

The School Day

The bell goes at 9.00am for the start of the school day. School finishes at 3.25pm. When children come into the classroom they will:

- Hang up their coat on their peg.
- Hang up their book bag on the stand and place their snack and water bottle in the tray.
- Self register by choosing what they would like for lunch.
- Choose where they would like to play first.

Lunch: At lunchtime your child can have a packed lunch prepared at home and brought into school, or a school dinner. Lunchtime is between 12pm -1.05pm, when the children can eat lunch and then play with their friends. If you wish to pay for a school dinner the cost is currently £2.30 a day and must be paid for in advance. You can pay online with ParentPay or by cash or cheque. You will be sent a ParentPay activation letter in the first week of term. If your child is entitled to free school meals click on the below link to complete the online application form. <https://www.gov.im/categories/education-training-and-careers/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-free-school-travel-application-form/>. There will be a selection of different meals available each day for your child to choose from. Vegetarian options are always available. Please let us know if your child has any other dietary restrictions or requirements.

Snacks: Children can bring healthy snacks to have in school each day (no crisps or chocolate please). In our classroom we have a 'rolling snack' area which means the children choose when they want to eat. The snack area provides a language rich environment where staff can actively support children's speech, language and communication. Learning through play is hungry work! So we suggest providing a healthy snack for the morning and afternoon where possible.

Drinks: Children can bring a water bottle to school each day. A cold water fountain is available throughout the day, to top up their water bottles. Water will be provided at lunchtimes for children on school dinners. It is recommended to provide a drink that is separate to the classroom water bottle for children on packed lunches.

Uniform

Purple cardigans, sweatshirts and polo shirts with the school logo on can be purchased from school or directly from Promenade Shirts Ltd. You can also use white polo shirts without the school logo. A uniform order form will be sent out to you soon.

School tops can be worn with any plain dark (black, grey, navy) leggings, jogging bottoms or school trousers or skirt. Whatever your child is comfiest in.

Footwear can be black school shoes or trainers. Velcro fastening shoes or something your child can fasten themselves is important as we will often be swapping into wellies to go outdoors.

One free book bag will be given to each child when they start school. They will need to bring this into school everyday. Letters and reading books to share together at home will go inside.

PE Wednesday: Our main day for PE is a Wednesday. We have no special kit for PE. Children do their PE lesson in their school uniform top and a pair of leggings or joggers that they wear to school that day, along with a pair of trainers.

- Please ensure that all clothing that your child wears or brings into school, is clearly named.

Outdoor Learning

'The best kept classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky'

Outdoor play is very important at Ballasalla School and the children are permitted to play on the field even when it is muddy as long as they have a pair of wellies in school.

In Reception, children have their own, secure outdoor classroom, which we are in the process of revamping! We value outdoor learning and encourage the children to access this area on a regular basis. Here they have space to have loud, messy play and they can practice a range of skills from across the curriculum.

Forest school: At Ballasalla school we are fortunate to work closely with Isle of Play. Every year group across the school will get a turn at Forest School, which takes place in Silverdale glen. Reception class usually go in the summer term when the weather is lovely and sunny!



Parents as Partners

We really value partnerships with our parents and carers. You will play a key part in your child's learning journey. Please let us know your child's interests and achievements outside of school. Reading to your child and encouraging them to read to you is very important. Your child will bring a reading book home from day one in school, along with a reading record for you to record when you have heard your child read at home. We will also write in the reading record when your child has read in school so it is an important two-way communication. We will offer more ideas for support with the specific areas of learning once your child has settled into school life. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.



Collins
BIG CAT





Looking Ahead

What to get ready:

- Named Uniform
- A named water bottle
- A named snack box
- Named pair of wellies
- Named packed lunch box (if required)

Keep in touch

Health: Staff need to be aware of your child's medical background, in particular any allergies (e.g. bee stings, dairy food), any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian) and any medical conditions that are important for us to know (e.g. asthma or eczema).

Email: If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child starting with us please do not hesitate to email us at BallasallaEnquiries@sch.im and we will do our best to support you.

Website: Please check out our school website <https://ballasalla.sch.im> or our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ballasallaschool/> to find out more about life at Ballasalla Primary School.

Home Learning: As your child starts school there are some things you can do to support them and their independence. These are important to developing the prime areas of learning which will help your child settle and enjoy the exciting journey into school. Please check out '**The Journey into Ballasalla Primary School**' on our website.

We look forward to working with both you and your child in the near future.

Miss Lister

