



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

"In all that we do we are guided by God"



## JULY NEWSLETTER

[parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk)

*We do have learners with allergies, so please remember – no nuts in school.*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that we are so nearly at the end of another academic year. As always, it has flown by and we have managed to cram lots in. We would love you to join us for our final **celebration assembly at just after 9am on the last day of term** if you are free; it is an opportunity to look back over the past year, celebrate our successes and say a final goodbye to our year 6 pupils. **All parents are welcome.**

### Staffing

Sadly, we say goodbye to two members of staff at the end of this term.

Mrs Audrey Kirby will be retiring and Miss Alesha O'Farrell is moving on to pastures new. We will miss them hugely, thank them for the dedication and commitment that they have shown to the school and wish them both well in the future.

From September, Mrs Rachel Bolland will be Teaching Assistant (TA) working in Mill each morning, in addition to working as learning mentor two afternoons per week, Mrs Emma Percy will be TA in Spring and Mrs Bryony Jobling will be back as TA in Lake each afternoon. Mrs Jo Tester will also be a TA working around the school each afternoon.

I am pleased to say that Mrs Dunsby and Mrs Smith will continue to share the role of class

teacher for Forest next year. Mrs Dunsby will teach on a Monday and Tuesday, with Mrs Smith taking over from Wednesday to Friday.

### Meet the Teachers – Dates for your diaries

At the beginning of the school year, we like to invite parents to a short meeting to meet your child's new teacher (if you haven't already) and find out a little about how the class will be run and what they'll be learning over the next academic year.

These meetings take place directly after school, lasting about 30-40 minutes and we run a crèche for school aged children. We hope that you can join us.

Dates are:

Mill	Monday 4th September
Spring	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September
Forest	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Coombe	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
Lake	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September

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## Looking After Our Environment

Yesterday in assembly, we talked about looking after our environment and the Countryside Code. I have just discovered that Natural England are running a competition to design a poster to promote this. The time frame is rather tight, but please see the attached flyer if your child is interested in entering. Please note – we ask that you email your child's entry directly to the address on the flyer.

## Inspiring Young Minds day for Years 4 and 5 at Ardingly College



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, we went to an Inspiring Young Minds day at Ardingly College. We were greeted and taken to a marquee where we were entertained by some interesting dances performed by some pupils, before being taken to our workshops.

One of our favourite activities was making the solar-powered car where we made prototypes of them, raced them, and our team (Team Potatoes) came second place. Our second favourite activity was the French Market where we bought French food with fake Euros and spoke in French the whole time. We also saw a fascinating presentation about science with Professor Steve that included many experiments

that were interactive. We also learned about the concept of 'Tan' angles to estimate the height of different places in Ardingly College. It was a competition to see who could get the closest to the actual height. Yet again, we came second and got Haribos as a reward and the team that came first got a chocolate flake.

The other group got to enjoy workshops such as psychology (where they learnt how the brain can be tricked), physics (where they made rainbows out of Skittles' food colouring and a sunset from milk) and music (where they accompanied music using cups, boom whackers and drums). We all enjoyed the day and every one found out a little bit more.

**By Bethany, Varvara, Lily and Isla**



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## OV & Breakfast Club

As most of you are aware, we have been managing OV and Breakfast Clubs to help them establish regular numbers and help with the start-up administration. It has always been our intention to pass these over once numbers were steady and set up complete. From September, the hope is that Breakfast Club and OV club will both be running independently, but for now please continue with the current booking arrangements. We will provide more details as soon as we are able to.

Thank you for your support in establishing these clubs.

## Reminders ....

- Don't forget to encourage your child to join in with our reading challenge which ends on Friday.
- We now have a clothing bank in our lower car park. A good way to recycle unwanted clothing and generate more funds for the school.

## Dates for your diary

- Thurs 6 July** – Year 6 Leavers Service @ Christ's Hospital, Service at 10.45am  
**Tues 11 July** – Junior Production @ 7pm  
**Thurs 13 July** – Junior Production @ 7pm  
**Mon 17 July** – Pizza Party for Year 6  
**Thurs 20 July** – Leavers Service @ St Mary's Church @ 1.30pm  
**Fri 21 July** – End of term @ 3.15pm  
**Fri 21 July** – FoBS Frozen Friday @ 3.15pm  
**Fri 1 Sept** – INSET DAY, School Closed  
**Mon 4 Sept** – Autumn Term Starts  
**Mon 4 Sept** – Mill Class Meet the Teacher  
**Tues 5 Sept** – Spring Class Meet the Teacher  
**Weds 6 – Fri 8 Sept** – Bowles Trip Y5 & Y6  
**Weds 6 Sept** – Coombe Class Meet the Teacher  
**Thurs 7 Sept** – Lake Class Meet the Teacher  
**Fri 8 Sept** – Forest Class Meet the Teacher  
**Fri 29 Sept** – INSET DAY, School Closed  
**Mon 2 Oct** – INSET DAY, School Closed

**INSET DAYS: 1, 29 SEPT, 2 OCT 2023, 19 FEB, 3 JUNE 2024**

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## Fundraising for School

Amazon wish lists will remain open should you wish to purchase anything for your child's class.

Donate with  
**JustGiving**

**Remember to join easyfundraising and Amazon Smile and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online. It won't cost you a penny extra, so please help us to raise funds.**  
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/balcombprimary>

## REMINDER

### Pupil Premium

If you are on a low income making a FSM application can greatly benefit your child.

It is often thought that parents of children in KS1 who currently receive Universal Free School Meals do not need to make a Free School Meals Application for the school to receive Pupil Premium. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE.**

**Please contact the office if you think you may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Any accepted applications for Free School Meals (whether or not your child takes the meal up) attract over £1300 per child per year which the school can use to greatly enhance the resources available for your child both within the classroom and for extra-curricular activities. We may be able to help with school uniform costs, trips and other extra-curricular activities like swimming and music tuition.**

**Making an application is easy and confidential.**