for parking. There is on-street parking across the road that is accessible to all.

## ParentPay School Lunch bookings

We have contacted some of you to let you know that there was an issue with some of your accounts for ParentPay and the booking in advance of lunches. It has only let some of you book up to 30 days in advance for lunches and has cancelled bookings. We have emailed you this week to ask you to rebook if you were affected by this. Please check your emails to see if we contacted you regarding this.

## Spooky Doo and Tricky Ricky

As part of our Halloween celebrations our amazing Parent Council and their army of volunteers supported pupils in Primary 4-7 attend our first Spooky Doo disco in our gym hall. Your children looked amazing/scary and really enjoyed themselves on the night.

Primary 1-3 had a magic show with the infamous Tricky Ricky and everyone very much enjoyed his magic show and entertaining tricks. The staff also really enjoyed his performance and many staff popped into the show to watch the children burst with excitement at the performance.

## Primary 7 School Camp

We are in the process of planning on taking Primary 7 pupils to Lagganlia, near Aviemore. Parents and carers who are keen their child attends camp need to pay a deposit of £20 to reserve a place for their child. The school has reduced the cost of the trip through grants and use of funding in this current tricky financial climate. If you are keen your child goes to camp but feel that it will still be tricky financially for your family then please contact the head teacher. We will do everything we can to ensure everyone gets to go.

## Pupil Illness

This is that wonderful time of the year where there are a host of bugs impacting on pupil health. If your child has an episode of sickness or diarrhoea they are not able to return to school until 48 hours after the last episode of illness. This is to prevent the spread of the



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illness to other pupils. We will send home pupils who return to school too early. Please support the health of our community by following these instructions.

## Primary 3

Primary 3 are benefitting from NYCOS, Scotland's singing organisation, working with them on a weekly basis. We are very excited to have them back in school.

## Christmas is coming..... (sshhhhh)

We are in the process of finalising all of our plans for Christmas and we will share these with you week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November. We have been very lucky to receive a sizeable donation from Aegon of £2000 to help make Christmas more exciting for Balgreen children. We are very grateful for their continued support, as well as the support they give our school Breakfast Club.

## Weather appropriate clothing

Now that the weather is changing and definitely cooler please make sure children are coming to school with a warm jacket and hat/gloves if needs be. We continue to be outdoors on a daily basis for outdoor learning, PE on occasion and Loose Parts play.

## Children in Need Day

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November we are supporting Children in Need Day. Our Pupil Council are keen to raise funds to support this. We are asking for donations that day to come to school

## Key Dates for this term

Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> and Thu 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Individual and sibling photographs
Monday 14-Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Start of Book week- a series of events taking place in school to celebrate reading
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Balgreen Primary Parent Council running Jingo Bingo 6.30pm in the hall
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	P1 enrolment (for 2023-24) ends Children in Need Day
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	P1 Height, weight and vision assessment
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last Day of term/ Christmas Jumper day



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