Date: Tuesday 16th August 2016

 Balhousie Primary School

 Telephone: 01738 472222

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was so good to see your children at school today. The boys and girls look wonderful in their new, clean school uniforms and I was delighted to see so many smiling faces. I hope that you had a wonderful holiday with your families and I am equally sure that you will be glad to see some routine established as the holidays end. Coming back to school to be with children and their families is a real joy for every member of staff.

As I made my way round every class today, I was impressed by the high standard of manners and behaviour. As a school, we expect no less and we strive to strengthen the already excellent reputation we hold for this in Perth and Kinross. At assembly today, we emphasised the importance of, “please, thank you” and of the general benefits of mannerly respect and mutual help. As parents, I am sure that you will also support this emphasis.

Welcome especially to our new P.1 pupils and to a few children who have joined us from other schools. Primary 1 started very well today, with a very settled and content first morning. Well done!

**Classes**

This session, we also welcome a number of new staff. Mrs. Gibb will be teaching the P.2 class, Mrs. Cousland has joined us to work in nursery, Mrs. Erdelyi is out new Support for Learning teacher and we are soon to be joined by Mrs. Gray as a Support for Learning Assistant. We will also welcome back Mrs. Hannah after a period of maternity leave.

Class teachers for this session are as follow:

Primary 1 – Mrs. Crossley

Primary 2 – Mrs. Gibb

Primary 3 / 4 - Mrs. Robertson

Primary 4 – Miss. Crabbie

Primary 5/6 - Mrs. Dormer

Primary 6/7 – Mr. Buchan

**School Plans**

Very shortly, I will send out a calendar of school events for all families. Please also look at our website: [www.balhousieprimary.weebly.com](http://www.balhousieprimary.weebly.com)   As a school, we also hope to change the emphasis of family work so that it will be led more by pupils and less by staff. Our overall aim is to have families meaningfully involved in all aspects of a child’s learning, both in and out of school. We also aim for children to take more ownership of learning in all areas of school life.

**Parent Pay**

As you know, wherever possible, school lunches should be paid for via Parent Pay. If you have forgotten your password, please do not hesitate to contact the school and a new password will be sent out. Please keep an eye on your school lunch balance. A number of people may have forgotten to top up their credit and I do not wish any debt to build up for our families.

**Practical matters**

Primary 1 will finish daily at 12:00 until Friday 26th August. They will begin a full time day until 3pm on Monday 29th August.

Art will normally be taught on a Monday. It would be a great help if you could provide your child with a used adult shirt in order to protect their clothes.

P.E. will always take place on Friday and at least at one other time. P.E. kit should be brought to school clean on a Monday and taken home for washing on a Friday. It will remain at school during the week.

**Parent Council**

The Parent Council will welcome you to both formal and informal events. We always need dedicated parents to support the children and families in school. I will ask the Parent Council to write a newsletter so that you know who to speak to about Parent Council events.

**Finally**

As a staff, we are aware that many of you will have had very happy holidays whilst for others, they have been marred by sadness and upset. Please be assured of the support of staff with your child in all the events of life. If you have any matter that requires discussion with staff, please do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment.

Kind regards,

Peter D. Ferguson

Head Teacher