



Balcombe

Church of England Primary School

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

APRIL NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

*We do have learners with allergies, so please remember – **NO NUTS** in school.*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start this newsletter by saying a massive **thank you** to our amazing volunteers who came to the working party on Saturday, to paint, drill, dig, weed and build to repair and enhance our outdoor environment. Some came for the whole morning, others gave an hour or so that they had spare, but all worked hard to make a positive difference for our pupils.

Thanks to our volunteers and some of their children, we now have a beautifully painted PE shed, buddy bench and fence in Lake's outside area, The roof of the Pod is fixed, Spring's garden is tidy, there are two digging pits for the children to use and it seems we've been invaded by pirates!

Thank you all so much for giving up your time. There are some photos of the workers in action on the website.

If you weren't able to come on Saturday but would be happy to help with something similar, you'll be pleased to know that we are planning another working party in the summer term, date to be advised soon. We have lots of ideas for lovely things that we can do to support our children's learning and play, most of which don't cost a fortune but do need man or woman power!

Warm Wishes
Wendy Millbanks

Families from Ukraine

You may well be aware that many of the residents of Balcombe are keen to support families forced to leave their homes in Ukraine. In addition to sending money, clothes, toys and other items to support the work going on in bordering countries, some households in the village have decided to become sponsors of a Ukrainian family and offer them a temporary home here. I understand that the first Ukrainian family are due to arrive in a week or so with a few others in the following weeks.

Some of these families will include primary school age children and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them, into not only our village community, but also our school. West Sussex Local Authority have said that these children will need to go through the usual admissions procedure, so it may take a little while to organise, but we hope that we will be able to offer some provision early on in the Summer Term.

Aside from coping with the trauma of what has happened to them, the children will obviously find the language barrier difficult, at least initially. With this in mind, we would welcome volunteers to come into school to help integrate our new arrivals, whether it be to play games, to help with learning, or just to be a "go to" adult. We have already had offers from three members of the community to help, some with

very welcome language skills, but would still appreciate more. If you would be willing and able to give up some free time, please contact the school office so that we can ensure that all DBS checks can be carried out.

Nature Ninjas

The heavy groundwork on the Nature Ninjas site has now been completed, which means that from the start of the Summer Term, our Nature Ninja sessions will start. More information about this will be sent separately.

Pupils with Covid

When children feel too unwell to attend school they should remain at home until they feel better, irrespective of any symptoms they may be exhibiting. In the case of Covid, the NHS website now lists possible symptoms as:

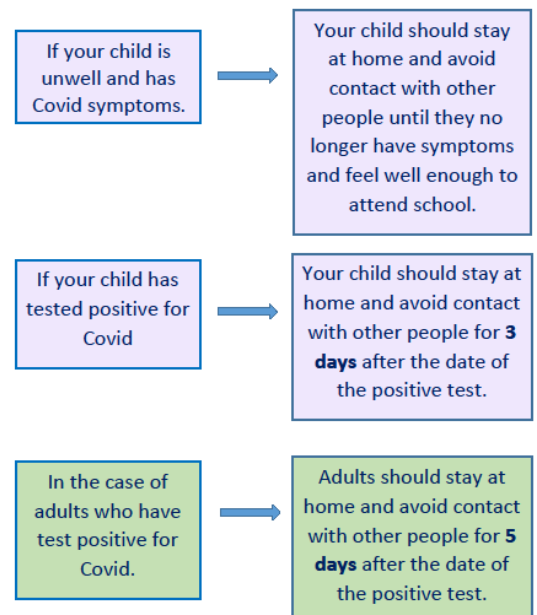
- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

Following the advice from the Department for Education, we ask that children with Covid remain away from school for **at least three days**

after exhibiting symptoms and do not return even when feeling better, if they still have a **high temperature**. Any child with a high temperature, even with no other symptoms should be kept at home.

We appreciate that Lateral flow Tests are now harder to come by, but in the interests of minimising the spread of Covid within school, would appreciate it if pupils who have had Covid, have a negative LFT before returning.

Guidance regarding staying at home if you or your child have symptoms or have tested positive for Covid is as follows:



Our Curriculum

We have recently updated our curriculum section on our website for your information.

Under each subject area, you will now find general information about why and how we teach each subject in our school, a detailed

progression of the skills/knowledge taught during the time our pupils are with us and an overview to show when each aspect of the subject is taught. Next term, we will be adding useful websites and hopefully some photos of our pupils' brilliant work too.

Children going home with adults other than parents

In order to make things as simple and safe as possible, you will soon receive an email asking you to nominate up to three additional adults who may take your child home. This will mean that there is no need for you to email or ring us if, at short notice, your child needs to be collected by one of the named adults. Until we get this set up, or if you want to give permission for an additional adult, please ring or email the office **on the day in question**. Please **do not** email the class teachers directly as they are unlikely to check emails during the day and if the email is sent several days in advance, it is likely that the message will be forgotten.

Hopefully, the new system will help the efficiency of both parents and the office.

Parents in school

If we are able to keep Covid cases to a minimum as we have been, we are hopeful that following the Easter holiday, we will be able to invite parents back into school more often. For those parents who were not with us pre Covid, we usually have several opportunities for parents to come into school.

Each term, we invite parents to join their children to look at work and see inside the classroom. This is usually either at the start or end of the day for about half an hour. Children love the opportunity to show their work and classroom environment to members of their family and the teachers are on hand to answer any general questions that parents may have. To avoid upset to those young children whose parents (grandparents) are unable to join us, we ask that you let us know you won't be in and we can take the child to another part of the school to engage in a fun activity whilst the session is taking place. A date for this opportunity will be confirmed at the start of the new term.

We will also be inviting parents to join us again for our Celebration Assembly. This is an assembly to celebrate the achievements of some of our children during the week. More details about this will follow after Easter.

Prior to Covid, we had an army of volunteers coming in to school to read with our pupils. We are gradually re-introducing this, so if you have an hour or so free for a regular slot each week, please do let us know. If you would rather help with something more practical, we will be asking for adults to come in on other occasions to help with maths/science activities too.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all of those parents who took part in our survey. We had 50 replies, which is a great response - over half of our families. The results are being analysed and will be shared with you soon.

A Choral Day at Christ's Hospital



On Tuesday the 29th of March, a group of year gives paid a visit to Christ's Hospital for a Choral day. Some featured songs include a Canadian lullaby, as well as a Viking warrior song. Each of us had a wonderful experience at Christ's Hospital, and even though there was no proper version of their famous march that day, they did a mini march, with some fantastic drumming instead! We enjoyed the singing very much, and from the choir songs to just seeing the students with their uniforms, Christ's Hospital is a wonderful place to visit!

Anna, Year 5

Ensemble Reza



Last Wednesday, Spring and Mill had a visit from Ensemble Reza, who are a String quartet. They took us around the world with different pieces of music. We loved the fact that we learned where the instruments (among others a mandolin and a bouzouki) came from and what they were. We were more involved than we expected to be because we got to learn some funky dance moves and the teachers joined in too. It was one of the best afternoons ever!

Eliza and Bethany (Spring)

Maths Challenge



On 23rd March, four children from Year 5 went to Christ's Hospital, one of the most famous schools in England, for a maths competition. The school is particularly known for its traditional uniforms: pantaloons, long yellow socks and full length navy, Tudor robes. Soon after arriving, seemingly out of nowhere, a talented group of children started playing instruments as the whole school paraded, in military style, back to their lessons. It was a spectacular sight to see.

After the parade finished, the maths tournament between 20 schools began. There were five different challenges to test our skills. They were all hard because we only had 8 minutes to complete them, which put everybody under pressure. Our favourite challenge was 'Make

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

24'. We were given a set of numbers and we had to use $\times \div +$ and $-$ to make a total of 24 – a bit like Countdown. We enjoyed this as we were quite good at it thanks to playing Countdown for Early Work on Fridays and also at home.

We didn't come first but that didn't matter as we all had good fun.

Will B and Frank (Spring)

St Mary's Pancake Sale

As you are aware, Denise and her merry band of helpers from the church organised a pancake sale after school and the children decided to donate the money to the Ukraine rather than using it for their own benefit.

An article about this event ran in the Mid Sussex Times and a very generous reader called the School Office and offered to give the same amount of money to the children as she was so impressed by their good deed.

Stationery

Please can we remind our Junior children to have a well-stocked pencil case throughout the year. At the time of writing, we have no glue sticks available in school for anyone!

Stationery List for Juniors

The pencil case should have in it:
Fountain pen (if a pen person – Parker Vector or similar)
Handwriting pen
Pencil
Rubber
Ruler
Pencil sharpener

Glue stick
Whiteboard pens

And also could have:
A green pen for editing
Coloured pencils
Felt tip pens
Highlighter pens
Scissors
Blue ink cartridges (if a pen person)

Dates for your diary

Mon 25th April: Summer Term Starts
Fri 27th May: Queen's Jubilee Celebrations
Mon 30th May – Fri 3rd June: HALF TERM
Mon 6th June: INSET DAY
Thurs 21st July: Summer Term ends

Fundraising for School



[Link to Amazon Smile](#)

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>

INSET DAY - Monday 6 June

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

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.



Ofsted logo and GO WILD logo are at the top. The title 'HAYWARDS HEATH Easter Holiday' is in large green letters. Below it, the location 'Warden Park Primary Academy New England Road, RH16 3JR' and age range '6-12 years - £30 per child' are listed. A list of activities follows: Monday 11/4 - Nerf Apocalypse, Tuesday 12/4 - Campfires and Marshmallows, Wednesday 13/4 - Den Building, Thursday 14/4 - Easter Egg Treasure Hunt, Tuesday 19/4 - Wild Creatures & Reptile Handling, Wednesday 20/4 - MAD Science, Thursday 21/4 - Floor is Lava, Friday 22/4 - Giant Water Catapults. A 10% sibling discount and acceptance of childcare vouchers are noted. A reminder to bring lunch and suitable clothing is included, along with contact information for enquiries and booking.

HAYWARDS HEATH
Easter Holiday
Warden Park Primary Academy New England Road, RH16 3JR
6-12 years - £30 per child
10AM-3PM

Monday 11/4 - Nerf Apocalypse
Tuesday 12/4 - Campfires and Marshmallows
Wednesday 13/4 - Den Building
Thursday 14/4 - Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 19/4 - Wild Creatures & Reptile Handling
Wednesday 20/4 - MAD Science
Thursday 21/4 - Floor is Lava
Friday 22/4 - Giant Water Catapults

10% Sibling / whole week discount
Childcare vouchers / Tax Free Childcare accepted

PLEASE ENSURE CHILDREN HAVE A PACKED LUNCH
& SUITABLE OUTDOOR CLOTHING
ENQUIRES: gowildworkshopsinfo@gmail.com
BOOK ONLINE: www.gowildworkshop.com

Easter Courses and Camps



The poster features a large hen character and several chicks. The title 'Hetty's Easter Adventure' is in large, colorful letters. The dates '9th-24th April' are prominently displayed. Pricing and booking information are provided, along with a description of the story trail activity.

BORDE HILL GARDEN
Hetty's Easter Adventure
9th-24th April

£3 per trail, plus admission to include a prize (FREE to Members*)
Pre-booking required at: www.bordehill.co.uk/bookyourvisit
*Family and Child memberships only

Explore the Garden on an Easter-themed story trail. Help Hetty the Hen find her missing chicks in time for the Easter parade.

www.bordehill.co.uk | 01444 450326 | RH16 1XP, West Sussex



The poster shows a group of children and adults holding various sports equipment like a cricket bat, tennis rackets, and a basketball. The title 'Spring into Action' is in large yellow letters. It lists the dates '9 - 24 April 2022' and describes the 'Taster Fortnight' sessions. It mentions the involvement of Mid Sussex District Council and local sports clubs.

Spring into Action
MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

9 - 24 April 2022

Why not join our Easter School Holidays "Taster Fortnight" Sport and Active Sessions for the whole family.

Mid Sussex District Council is working with local activity groups Mid Sussex Active, Active Sussex and sports clubs to provide free opportunities for families who live in Mid Sussex to try out a range of sports.

Pick a sport you've always wanted to try and go do it!

To book sessions and find out about drop-ins visit www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays

INSET DAY - Monday 6 June