



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

**November 2021**

Welcome to the November version of our newsletter.

## **COVID arrangements**

Given the numbers of COVID cases across the city and nationally there are no immediate plans to change or relax any of the measures we have had in place since August 2020.

We are keeping pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2 in the dining room at lunchtime and pupils in Primary 3-7 will continue to have lunch in their classrooms.

We will continue to operate staggered arrival and end of day routines to limit the number of adults in the playground at any one time.

Please continue to keep all of our community safe by wearing face masks when in the school grounds and maintaining 2m social distancing from those around you at all times.

## **Primary 3 Nativity**

School management recently attended a briefing with other managers across the city providing guidance of what is permitted and is not permitted as we move into the festive season. Sadly, we are not allowed to have parents and carers in school, meaning we are not permitted to have you in school to watch our Nativity first hand. We will be recording it and sharing the link with you. While not ideal, it is the best we can offer in this current climate.

We have had to tweak our planned parties for Primary 1 and 2 in light of this new guidance meaning they are split and cannot be run with two classes together.

## **Children in Need**

Thanks to your generosity we managed to raise an incredible £397.98. Well done to all of you for raising this amazing total and to the Pupil Council who led our fundraising efforts.

## **Outdoor Learning**

We have resumed our use of the woods after we suspended outdoor learning there last month. We have been working closely with pest control in the last six weeks and have managed to have a positive impact on the rodent issue that led to us suspending woodland activities (not so positive for the rodents admittedly.) Ms Nelson has gathered an amazing collection of warm jackets that can be issued for pupils taking part in outdoor learning for those who forget their jackets.

## **Colder weather**

Please ensure your child comes to school in clothes suitable for the weather and that jackets are warm and thick. We are still seeing some pupils arriving at school with no



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jacket or with summer lightweight jackets. We do have some jackets we can provide for pupils who do come to school without.

## **Cereal bars/boxes of cereal**

A huge thank you to all of you who donated cereal bars and boxes of cereal. Your response has been amazing and we are well stocked now that will see us through for the rest of the term.

## **Snack time**

As we mentioned in our newsletter last month we are hoping to see pupils come to school with healthier snacks. Please do not send in lollipops as this is leading to littering around the school, as well as being a hazard when pupils are at play while eating them. We have plenty of balls flying around and we would hate for pupils to become injured with a lolly in their mouths.

Please provide fruit, cereal bars or other snacks that are healthy and avoid high sugar sweets and snacks.

## **Primary 1 Enrolment 2022-23**

We currently have 49 pupils enrolled for Primary 1 next session and will begin to make contact with their families after the Easter holidays.

## **Digital Access Survey**

We will be sending out a survey to you this week looking to ascertain your child's access to digital devices in the possible event of a move back to remote learning should national protocols require it.

Please complete the survey for each of your children at Balgreen. We need a 100% return rate so please look out for the link in your emails and texts. In our previous survey (October 2020) a number of you indicated that devices could be shared, however, given our daily check-ins and blend of live instruction and pre-recorded instruction this makes sharing devices challenging.

## **Book Week**

We ran a very successful book swap and 'Mystery reader' as part of Book Week 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November. This saw a number of staff come to visit different classes and read stories to them with a view to developing a love of stories and their magic. Many thanks to all of you who donated books that allowed pupils to take new books home. Thank you to Mrs Jeffrey in Primary 7a for organising.

## **Recruitment**

We are in the process of appointing two Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) to add to the existing team we have, following on from Miss McNeilage in P1a and Miss Scott in P2a moving on to other posts.

We are also in the process of recruiting an Early Years Practitioner to work between Balgreen Nursery and our school. The remit is to develop and support transition. This is a new post as part of a pilot project and we are very excited to see where this project takes us.

On Friday we said cheerio to Miss Coorey in Primary 1b and have a new teacher starting in class. We welcome Mr Lopez to Balgreen Primary School.



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## Aegon

We are very lucky to have our Breakfast Club supported by Aegon that sees an annual donation given to the school that supports costs. They have also kindly donated £4000 to the school to support Christmas time celebrations. We have planned on using this donation to ensure all pupils at Balgreen will benefit over the coming weeks. We are incredibly grateful for Aegon's continued support and kindness.

## Social media

We have had issues with some pupils and their use of social media. This has resulted in upset and strained peer relationships. Please make sure you are aware of what your child is posting and do check their phones/devices from time to time to ensure they are using technology positively and kindly. We have invited in the community police officer to come and talk to Primary 7 pupils about social media to help ensure they are keeping themselves safe online and being appropriate in their comments and posts. Place2Be have a helpful site regarding children accessing and using social media and this can be found at [inappropriate content: helping your child to stay safe \(place2be.org.uk\)](http://inappropriate content: helping your child to stay safe (place2be.org.uk))

## Key Dates for this term

Thursday December	9 <sup>th</sup>	Primary 7 pupils going to Edinburgh Zoo for the Christmas Lights exhibition
Friday December	10 <sup>th</sup>	Class walks round Saughton Park, wearing Christmas jumpers if pupils so choose. We plan on singing a few songs as we walk.
Monday December	13 <sup>th</sup>	Primary 2a Christmas Party in the hall
Tuesday December	14 <sup>th</sup>	Primary 2b Christmas Party in the hall Primary 3-7 Christmas Film in classes
Wednesday December	15 <sup>th</sup>	Primary 1a Christmas party in the hall
Thursday December	16 <sup>th</sup>	Primary 1b Christmas party in the hall
Friday December	17 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term finishing at 12noon for P1/P3/P5/P7 and 12.15pm for P2/P4/P6 (these times have been revised)

