



BALGREEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of the term. Below is key information about events taking place in school this month, as well as looking further ahead.

Communication

We continue to use Twitter as a way of sharing some of the learning that is taking place in classes. Please look us up and follow @BalgreenPrimary Twitter where you will get a real flavour of what happens throughout the school. Please take time to look at our school website <https://balgreen.edin.sch.uk> which has a lot of very useful information including term dates, school events, letters, Home Learning Walls and much more. This has been updated for the current school year and should be a first stop for parents with any questions.

Staffing

We have already been experiencing significant staff absences in the last three weeks that have seen staff absent due to COVID, awaiting COVID PCR results as well as the regular coughs and colds that are doing the rounds at the moment. Staff have been incredibly flexible in helping ensure we continue to support pupils and classes, as well as us making use of supply staff to address absences wherever possible. We will endeavour to ensure we operate as normal but there may well be the need for changes to ensure appropriate supports are in place in response to absence needs. This is a city wide picture and not one specific to Balgreen.

Flu Vaccinations

Many thanks to all of you who responded so quickly to the flu vaccination letter that was sent out ten days ago. We have received some retrospectively and have passed these onto the immunisation team. Our vaccination date is Tuesday 26th October that will see pupils and staff alike given the vaccination. We can still accept any late returns this week of vaccination letters that have not been returned to school.

Parent Consultations

COVID guidance still limits visitors to the school so until we receive new guidance we are not able to have volunteers in school, invite parents into school for meetings and will be conducting our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations by telephone. These consultations will take place on Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 14th October 4-7pm. A letter regarding the appointments will be issued next week, offering you a 10 minute discussion with your child's class teacher.

After School Clubs

As we ease out of lockdown we are beginning to plan ahead, looking at After School Club provision. Active Schools have previously run the majority of the after-school clubs we offer, however they have changed their model of delivery. This means clubs



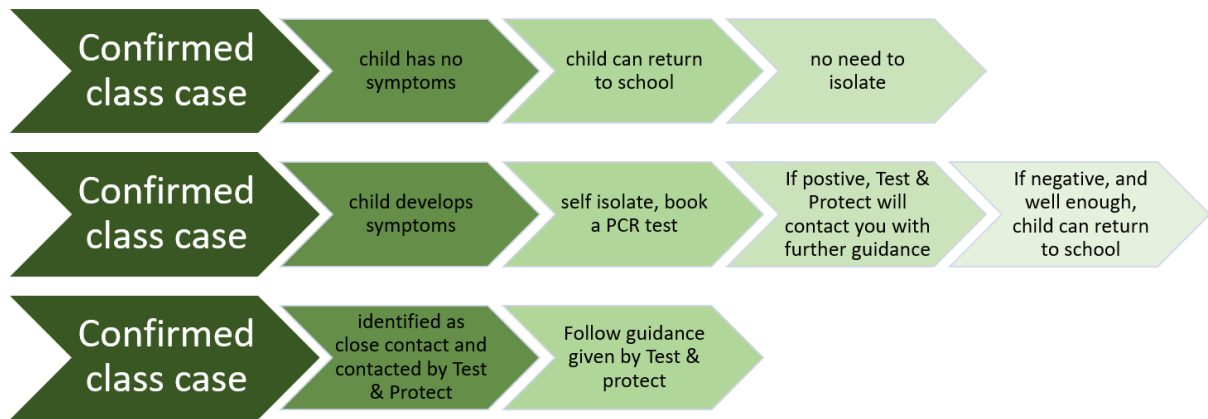
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will now be free for all but also means there will be fewer clubs on offer to families. We hope to have our clubs starting up after the October holidays (see dates below) and will send out letters regarding the clubs we will be offering on Monday 11th October. We Tweeted and emailed details of our first club restarting, Water Polo, taking place at Forrester High School for P6 and P7 pupils starting next week. Please check your emails or **@BalgreenPrimary** Twitter account for further information.

Warn and Inform letters

We are reminding you that in the event of a positive case being identified in a classroom we will then send you a 'Warn and Inform' letter. This letter asks you to continue to be vigilant for symptoms in your child but states that your child is fine to return to school, unless you are contacted directly by Test and Protect. Some of you have been in touch to let us know that this letter is confusing and hard to understand.

Below is a graphic that indicates clearly what needs to be done in simpler steps and language that we hope will be helpful.



Breakfast Club and After School Club

Our Breakfast Club is open again and there are still spaces. If you are interested please book places via ParentPay. Sessions at the Breakfast Club cost £3.50 per child and sessions run 7.30-8.50am Monday to Friday.

For those parents/carers who require a place in the After School Club please contact the Squirrel Club on 07415 739261. The Squirrel Club runs from 2.40pm to 5.30pm Monday-Friday.

COVID guidance

Please continue to support our community by wearing a mask whenever in the playground and continuing to keep 2m from other adults at all times.

Inhalers in school

We require anyone with asthma to have two inhalers in school at all times. One inhaler should be kept by pupils (stored in their tray or bag) while the other we store in a class trip bag. This trip bag accompanies classes whenever they leave the school for a trip eg. Saughton Park, Corstorphine Hill, Pansy Walk as well as accompanying the class when they have PE with Mr Murray. We require the parents/carers of every pupil with an inhaler to complete a medical form, available from the school office, to allow them



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to self-administer/be supported in administering their inhaler in school. If you have not completed a form please visit the school office to collect one.

Scot X Ed forms

We have sent home forms looking to check we have the most up-to-date contact information about you and your child. Please take two minutes to check the information we have then return the envelope to the school office by Friday 17th September.

Primary 1 Pupils

Our Primary 1 pupils have made an amazing start to their time here at Balgreen. They have settled in well and are loving their time in the woods, as well as enjoying the play based learning taking place in both classrooms. We emailed you a Sway presentation about the Primary 1 curriculum which replaces the Primary 1 information evening we normally offer this month.



Pupil Council

Children are in process of voting for their preferred class representative for this year's Pupil Council. Pupils' views and opinions are at the heart of everything we do at Balgreen and we are promoting The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at weekly assemblies. We look forward to being able to introduce the Pupil Council Class reps to you very soon.

Monday Holiday

Can we remind you that Monday 20th September is a school holiday. Pupils and staff return to school on Tuesday 21st September.



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Key Dates for this term

Monday 20 th Sept	School holiday
Wednesday 13 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations 4-7pm
Thursday 14 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations 4-7pm
Friday 15 th October	Final day of term
Monday 25 th October	Inservice Day- school closed to pupils
Tuesday 26 th October	All resume
Tuesday 26 th October	Flu immunisation Day

