

Baltasound Junior High School

Newsletter - September 2023

A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!



SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome back to the new school year at Baltasound JHS. Hopefully you have all had the chance to have a break and enjoy the days of nice weather we had over the Summer.

As we are now back in the swing and getting up to speed, this is a good time to share school updates and progress, as well as our plans for the year ahead.

As we leave the COVID days behind us, we have all enjoyed increasing the number of times parents can access the school to see what we are learning. This year, we intend to continue with that and look to see what further opportunities could be offered for parents and the community to come into school.

An area mentioned heavily in the end of year feedback form was to look into ways we could brighten up the school and really make it a place that inspires our children to learn. So, one of our improvement targets this year is to see what we could put into place; a long term and short term action plan that we would like our community to be part of. If you would like to help us with this, it would be great to have you on-board.

And as we always say, if there is any aspect of the school you would like to discuss, don't wait for the end of year feedback form; email, phone or arrange to come in and speak at any time throughout the year.



BJHS Firefighters

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

STAFFING INFORMATION

This year we have more than 50 pupils in Primary which means we are now a 3 teacher Primary Department. So, joining our Primary team of Mrs Fordyce/Mrs Johnson (Lower Primary) and Miss Nicholson (Middle Primary), we welcome Miss Corry (Upper Primary).

Our core Early Years team consists of Mrs Fordyce, Miss Albutt, Mrs Julie Thomson and Miss Jaclyn Thomson. Our Secondary staffing is as last year, with Peter Wood continuing to cover our Music Teacher role and Mr Thomson teaching Business/Computing; the money this saves is used to strengthen our ASN provision and provide more Learning Support Workers in school.

FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS

We shared a letter about our School Improvement Priorities this year. As well as this we are acting on further suggestions around homework changes for Secondary, recognising more non-sporting achievements and getting outside more.

TERM DATES

OCTOBER HOLIDAYS:	Sat 7th Oct - Tue 24th Oct (first day back Wed 25th Oct)
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 team are always busy and as usual, making the most of our outside spaces. In Early Years, we have been revisiting our school values (**ready, respectful** and **safe**) as well as getting to know ourselves.

As we read "Rosie's Walk", we are also having lots of adventures around the school and playground.

We have also been busy preparing for the Unst Show.



PRIMARY

Our Lower Primary pupils are learning about People Who Help Us - including the fire service who came in this week to show pupils what equipment is on the fire engine and how it is used.

Middle Primary pupils have been learning about friendship and kindness whilst our Upper Primary students have been improving their French skills (with many of them singing French songs as they leave each day!) as well as learning about biomes and eco-systems.



SECONDARY

Our Secondary pupils are learning about Online and Kitchen Safety, Converting To Binary, Keith Haring Inspired Artwork, reading War Horse, Power/Roots/Factors, Holidays in French, Basketball, comparing Urban and Rural Geography as well as technical drawing using AutoCAD Inventor.

And also a huge well done to Erin in S4, who represented Scotland at netball recently; playing in a UK-wide tournament down in England. A lot of hard work and dedication paying off - well done Erin!

