



# BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Welcome to the April version of our newsletter.

## Primary 7 Fundraiser

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions towards the Primary 7 fundraising yesterday. Their snack boxes were very well received by classes and the Primary 7 pupils enjoyed planning, creating and delivering the boxes, then learning about profit and loss as part of their reconciliation of the money raised.

## Trim Trail

Our poor P3-7 trim trail has become damaged, so we have had to tape off the damaged section. Please make sure your child avoids the taped off area until we can make repair to the damaged section. It is very well used and very well loved so we will endeavour to have the repairs made as soon as is possible.

## Outdoor learning

Our woods at the side of our school estate have been used by every class over the last two years but we have been giving them a wee rest in recent weeks. There are many signs of Spring in the woods with new signs of growth appearing through bulbs, daffodils and the hedging that classes planted a year ago. We have been using Pansy Walk (the path beside the school), our own garden in the centre of the school as well as planters around our school grounds as a focus for planting and continuing our programme of outdoor learning.

We are in the process of making a request for new resources from the Parent Council for some additional outdoor learning resources to support our programme of work that benefits all of the classes.

## Books for Kids

Our incredible Parent Council made contact recently with a charity based in Edinburgh called Books for Kids. They collect good quality second hand books and give these to schools. As a result of the bid the Parent Council made, we received over 370 books which were handed out to pupils at a book fair last Wednesday. We also distributed some of the books we have had in our reading library as we are in the process of updating and adding to these sets of books. We hope your child enjoys these books over the coming weeks.

## Returning to normal- changes in COVID guidance

### What is **Stopping**?

- Twice weekly asymptomatic staff / family Lateral flow testing
- Warn and inform letters from school (will stop at the end of April)
- Necessity for schools to report positive cases centrally
- Remote meetings for staff and parent appointments



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- Face coverings in playgrounds (individuals can wear if they wish to do so)
- Bubble grouping of classes and restrictions on gatherings, singing, drama etc
- Restrictions on parents, carers and visitors to school

## What is **Staying**?

- Ongoing Health and Safety risk assessments
- Children and staff must continue to stay home & self-isolate if they have any COVID-19 symptoms, test positive or are required to by NHS Inform.
- Updating school office with reasons for absence and expected date of return
- Staff using PPE when managing children with symptoms of sickness or fever
- Adults in school distancing – minimum 1m, but 2m where possible
- Adult face coverings inside school, in busy communal areas
- Enhanced cleaning and hand washing reminders
- Ongoing focus on good ventilation
- Coming to school in PE kit on PE day/ Outdoor learning clothing on Outdoor learning day
- Encouraging vaccinations and boosters

## What is **Starting (or re-starting)**?

These are some of the things that are now allowed in the Summer Term. Not all items on this list will necessarily happen in the Summer Term.

- Parent events in school
- Performances with parent audience (adult distance not required)
- Audiences are requested to wear face coverings until seated
- In person transition events for P7/S1 and Nursery/P1
- Face-to-face parent consultations in May
- End of term celebrations.
- School trips.
- Parent helpers in class, on trips and at events in school

We will continue to monitor COVID cases in our community and this may see some events having to be postponed or cancelled, however, we will remain positive and plan to deliver some of the events that we have been waiting to hold for the last two years.

## Attendance/ Late arrivals

We see a significant number of pupils arriving late each day. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10% of all pupils at school were late. This has a significant impact on pupil learning where teachers have to restart lessons, office staff have to record each individual who is late and pupils have to work harder to slot into lessons that have already begun. Please make sure your child is in the line for 8.50am.

If your child is going to be absent you must contact the school each day of absence. Please use 0131 337 6066 Option 1 to record the reason for your child's absence. When your child is absent we send a text if we have not been contacted by you, looking to confirm with you the reason for your child's absence.

## Primary 4 and 5 swimming

Primary 4 and Primary 5 classes have just completed a successful block of swimming at Dalry Swimming Pool. School staff have supported pupils in making amazing progress during their



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blocks of instruction and it had been amazing seeing them become more confident in the water. Mr Napier was very impressed with Primary 4a yesterday when he was covering the class at the pool.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who accompanied the classes on these trips. Without your support we would struggle to make these sessions the success they have been.

## Pupil Equity Funding

The Scottish government has announced its second round of pupil equity funding, looking at closing the poverty related attainment gap within our school community. We will be consulting with you some ideas of how this money could be spent next month. All ideas gratefully received. We will also be consulting with staff and pupils.

## Primary 3-6 Singing project

We are working closely with Queen Margaret University on a project looking at measuring the impact of singing on pupil wellbeing. Teachers have chosen pupils from these classes to be part of the project which will see researchers working with pupils every Friday after the Easter holidays.

## Healthy Snacks

We are seeing an increasing number of pupils come to school with family sized packets of sweets/crisps/biscuits, along with a wide range of snacks that are really high in sugar. Please send in snacks that are mor

## Primary 7 Basketball

Pupils from Primary 7a and 7b have been taking part in competitive basketball games at Tynecastle High School on Friday afternoons. Supported by Mrs Gilbertson, Miss Gaunt and Mr Murray we have seen pupils play their socks off against some very strong competition. Keep an eye on our Twitter feed for updated information about their games. Their next round of games is on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

## Final note

This term has been a hard one for everyone. We have seen staff absences impact on our day-to-day work and we have seen incredible flexibility from staff in order to continue to provide support to pupils in classes. We have also seen pupils impacted by COVID themselves, struggling to return to full health after periods of illness.

We are all in need of the holiday to rest and recharge and we hope that you are able to do the same, enjoying the milder weather and arrival of spring.

These are challenging times but what is abundantly clear is how our school community pulls together. We are incredibly grateful for your support, understanding and kind messages this term. #teambalgreen

## Key Dates for next term

Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Term ends
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	All pupils resume



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Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Wear what you want day- supporting P7 end of year celebrations
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	May Day holiday- school closed
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Inservice Day- staff only
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Pupils resume
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Pupil reports come home
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Day (reserve date is Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June if first date is rained off)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June/ Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	School closed for Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
Tues 14-Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Three day visit to high schools
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Rose Day- celebration event for Primary 7 leavers
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Term ends 12 noon

