



BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Welcome to our May version of our newsletter.

Parent Consultations

Many thanks to all of you who attended our Parent Consultations on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th of May. It was phenomenal having you back in school, with our Primary 1 and 2 parents have never set foot in the building before now. We are looking at dates to have Primary 1 and Primary 2 specific open evenings to allow you to have a proper tour of the school.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped us sell the pre-loved uniform too- we have been gathering donations for some time and it was great to be able to pass this onto you in preparation of next session.

Thank you too to all of you who helped us with our self-evaluation looking at strengths of the school and where we could be doing better. Your ideas will help inform our next steps for next session.

OLIO Food Charity

We have begun working with a charity who are looking to reduce the amount of food waste that is generated on a daily basis. We will receive donations of foods with a short shelf life and will endeavour to share this with you as soon as we receive it. We will not know what is available or when it is coming but will store any donations in a large plastic box, leaving this at the front of the school main entrance. If you see the box there please come and help yourself- it is a first come, first served basis.

Lates and Attendance

We are seeing large numbers of pupils arriving late on a daily basis. On Wednesday and Thursday this week 10% of our total school population were not on time and each of these late arrivals had to be recorded individually.

All pupils should be in their lines at 8.50am, prompted to line up by the first bell. The second bell rings shortly afterwards and sees school staff open the doors to bring classes in. Please help your child by ensuring they are in the line at 8.50am each day. Pupils are marked late if they are not in the lines with their class.

Please also ensure if your child is absent that you contact the school absence line (0131 337 6066 Option 1) to record the reason for your child's absence. If there is no reason offered for an absence we send you a text asking you to contact the school to inform us of the reason for absence.

There is a new absence management policy in place in Edinburgh that means we will send a text to you, requesting you to contact the school to inform us of the reason for absence. If we still do not hear from you we will then contact you directly by phone, calling 2-3 further times looking to clarify the reason for your child's absence.

Please support the school by letting us know when your child is going to be absent, the reason for absence and when they may be returning.

In line with the new policy once we send texts, have tried to contact you by phone and still have not heard back from you we are then required to pass on your child's absence to social services.



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End of Year trips

We are now in the process of planning trips with classes now that COVID guidance allows us to undertake trips freely and with relative ease. Please monitor ParentPay/school emails from the school for any information about trips and ensure you are aware of any costs associated with the trips. If you are struggling to pay the cost of the trip please contact the school.

Sports Day

This Friday we are due to undertake our first Sports Day outside of the school grounds for two years. We will be using Saughton Park, using the grassy area nearer the Saughton Enclosure/athletics track. Thank you to those of you who have indicated they are able to support classes as we cross the road and move around all the different activity stations. Activities start at 9.30am and will see pupils put into House teams and take part in a variety of activities. Once teams have worked their way through all the activities there will be a break to allow pupils a wee rest, time for a drink and a snack before we take part in some flat races. You are invited to come and There is also an event for parents and for staff if you are feeling brave and bold!

We look forward seeing you join us in the park on Friday.

Photographer

Having not been allowed a photographer in school during the pandemic we are welcoming in a photographer into school on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th. We will be taking class photos of Primary 1 and Primary 7 on Wednesday, then beginning individual photographs of each pupil. We will be taking class photos of every class in September.

We will then share with you a QR code that allows you to view and then order the photographs. There will be three separate photos taken of each child and you can then choose your favourite.

Historically we have had Tempest come and photograph our pupils but after feedback through the Parent Council we are trialling a different provider at this time.

Transition

We are currently liaising with a number of nursery and Early Childcare centres preparing to welcome in our new intake of Primary 1 pupils. We were delighted to have children from Balgreen Nursery join us at assembly last Wednesday. We are benefitting from a recently appointed EYP (Early Years Practitioner) whose remit is to support transition from Nursery-Primary 1, as well as support our development of play in Primary 1 and 2.

We are also currently linking with several high schools and authorities to support our Primary 7 pupils who are moving into S1 soon.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

As you will be aware this summer sees the Queen celebrate 70 year years of being the monarch of Great Britain, the first to ever do so. We are looking to have our own wee celebration on Wednesday 1st June and all pupils will head across to Saughton Park for a picnic and afternoon of games. We hope the sun shines on us!

The school is closed on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of June as part of these national celebrations.



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Rose Day

At a recent Balgreen Parent Council meeting we were asked, 'What is Rose Day?' as there have been whispered discussions about this. This is a unique event to Balgreen Primary School and may have its history linking to the Rose Garden from Saughton Park.

Rose Day is a day where the whole school gets together to celebrate being part of Balgreen Community, share the successes and achievements of Primary 7 pupils and to send them on their way to secondary with their heads held high.

We have had to scale down these celebrations during the recent pandemic but now that we are allowed to, we will be gathering as a school in Saughton Park Bandstand, inviting all of the Primary 7 parents and carers to join our celebrations.

Key Dates for this term

Tues 24 th May	Primary 5a at Water of Leith Centre all day
Wed 25 th and Thu 26 th May	School photographer in
Fri 27 th May	Sports Day starts 9.30am Saughton Park
Tues 31 st and Wed 1 st June	Simon says Dance workshops for P1-7 pupils
Thurs 2 nd and Fri 3 rd June	School Closed for Platinum Jubilee celebrations
Mon 13 th June	Balgreen Parent Council meeting- in school!!! 6.30pm. All welcome.
Tues 14 th - Thur 16 th June	Primary 7 Three day visit to their high schools
Tues 14 th June	New Primary 1 Parents/Carers information evening 6.30pm
Thur 16 th June	New P1 pupils come to visit Balgreen and meet their teacher/visit their classroom
Thurs 30 th June	Rose Day 1.30pm Saughton Park Bandstand
Fri 1 st July	School ends- 12 noon

