



BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Below is the December edition of our newsletter. It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at Balgreen.....

Rights Respecting Schools

Our school has a pupil led group who are supporting our accreditation to the UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools award. Our pupil group went to visit the pupil group leading this at Roseburn Primary School, ably supported by Miss Budge and Miss Wyllie. We now have a lot of ideas about how to continue our progress towards our next award and we will keep you updated about our journey.

Primary 7 Bake Sale

Our Primary 7 pupils are fundraising towards their end of session event and are running a Bake Sale on Tuesday 10th December. Any donations would be gratefully received on Monday 9th or the morning of Tues 10th.

Attendance and Lates

We continue to have children arrive late each day which is impacting on the learning of your child, as well as the class. Often we are seeing children arrive 5-10 minutes late which still has a significant impact on the class, as well as the staff who have to record each child when they arrive late given they have missed registration in the class. Please support the school and your child by ensuring they are in the lines for 8.50am. Arriving ten minutes late each day equates to a lost 6.5 days of schooling over a whole school year. Please see the attached sheet for more information.

We work with a Pupil Support Officer (PSO) who supports us one day a week in increasing our attendance for families. We have prioritised families whose children are attending less than 85% of the session to date, and are now looking at pupils whose attendance is below 90%.

Planned holidays

There is a change to how you can request a leave of absence from school for a holiday over two weeks long, or a return to home country. The form you need to complete is attached to this email and is also available on our school website. Once completed the form should be sent to ewsmailbox@ea.edin.sch.uk and not the school. The school is unable to give permission for absences exceeding two weeks.

Jackets

We recently received a kind donation of jackets via our Parent council who sourced some jackets via a scheme that allows them to purchase jackets at a reduced price. We have begun to distribute these jackets. We have also received some amazing donated jackets which we have been distributing to families. Thank you all for your kind donations as they make such a difference for our families.



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Parking

We recently had some Police Scotland officers reviewing the parking taking place in and around Balgreen Primary School. While the school car park is a private car park and should not be used by families, we are still seeing children being dropped off in the car park each day. Respectfully, please look to park elsewhere. The verges on Pansy Walk (the road beside our school grounds) are becoming damaged by cars regularly parking there on the grass and we would ask that you avoid parking on the grassed areas beside the school to protect the grass.

Netball



Primary 7 pupils recently took part in a EPSSA Tournament and came second when competing against schools from across the city.

Despite not playing netball regularly they performed brilliantly against some very skilled teams and showed great resilience and team work.

A huge thank you to Miss Gaunt who coached the girls and was a great support to the team across the tournament. Go #teambalgreen

Basketball

Our Primary 7 Basketball team have also been shining in the West of Edinburgh league. They are currently sitting third in the league and have had some great performances against some very large schools. We are really proud of their achievement and tenacity in the games they played.

End of term

Term finishes on Friday 20th December and pupils will finish at their normal time of 12.15pm for P1/2 and 12.25pm for P3-7.

Road Safety

At the recent Parent Council meeting we discussed the dangers for pedestrians as they are leaving the school. Those leaving on bicycles and scooters are sharing a very congested pavement immediately outside the school and we need to make sure everyone is able to leave the school safely.

We are asking that those who scoot and cycle to school walk their bikes/scooters out of the school grounds and do not get onto them until they are at the bus stop by the nursery or by the tunnel on Balgreen Road. This is where the pavements are wide enough for pedestrians, bicycles and scooters to leave safely together. We will be reminding pupils of this at assembly.

Sponsored walk

Through your support and generosity we managed to raise an amazing total of £7019.60. This amazing total is in our school fund and supports trips, transport, snacks, baking and a range of other activities that we carry out. Thank you all for your kindness, generosity and support with this.

Murrayfield Hotel

Staff at the Murrayfield Hotel have chosen Balgreen Primary School as part of their fundraising initiative for the next three months. Their team will be collecting over the next wee while and then



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coming to us at the start of April to donate their efforts so we can continue to support families. We are delighted that they have thought of us and we wish them all the best in their fundraising efforts.

Music instruction

We are lucky enough to benefit from music instruction from a number of instrumentalists. Pupils in our school learn the drums, the chanter (learned before pupils progress to the bagpipes), brass and woodwind instruments. If anyone has any drum pads or chanters that are no longer in use then we would be grateful if these could be donated to the school to allow more pupils to learn the instruments. Many thanks.

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-apjbbb5edkryt4v>



Key Dates

Mon 2 nd Dec	School Christmas Post starts
Tues 10 th Dec	Primary 7 Fundraising Christmas Café
Thurs 12 th Dec	1.30pm P3 Christmas Performance
Fri 13 th Dec	9.30am P3 Christmas Performance
Mon 16 th Dec	1.30pm Whole school Christmas Concert P1-7
Tues 17 th Dec	9.15am and 1.30pm Whole School Christmas Concert P1-7
Friday 20 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day End of term. Finishing 12.15pm for P1/2 and 12.25pm for P3-7
Tues 7 th Jan	All return

