**Balhousie Primary School Date: Friday 23rd September**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Jeans for Genes:** Thank you for your support of “Jeans for Genes”. Well done to P3/4 for organising this event. The total raised today was £145.

**Primary 1-3 lunches**: Lunches are entirely free for all P1-3 children. All the children need to do is order a lunch and is will be provided for them. Some children are bringing a packed lunch as well as a ordering a school lunch. Where possible, please keep to a school lunch only. This will prevent unnecessary food wastage.

**Animals in the school grounds:**  May I remind you that pets are not allowed in the school grounds. We had an unfortunate incident recently where a few children were covered in dog mess. Please avoid this happening by keeping pets away from the school grounds and gates.

**Data forms:** Thank you to those who have returned the data forms. I would be grateful if all forms could be returned, no later than Thursday 29th September.

**New Lunch Order System and Parent Pay:** By November, all children will be ordering their own school lunches daily, using the classroom computers. This is a simple procedure for children. It does however work most effectively with Parent Pay. I would encourage all families to get onto Parent Pay as soon as possible. It honestly is easy to use! It will avoid the normal upset that comes with lost dinner money and lack of change. If you cannot find your Parent Pay details, please contact Miss. Murray in the school office.

**School Clubs:** By October, we will be running the following clubs from school: Homework Club for P3-7 (Monday 3-4pm), Table Tennis for P6/7 (Tuesday lunchtime), Netball for P5-7 (Tuesday 3-4pm), Super Club (P5-7 over lunchtime on Fridays) and Badminton Club (Friday 3-4pm). We can run more but we also need more parent power to do so. If you can help with a club then I will be very pleased to hear from you.

**Meet the Dads:** Mr. Ferguson will be approaching a number of dads with a view to sharing a roll and coffee and talking about school. The first get together will take place next Thursday 29th September at 09:00 in Mr. Ferguson’s office. If you would like to come along to this, please make this known to Mr. Ferguson directly.

**P7 Outdoor Education:** The learning and attitude in P.7 is very good and we want to keep it this way. We also want to recognise the effort of young people who are consistently demonstrating high standards in school. Mr. Buchan and I have discussed a number of options with the pupils. A single day of e.g. kayaking, abseiling etc. will cost approximately £20 per pupil. Another option is skiing for the winter months, again with similar costs. A third option is to combine two days with one night residential, with an approximate cost of around £60. Only trained and validated PKC instructors will be used. Where possible, the school would try to help pupils raise some money and it will always be my intention to keep costs as low as possible. I would encourage parents to pay up any costs over time. Parent Pay can be set up to help manage this. Please let me know how you feel about any or all of these options. The school e-mail is: Balhousie@pkc.gov.uk

**Curriculum afternoon**: On **Wednesday 5th October**, the school will be open between **2-3 pm** for a curriculum afternoon. This will be a bit different from normal because we are going to ask the children to lead it. They will let you see their work and give a talk about assessment feedback in school. It may sound a bit dull but it is really how children learn to get better on a daily basis. I will give out a separate invitation next week.

**Raising Standards in Scotland:** The government has recently produced very clear guidance to school in relation to expectations in literacy and numeracy. This new guidance is currently open for consultation within the profession. There can be no doubt that the government is giving a very clear message about what the expectations are to be for all pupils. As a staff at Balhousie, we will embrace this challenge willingly and in order to do so, we also ask that families partner with us to support each and every young people in school. I am happy to discuss the consultation document with any parent or carer.

**Feedback:** I will welcome honest feedback (both good and bad) about how we are doing as a school. It is easier to make improvements if we get a steer from pupils and families. Please e-mail me your thoughts using the school e-mail above.

Yours Sincerely

Peter.D. Ferguson

(Headteacher)