



BALMUIDY PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2024



Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been a very quick few weeks and I can't quite believe that we are starting to plan for the end of term and Christmas!! I have included a list of important dates at the end of the newsletter

Homework

Each class teacher provides homework tasks on SEESAW. These tasks will consolidate and reinforce the learning in class, however these activities are entirely optional. We understand the pressures that families are under after school with clubs and other family commitments. We hope that our approach provides you with the tools to support your child with their learning, if you so wish, without being pressured with time constraints.

Parking and Vehicle Access

Thank you for your support in adhering to restricted vehicle access to our school. By closing the gates at specific times, it now means that our children can enter, exit and play safely throughout our school grounds. I appreciate that parking around the school is difficult and I would respectfully ask everyone to park responsibly.

Dogs

Unfortunately, we are experiencing a significant amount of dog mess in our playground and on too many occasions our children clothes and shoes are covered, which is a health and safety risk. I have been discussing the issue with Facilities Management and they are looking into ways to reduce this. One possible idea would be to lock our gates at the weekend. I know this is not ideal as many of our children like to play in the grounds but the dog mess is causing a real concern.

Wider Achievement

As a school, we regularly celebrate our learners' achievements. Many of our them have had fantastic successes outside of school in sporting, charity work and other clubs. We have a wall outside the hall to display these and we would ask parents to email the school office with the information and photographs if appropriate.

Book Fair

Thank you to those who purchased for the Scholastic Book Fair last month. We have been able to raise £ 1254 in commission to spend on other scholastic material. This will support our current development in reading and our journey as a reading school.

Attendance

Balmuildy Primary School recognises that education brings a wide range of benefits to children. Good attendance is key to educational success, helping children build and maintain good relationships with their peers and staff, and to develop to their full potential.

The attendance research table below shows what attendance percentages equate to in terms of missed school days over a school year.

Attendance %	Days missed over a school year	What research tells us
95%	9 days (nearly 2 weeks)	Attendance at or above this level gives a learner the best chance of success.
90%	19 days (nearly 4 weeks)	Attendance at this level leads to less chance of success. Data shows that learners missing this much school could drop a whole grade in secondary.
80-85%	27-36 days (5-7 weeks)	Attendance at this level has serious implications for learning and progress.

In order to provide appropriate support, attendance will be regularly reviewed and where attendance is below 90%, we will link with families. I have also attached an Attendance Matters Poster, which will be posted on our school website.

PTA Events

It's that time of year when we are looking towards the PTA Christmas Fayre. This year it is held on **Saturday 30th November**. For the Christmas Fayre each class is asked to make up a hamper to put into the raffle. We allocate a colour to each class and ask pupils to bring in something of that colour. For example, if your class colour is purple, you could donate a box of Milk Tray or a purple candle. The list below gives each class and their colour.

We will also be having a dress down day on **Friday 29th November** and we would be grateful if you are able to donate an unwanted gift or a small item for the tombola (items could include new

toys, books, unopened toiletries, bottles, sweets or chocolates). Any donations should be brought into school on Friday 29th and bottles can be handed into the office

Primary 1	Gold
Primary 2	Blue
Primary 3	Silver
Primary 4	Purple
Primary 5	Orange
Primary 6	Green
Primary 7	Red

P7 Rugby

Primary 7 pupils were invited to take part in a rugby festival at Allen Glens on 24th October. The pupils had some training sessions before the festival and they all had a great morning playing alongside pupils from other local schools.

Allen Glens coaches will return to give P6 a rugby block till Christmas.

Book Week Scotland

During Book Week Scotland all P1-3 parents will be invited into school for a special book gifting event. Each year, The Scottish Book Trust gifts P1 pupils a Bookbug Bag and P2-3 pupils a Read, Write and Count Bag. We are looking forward to sharing and exploring our book bags with parents and carers on the day. At the end of the visit our pupils will take their bags away to continue to enjoy using at home.

Christmas Parties

You will see that we have set dates for the class Christmas parties. Pupils may come to school wearing their party clothes or bring them in bag to change at lunchtime. If you plan to take your child home for lunch on the day of their party to get them changed, please contact the school office or let the class teacher know. This will help us ensure the safety of all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind regards

Charlotte Grogan
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary:

November

5 th November	P5-7 Hate Crime Workshops delivered by the Community Police
7 th November	Outdoor Learning Day
11 th November	Anti Bullying Week
13 th November	Parent Council Meeting
14 th November	P2A Library visit
15 th November	Children in Need
18 th November	Book Week Scotland
18 th November	PTA Meeting
20 th November	P2 and P3 Read, Write, Count Parent Event (2.15pm)
21 st November	P1 Book Bug Parent Event (2.15pm)
26 th November	P7A Library visit
28 th November	P3A Library Visit
29 th November	Dress Down Day (Christmas Fayre donations)
30 th November	Christmas Fayre (10am- 3pm)

December

3 rd December	P7B Library visit
5 th December	P2B Library Visit
11 th December	Christmas Lunch
13 th December	P1 and P2 Nativity (9.30am)
16 th December	Christmas Party PM- P1
17 th December	Christmas Party AM-P2
	Christmas Party PM- P5
18 th December	Christmas Party AM-P4
	Christmas Party PM-P3
19 th December	Christmas Party AM-P6
	Christmas Party PM-P7
20 th December	School closes at 2.30pm for Christmas Holidays and reopens at 9am on 6 th January 2025