

Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter - December 2023

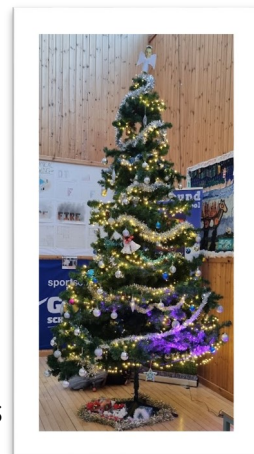
A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!



SCHOOL UPDATE

Term 2 has fairly flown past and we have managed to include so much already including Art Trips, Science Trips, Netball Trips, Children In Need, Open Night/Games Night, Bring Your Parent To School Day (P4), Primary Parents Evening and Secondary Reports (out next week).

This is also one of the busiest times of the year and one of the most exciting for pupils and staff - as we all get into the festive mood. The pupils have already decorated the tree in the main hall as well as put up decorations around the school. The P7 and S4 pupils are beginning to organise their Christmas Parties and School Dance. And the pupils have been learning lyrics to songs and carols in the lead up to the Christmas Concert. There certainly is a buzz about the school and we look forward to the last few weeks of term. A reminder too, that we have a selection of Christmas Jumpers and clothing on the swap shop rail in the front porch - feel free to browse and take anything you like, at no cost.



The Christmas Tree
Decorated By S4

I would like to take the opportunity at this point in the year to thank parents and the wider community for your continued support and I look forward to working together during 2024.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

STAFFING INFORMATION

There have been a few changes to staffing which are important to share with parents.

We are currently without a Music Teacher as Mr Wood has taken up a different role in MYJHS. We are covering this internally until Mrs Strachan returns full time in February. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in being a Music Instructor - we could explore options for getting the PVG clearance in order to work in school. Please contact the Head Teacher to find out more information about this. We have also lost Ms L Nicholson 1 day per week, as she takes up a promoted role in MYJHS - meaning Mr Spence will share some of the Social Studies periods during the week.

Ms Albutt (our Early Years Senior Practitioner) is leaving us at the end of Term. She will be a huge miss and the whole school community wish her well in the future. This position will be advertised soon.

And Mrs Hunter has been offered the position of Principal Teacher of Pupil Support and she will hopefully take up this role in the New Year. She will join Mr Spence (DHT) and Mr Thomson (HT) as the Senior Management Team for the school.

TERM DATES

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|----------------------------|---|
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS: | Sat 23rd Dec - Mon 8th Jan (first day back Tue 9th Jan) |
| EASTER HOLIDAYS: | Fri 29th Mar - Sun 14th Apr (first day back Mon 15th Apr) |
| LONG WEEKEND: | Fri 23rd Feb & Mon 26th Feb |
| OCCASIONAL DAYS: | Fri 29th March + 1 date set by Parent Council |
| SUMMER HOLIDAYS: | Sat 29th Jun - Tue 15th Aug (first day back Wed 16th Aug) |

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

EARLY YEARS

Our Early Years pupils have been out and about more often than not - and we even squeezed in a visit to see a new house being built.



PRIMARY

We had a very successful Bring Your Parent To School Day (P4) in which the parents got to learn alongside their child for the day. A great experience which allows parents to see what they are learning, how they learn, the interaction between children and school staff, how they socialise and what they eat/drink in a school day. For many, this is more valuable than a school report as it shows real insight into what a child's day looks like and it may also explain why they are tired when they get home! There's a lot that goes into a school day in BJHS!

Our Christmas Concert rehearsals are in full swing, with the hall reverberating with sound throughout the week. We are all sure they will be in great voice on the night.

We also had a lot of fun for our Open Night / Games Night - it was brilliant to see so many of our community in school. The pupils enjoyed showing family members around the school and highlighting what they have been learning. The pupils were also very active running stalls for fun and to raise funds for the school and the school dance.



SECONDARY

Our Secondary pupils have been busy learning about printmaking, mindfulness, cells & microbes, ethics, factorising, creating Christmas stockings, native Americans, gymnastics, perspective drawing, French food & drink and app development.

And a huge well done to Erin Spence who won the Shetland Young Sportsperson of the Year Award - an amazing achievement.



END OF TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY / CHISTMAS DINNER:

Thu 14th December

SCHOOL CONCERT:

Tue 19th December @ 6pm.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES & P7-S4 SCHOOL DANCE:

Thu 21st December

LAST DAY:

Fri 22nd December. Normal finish at 2pm.

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE