

Newsletter: March 2020

Dear Families

Here we are folks...spring is round the corner! I hope you find this newsletter short and sweet, with the key messages for Balhousie School.

New School Build




This week we held an open doors event for families/community members, to get a look at the block plans for the new school build. These plans show an outline of what the shape of the school will be. It will be on the existing site of North Muirton Primary School, and will have extensive outdoor play/learning grounds. I'm told the build will be 2 storeys high (the Nursery will be on one floor only). There will be space for up to 16 classrooms. We don't yet know what the inside will look like – this will be shared with folk once interested groups of parents/children/staff/architects/PKC staff have met to talk about it. Very exciting times!

I am truly delighted that Mrs Annabelle Burns, the existing Acting HT at North Muirton, has been appointed as the full-time HT at North Muirton, and she will inherit the new school too. Mrs Burns plans to come along and meet with staff and children at Balhousie soon. Mrs Burns and I are very good colleagues, and we're looking forward to working together in the coming 2 years moving towards a merger. However, it's 'business as usual' here at Balhousie, and I will continue to lead our school with pride!

If you didn't get to see the plans this week, we're putting up 2 images on display in the entrance corridor – parents/children are welcome to come and view.



Good hygiene

 We are following PKC and NHS advice in our school about good hygiene...lots of handwashing going on here, and we're encouraging children to use tissues. Thank you to the families who have helped by bringing in a box for the classroom. If you've not done so yet, please help us if you can. If parents want any further information please go to: <https://www.nhsin-form/scot> Please remember that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, please keep them off for 48 hours to ensure bugs are not passed on.



New school menu



The new lunch menu will be out to you soon, and it starts after the Easter holiday. A different menu, it looks tasty, and there's no change in cost. Please remember to talk to your child about their choices each day, to help reduce confusion when kids order. We're currently taking part in a school Eco activity of measuring our waste food...it's terrible to see how much we throw away! 111 kg of food in a month! If only we had a pet pig. But we don't...so encourage your child to eat all their food, only pack things into packed lunches that you know your child will eat, and help reduce waste where you can.



Use of Seesaw and School App

Just checking...are you all on Seesaw and the School App? These are our easiest and quickest ways of contacting parents...it will be very important in the next few weeks to keep communications simple and easy. If you are not on these two systems, you could be missing out! Please do so as soon as you can. Call the office for help if you need it.

Talent Show

We know the children at Balhousie are brilliant...and today we are enjoying the talents of some at our Talent Show. I would like to say 'well done' to the children who have confidence to perform in front of others, and we hope to put a photo on the school app at the end of the day, showing you our winners. A big thank you to Morrisons Supermarket, who very kindly sponsored the Talent Show by providing 7 very tasty Easter Eggs as prizes!



Parent Contact sessions



Don't forget, on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week we have 1-1 parent contact sessions for you with your child's teacher. This is a chance for you to hear how your child is progressing with their learning, and how you can support them further at home. Please arrive on time for your appointment. Appointments last between 8-9 minutes and we can't run over...that upsets the queue!

Please arrive via the gym hall door where we will be there to greet you. Education requires a team around the child – and YOU are the most important part of that. So, keep talking to your child, build listening and thinking skills, play games and develop an inquisitive nature where children want to learn, ask questions and develop themselves. How much you do this, will determine how well your child learns in school.

Mrs Whittet

Head Teacher