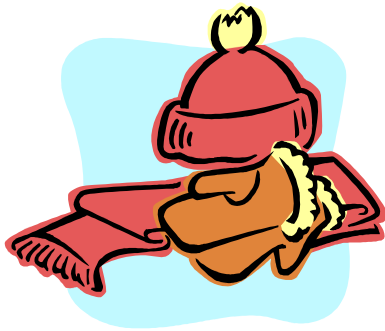


# BALLOCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 2009



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We welcome everyone back to a new year and a new term.

## **STAFFING**

Mrs. Black has now left us to take up a permanent post at Dalneigh Primary School. We welcome back Mrs. Barbour to Primary 1. We expect that Mrs. Thompson will return to P2/3 at the end of January when Miss Baird will be leaving us.

## **CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

- ❖ Thank you all for your support during the run up to Christmas.
- ❖ The trip to the Pantomime was a great treat for all the children. Many thanks to the BFG who paid for the transport.
- ❖ P1, P2 and P2/3 raised £137.70 for MacMillan Cancer Support from the sale of their 'Reindeer Dust' - well done.
- ❖ The Nursery children raised £101 from the sale of their Nativity programmes. This was donated to Myeloma Research.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS CAROLS AND COFFEE MORNING**

This was a great success and much enjoyed by both those attending and the staff and pupils who organised it.

Well done P7 and of course the pupils from all classes who provided the entertainment. From letters and cards received it is clear that your guests appreciated the music and hospitality.

### **CAROL SINGING**

The Choir had several engagements over the Christmas season, including singing in the Eastgate Centre and at Smithton Church Carol Service.

### **BFG CHRISTMAS FAYE**

This event was good fun and a great success and has made over £1000 for BFG funds. This is an excellent achievement - many thanks to everyone who helped to make such an enjoyable evening. We are now ready to order our Climbing Wall which should be installed within the next few weeks.

### **P1 ENROLMENT**

Enrolment for pupils starting P1 in August 2009 will be on the following dates in the school:

Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> January	2.30 - 3.30pm in the school hall
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> January	2.30 - 3.30pm in GP Room 1
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> January	2.30 - 3.30pm in GP Room 1

I would be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of any friends or neighbours with children to enrol.

### **NURSERY ENROLMENT**

Details of dates and times will be issued later.

### **CURRICULUM**

- ❖ Teachers are currently working towards implementing new Curriculum for Excellence Guidelines in English Language in particular and generally, through new topics/projects which they are designing for cross curricular study at each stage. Ask your child about the topic they will be studying this term.
- ❖ Teachers continue to develop use of a wide range of collaborative learning strategies in lessons throughout the curriculum. Your child will be able to tell you about often working in pairs and groups and how this is helping with their learning.

### **PUPIL ILLNESS**

A reminder of the updated guidelines regarding infections and periods of absence recommended for infectious diseases. Should your child be ill with an infectious childhood disease e.g chicken pox, we can advise on the number of days he/she should stay away from school.

I note that in the guidelines it is recommended that pupils suffering from sickness/diarrhoea should stay off for 48 hours. This seems a sensible precaution which might help to avoid the spread of this type of ailment.

### **SWIMMING LESSONS**

P6 have started their course of swimming lessons at Culloden Academy this term.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS / ACTIVITIES**

- ❖ Mrs. Cowie will be starting a Badminton club this term with P7 pupils.
- ❖ Mr. Sharma and his helpers will be continuing with Chess club.
- ❖ Mrs. Pearson will be continuing with Choir and we hope to enter the Inverness Music Festival.
- ❖ Mrs. Urquhart will continue with Scripture Union.

### **SCHOOL BOOKS**

We are aware that sometimes books belonging to the school can inadvertently be left at home and are never returned to school. This incurs a replacement cost for the school. Could everyone please check to see if they have any school books lying around at home and return them to school as soon as possible.

### **CONSULTING SCHOOL**

As you know we have no formal meetings with parents planned for this term. However, please remember that you are always welcome to contact your child's teacher, me, Mrs. Petrie (DHT) or Mrs. Flyn (Nursery) regarding any concern or query you may have.

Please contact the school office if you need to make an appointment - or often a phone call is the quickest way to access the person you need to talk to.

### **F.F.A.B (Food and Fitness At Balloch)**

We still have some recipe books left so if you missed out and would like one please complete the slip and return to school. They cost £3 each. Some of us have had a chance to make some of the recipes over the holidays and they are really good!

### **HOWDENS GARDEN VOUCHERS**

Thanks to all who have handed these into school. We now only need 20 more vouchers to reach 500 which allows us to claim our gift vouchers for £100. So, if you are planning spring improvements to your garden please do not forget to send us the vouchers offered at Howdens.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

Once again we have a fair amount of 'lost' clothing which has not been claimed. It is in the Janitor's room if you would like to check for any lost items. Anything not claimed by the end of next week (January 16<sup>th</sup>) will be taken for recycling.

### **REMINDER**

February 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are teachers in-service training days and February 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> are holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

### **HOLIDAY DATES**

#### **Session: 2008/2009**

	<b><u>School Opens</u></b>	<b><u>School Closes</u></b>
<b>TERM 3</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> January	27 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>TERM 4</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> July
<b>February Holidays</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2009.	
<b>May Day Holiday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	
<b>In-Service Days</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> + 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2009.	

**Session: 2009/2010**

	<b><u>School Opens</u></b>	<b><u>School Closes</u></b>
<b>TERM 1</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> August	9 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>TERM 2</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> October	23 <sup>rd</sup> December
<b>TERM 3</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> January	26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>TERM 4</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> July

**February Holidays** 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

**May Day Holiday** 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010.

**In-Service Training Days:** 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.  
16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010.



I wish to buy \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the FFAB Recipe Book and enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make cheques payable to 'Balloch Primary School')

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Class P \_\_\_\_\_



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