

Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter - May 2021

A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!

Compiled and put together by the S1 class and BJHS staff.



SCHOOL UPDATE

We are now well into Term 4 and it's great to see all the pupils and staff back in school full time. This term is slightly shorter than normal (11 weeks) as we started the school year a week earlier in August last year. Although, we still hope to accomplish a lot, as the weather improves and allows us to be outside more.

This first newsletter of Term 4 allows me the opportunity to share information on our staffing situation. We now have Mrs Tarby in our Science post (Mon/Tue/Fri) and Mrs Johnson (having returned from Maternity Leave) is teaching our Lower Primary with Mrs Fordyce; Mrs Fordyce has also taken on the role of Early Years teacher following Mrs Dobbing who left the post at Christmas time. We are currently advertising for a Learning Support Worker to work in our Early Years department.

Keeping with the staffing theme, pupils may also see some of our staff more often than normal. This is because our Lower Primary class is the biggest class in the school and it is imperative that we ensure our youngest learners build solid foundations in literacy and numeracy. So we have dedicated some of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to allow Mrs Johnson and Mrs Fordyce to be in school more often this term - working with smaller groups and supporting them back into school.

As we move through this term, we will see more parents and staff members receiving their COVID vaccinations, and as restrictions begin to ease, we all genuinely look forward to a summer of more opportunity for all of us.

And as always, if you feel the school could support you in any way, please get in touch.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

TERM DATES AND OTHER INFO

There was a bit of confusion over term dates, although the Local Authority have now agreed on the dates below.

SECONDARY IN SERVICE 1:	Thu 20th May - only Early Years and Primary pupils in school
MAY LONG WEEKEND:	Fri 21st & Mon 24th are holidays for everyone
SECONDARY IN SERVICE 2:	Fri 11th Jun - only Early Years and Primary pupils in school
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:	Fri 25th June
SUMMER HOLIDAYS:	Mon 28th Jun - Tue 17th Aug (return on Wed 18th Aug)

Hopefully as the term moves on and restrictions ease further, we may see opportunity for whole school or parental events.

As this will depend on local and national guidance at the time, when we know more about this, we will share it with you as soon as possible.



BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

EARLY YEARS

Our Early Years are always busy - so busy in fact, that they have their own newsletter - available on our school website. Our learning thus term has involved enjoying messy play, telling jokes, making potions, syringe painting, den making, growing strawberries and much more.



LOWER PRIMARY

Our Lower Primary class have been learning about climate (with Mrs Johnson) and Growth & Life Cycles (with Mrs Fordyce). Our Talk 4 Writing programme is seeing huge improvements in our creative writing and in our vocabulary.

We have also begun the process of understanding our outdoor spaces. Finding out from the pupils and the staff what we like about our outdoor areas, what we dislike and what we would like to see.



UPPER PRIMARY / SECONDARY

Our Upper Primary class have been learning about democracy and citizenship. In class, they organised and ran their own election in the lead up to the Scottish Parliament election.

In class, the Green party managed to win most votes with their commitment to explore a 4 day working week proving popular!

Transitioning from P7 into S1 has been making progress, with our new S1 class getting to meet all their Secondary teachers and take part in lessons in their new classrooms.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In school we have been evaluating our improvement areas for the past year. Raising Attainment, Recovery & Resilience and Embedding Our School Values were the priorities this year and some of these may continue into next year.

We will be sending out questionnaires soon to parents to find out what you feel we should be working on and improving during 2021/2022. And as we get your feedback, we will be looking for parents and members of the community to help us with these improvements.