Dear Parents and Carers, Date: 04 November 2016

We have a very busy week at school next week. On **Wednesday** after school, a Family Focus group of children and adults will meet for craft and then eat tea together. There are still spaces available if you wish to join this group. It is free to all participants. Please contact me directly if you wish further information.

Family and individual photographs is always great fun. Please remember that you may dress your child in either casual clothes or school uniform for the photograph but I would like to have the children wear uniform for the remainder of the school day. This will take place on **Thursday.**

Also on **Thursday,** we have an inspection from our council colleagues. This is very important for the school. The whole reputation of Balhousie is at stake and the report we get can really help the school. As always, I would encourage great manners and behaviour, confident children who can speak to adults about what they are learning and how they can improve and cheerful and happy pupils who recognise the value of learning both in and out of school. Please take a few minutes to discuss these matters with your child/children.

During Parent Contact evenings, the Welfare Rights team will be with us to serve tea/coffee. The benefits system is changing and this team is here to help you maximise any benefits you are entitled to. I cannot speak highly enough of the great work this team does in supporting families. Please take the opportunity to make contact with the team so that you can get as much help as you are entitled to. I have written a statement below that comes directly from the team.

**“Don’t Miss Out!**

A worker from the Council’s Welfare Rights Team will be available at our parents’ evenings. The Welfare Rights Team offers free, confidential and impartial advice on any aspect of the benefits system. Whether you are in work or not, you may be missing out on benefit entitlement. Benefits are changing and your income may be affected by some recent changes. If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit this may reduce because of a new change called the Benefit Cap. The Welfare Rights Team expect this to affect families with three children or more.

You can find out more about the Welfare Rights Team at [www.pkc.gov.uk/welfarerights](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/welfarerights) and the Benefit Cap at [www.pkc.gov.uk/benefitcap](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/benefitcap) . To keep up to date with changes to the benefits system, you can also like the Welfare Rights Team’s Facebook page: PKC Welfare Rights Team”

Finally – We have very mixed emotions today as Mrs. Crossley leaves us for a few months while she has her baby and then spends time looking after her new arrival. We will miss Mrs. Crossley, but as a school, we share in her joy as she looks forward to the life-changing experience of parenthood. We wish Mrs. Crossley every blessing at this time in her life and look forward to her return to school later in the session.