**Balhousie Primary School Date: 25 October 2016**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see the children return to school yesterday. They were looking very smart and seemed to be happy to be back into a routine. As a staff, we were really pleased to see the children. The good relationships between staff and children at Balhousie make for a notably happy school where children and staff work extremely well together. Thank you to parents and children alike for making such an effort to keep the school this way.

I have listed below a number of important dates in the school calendar over the next term. I hope that this will help you as you plan ahead.

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| Date | Event | Time |
| 10/11/16 | Tempest individual photographs | From 09:00 |
| 10/11/16 | School internal inspection of learning (ELAV) run by Perth and Kinross Council. | 09:00-15:00 |
| 17/11/16 | In-service training. School closed to pupils. | 09:00-17:00 |
| 18/11/16 | In-service training. School closed to pupils. | 09:00-17:00 |
| 21/11/16 | New lunch ordering system goes live for pupils. | From 09:00 |
| 07/12/16 | Flouride varnishing for nursery to P.4 | From 09:00 |
| 13/12/16 | Pantomime at Horsecross. | 10:00-12:30 (Lunch arrangements will be unchanged.) |
| 16/12/16 | Flu Immunisation | 13:00 |
| 21/12/16 | School Christmas concert in school hall. | 13:30 |
| 23/12/16 | Holidays begin | 12:00 |

* Poppies will be on sale around classes or at the office for adults on the week commencing Monday 31st October.
* It is worth noting that school uniform should be worn for the Tempest school photographs.
* The ELAV is a very important inspection for the school. We want to prove the uniqueness of Balhousie as well as the high quality of learning and teaching, welfare and care and Child Protection. Please help us by: firstly, stressing the importance of this visit to both children and staff, secondly, by helping your child to come to school neatly dressed  in a way that shows Balhousie in a positive light and thirdly, by talking to your child about what the school has been focussing on this year – development of language through talk, feedback about learning, involvement of the pupils in setting learning targets and creating profiles and in making sure that the needs of individuals are fully met through the organisation of language and maths groups across the classes.
* In order for children to use the self-ordering lunch system, it is extremely important that parents make use of the Parent Pay system in advance of the system going live. Every family who has signed up to Parent Pay by Friday 18th November will be entered into a prize draw. Three prizes will be issued for the first, second and third names drawn out of the hat.
* Pantomime tickets will cost in the region of £7 per ticket. It would be great if every child could attend this event. The tickets are massively reduced because we bought them in bulk.
* The school concert will involve a musical nativity from the younger classes and a selection of Christmas songs and music from the older pupils. All adults should be seated by 13:20.
* Christmas parties will be kept simple this year. Each class will share in a traditional Christmas party with games and activities organised by staff. Dates have still to be confirmed but they will be held on the last week of term.

**Attendance at School**

* Today I have been looking closely at our attendance statistics. Well done to the 51 children who have 100% attendance so far! I do however need to encourage all other families to make sure that children attend school unless they are particularly ill or infectious. Along with both Perth and Kinross Council and the Scottish Government, I am keen to ensure that children get the most from school. This can only be the case if they come to school as much as possible. At times, this may mean that a child will still attend school with a minor ailment – such as a cold or a sore head. As parents, you have to make this judgement. It can often be the case that when children know that school attendance is the norm, they frequently make a speedy recovery to normal health once they meet their friends at school. Please help your child by setting school attendance as the norm and by establishing the view that only serious or notifiable illness will prevent your son or daughter from coming to school.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Peter D Ferguson

Headteacher