

	<p>Covid update</p> <p>Our Risk Assessments are updated regularly, to keep up with the latest science and health advice. Happy to say, all is going well so far. Children are being very responsible in cleaning their desks (where appropriate) and using hand sanitiser (amongst other things). We are giving regular reminders to all pupils to keep hands away from their friends. Please help us at home by reinforcing that simple message. The message is still the same about illness and attendance: if your child has a temperature, cough or loss/change of taste/smell, then stay off. Anyone who has been for a Covid test, should inform the school please. We will then ask to see a screen-shot of the result when it is sent to you.</p> <p>A simple cold, e.g. runny nose, is ok for school so long as your child feels well. If in doubt, give us a call. Some parents are worried that the classrooms are too cold, with windows open. Our windows must remain open – but please know that nobody gets a draught. The windows open at the top approx 20 ft high! Feel free to 'layer up' if your child says they're cold. Although it is common to catch a cold at this time of year...unlikely it's due to the windows being open.</p>
	<p>Learning</p> <p>Teachers and ECPS are feeling confident about the changes to play and learning as a result of Covid times. Your child is hopefully able to tell you about the activities they do in a day. Seesaw is the best way to 'see' what's going on. When you get a message sent home, your kids love getting your feedback – please tell them what you think. Homework – it is easier for us to send out homework on SEESAW. This way kids can do the job and take a photo to send back to their teacher (otherwise we are meant to quarantine paper jobs for 72 hours!!) If you are struggling with Seesaw at home, please phone us to let us know.</p>
	<p>PE and outdoors</p> <p>PE will continue outdoors until the Scottish Govt tells us otherwise. So please ensure your child comes dressed for gym on their day. We are lucky to have a huge playground and classes are making the most of getting outside as much as possible. PE kit should be joggers/leggings (it's a bit chilly for shorts now) and a warm jumper. Now that the weather is changing, please ensure your child has a warm (and waterproof) coat on every day. We will still go outside for break, even if it is raining. Sensible shoes are essential!</p>
	<p>Communications with Parents/Carers</p> <p>Thank you so much for helping us keep the playground a safe place. Only Nursery/PI parents (and only 1 adult per family) should be there for now. This gives the kids plenty of space to run about before the bell. A reminder, please call the school to pass on any information the teacher/ECP needs to know (for example if your child has an appointment) as that's the best way to ensure accurate messages. Again – if you want to speak with your child's teacher or Key Worker (Nursery), Seesaw is the best way. If you're struggling with Seesaw, don't hesitate to phone us.</p> <p>Are you on the School App yet? It's free to download. This is how we send out information to parents – you will benefit from having it. If your child is absent on any day, kindly call the office before 9.15am to tell us why. You should give the reason for the absence. Please note you cannot reply to a text message we send you – you must call us instead. Next week I'll be running off my termly attendance sheets, looking at pupils whose attendance falls below 85%. I may get in touch with some parents for a chat where we are concerned about children's poor attendance at school.</p>
	<p>Paying for things at School</p> <p>ParentPay letters have all been emailed to you – you need to activate it (if done so already, thanks.) Balhousie school can no longer accept cash – even this year's Poppy Appeal will be done via ParentPay. School trips won't be happening for some time yet, but it's best to get ParentPay up and running now. Remember, if you are needing help with your finances, call the Welfare Rights Team for support. You may be entitled to Free School Meals or help to pay for school uniform.</p> <p>Email: WelfareRights@pkc.gov.uk Telephone: 01738 476900 (option 1)</p>
	<p>School Lunches – October till Christmas</p> <p>The new menu will be out on the School App this week. Still only 2 choices, but they will be hot! We will continue to have older pupils eat at their desks, with only 3 classes in the dining hall. Nursery continue to eat in their own room. Children remain seated in their learning groups, to minimise moving and mixing. If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch, maybe with meat/fish cooked last night, we advise you to use a cool-pak to keep it fresh. We don't want anyone getting a sore tummy from non-refrigerated foods. If your child cannot eat something for <u>religious reasons</u>, please <u>phone the office</u> to tell us.</p>

	<p>School Playground</p> <p>Now each class has their own space to play in the playground. This helps avoid mixing and mingling. It is important for parents to understand why we are doing this – should a case of Covid become known to us, the Track and Trace procedures will be supported if kids have had reduced contact with others. Thanks to a super learning activity, the kids have chosen their games for the playground and these are looking bright and fun. Many thanks to the support staff who have made it look very professional!</p> <p>A reminder, please, not to send children too early to school – nobody should be in the playground before 8.45am. The Breakfast Club is £2 per day and opens from 8am if you need to use it.</p>
	<p>School Uniform</p> <p>Our children look very neat and clean in their school uniform. A change of clothes each day is still recommended. While there is a relaxed uniform to help parents with washing, please try to be smart for school in red/grey/black when you can. Wearing uniform helps your child feel part of the Balhousie team, and reminds us we're all here to learn. You should write your child's name on their clothes, so if lost they'll get back to your child. There's no point in us having lots in the cupboard! We will put out LOST PROPERTY jumpers/cardi's every so often on the railings, for you to help yourselves!</p>
	<p>Holidays</p> <p>If you are going abroad in the holidays, please phone the school this week or next, and tell us where you are going. This is to keep track of children who may need to quarantine afterwards. If your child does need to quarantine, you will not receive 'home learning' work during that time.</p>
	<p>Bike Week</p> <p>Next week each class will get a chance to improve their bike skills and know how to look after their bike. The classes have been told which day they are invited to bring their bikes into school. We know that wearing a bike helmet is not a legal requirement, but for the safety of your child – and to protect them from harm – we recommend your child wears one. Don't forget, the council is supporting folk onto bikes to reduce congestion and improve health of people. Visit the The Bike Station, at the top of the Old High Street, to find yourself a cheap bike in good condition!</p>

School finishes on Friday 2 October at 3.00pm.

We open again on Monday 19 October at 9.00am.

Kind regards

Mrs Fiona Whittet

Head Teacher