



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



MARCH NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a great day we had on Friday, celebrating World Book Day!

It was lovely to see all of our children dressed up as a huge variety of book characters and talking so enthusiastically about the books from which they came.

The children spent the day engaged in "booky" activities and, I hope, now have an even greater love for books than they did before.

The toilet roll characters that came in to school were amazing and all so different.

We asked Mrs Power to judge and find a winner from each class. Congratulations to:

Jacob, Matilda, Ruby, Izzy and Joseph, who each received a book token which we hope they will enjoy spending



For more photos of the day, please see our website.

SIAMS Inspection

As you are aware, we had a statutory inspection as a Church of England school last week. Once the final report arrives, I will share it with you, but a few parents have asked and I wanted to let you know that the day went well. The inspector saw lots of great learning going on and was impressed with the behaviour and caring attitude of our pupils.

Nature Ninjas Working Party

We will be holding another Working Party on Saturday 25th March from 9.30am – 12.30pm. Libby Taylor would be grateful for parent volunteers to help with the following tasks:

- Tree planting
- Creating pathways
- Moving woodchip to pathways
- Clearing areas of bramble
- Creating a large scale weaving loom
- Creating a large scale fence weaving area
- Building a roped support for a steep path
- Removing debris from bottle dump area
- General tidying of the site

Please let the office know if you are able to help.

Comic Relief – 17th March



I am nervous about asking parents to support another fundraising day – we seem to have had a few of these recently, but comic Relief is a charity that we always try to support.

During assemblies this half term, we have been discussing that caring for others, sometimes means putting them first, even if it is difficult to do so. With this in mind, I am keen for the children to do this in order to support this charity. It is very easy for our pupils to dress up and rely on parents to donate some money, so this time, we have decided to run a second hand sale.

I have spoken to the children about finding a few items that they are prepared to give up and donate to our second hand sale. The idea is that they bring some items to donate, but also have a small amount of money to spend on something new. I would hope that some children will be able to spend their own pocket money, thus fully supporting our fundraising cause.

Please will you help them to find something suitable to bring in that is still in good condition and would be appropriate for another child to buy?

Suitable items include:

- Toy vehicles, figures, animals
- Games
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Books
- Computer games
- Cuddly toys
- Hats, scarves and hair accessories.

Items for the sale can be brought in from Monday 13th March.

On the day children may also swap any item(s) of school uniform that they would normally wear for

something red if they wish i.e. a Red Nose Day T shirt, hair band or shoes. We would advise that children **do not bring red noses** into school as they get lost/broken very easily.

Staff news

I am pleased to let you know that Rachel Bolland has returned to work at Balcombe School as our new learning mentor. Rachel worked at the school for many years as a Teaching Assistant and we are delighted to welcome her back in this role. Welcome also to Jo Tester who has also recently joined us in her new role as Teaching Assistant in Lake.

On a sad note, Mrs Rowland will be leaving us at Easter, to take up a teaching post in a school closer to her home. Mrs Rowland has been a highly valued member of our teaching team for many years and we are all very sorry to be losing her. We will miss her positivity and dedication to the job, her singing and computing skills and her never ending willingness to put herself out to help others. I know Forest class will be particularly sad to be losing one of their much loved teachers, but we all wish Mrs Rowland well in her new post. On a personal note, I would like to thank Hannah for her efficiency, professionalism and commitment to, not only Forest class, but our school as a whole. We will all really miss her.

For the Summer term, Mrs Dunsby will be teaching Forest class on a Monday and Tuesday, handing over to Mrs Smith from Wednesday onwards.

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FoBS Events in March

FoBS have several events over the next few weeks. Please volunteer to help out where you can to ensure that they are successful and remember, if you are providing food donations, we need a list of the ingredients to comply with Natasha's Law.

Email pta.balcombe@gmail.com

Balcombe Bull Run Café (12 March)

Cake donations and volunteers to help run the café would be very welcome

Cake Challenges – Forest (24 March) and (Mill 31 March)

Help needed to run the stall and also provide cakes to sell.

Six Nations Screening at Victory Hall (17 March)

New events just added to the school calendar:
Crazy Hair Day (26 May) more details to follow
Summer Fair (23 June)

Planetarium Visit – Spring Class

Spring have been learning about Space in Science and recently visited Chichester Planetarium. They had a fabulous day out and Mrs Couves was lucky enough to meet Tim Peake!



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Dates for your diary

Tues 7th March – Ensemble Reza Workshop for Spring & Mill

Thurs 9th March – Parents Evening all classes

Sun 12th March – Balcombe Bull Run

Tues 14th March – Parents Evening Lake only

Mon 13th – Fri 17th March – British Science Week, details to follow

Weds 15th & Thurs 16th March – teachers strikes – details TBC

Fri 17th March – Red Nose Day

Sat 17th March – FoBS Six Nations at Victory Hall

Thurs 23rd March – Open Morning

Fri 24th March – FoBS Cake Challenge Forest Class

Sat 25th March – Working Party for Nature Ninjas

Mon 27th – Fri 31st March – Bikeability Year 6

Tues 28th March – Easter Service at St Mary's Church, time TBC

Fri 31st March – FoBS Cake Challenge Mill Class

Fri 31st March - Spring Term finishes

Mon 17th April – Summer Term starts

Fri 26th May – FoBS Crazy Hair Day

Fri 23rd June – FoBS Summer Fair

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/balcombeprimary>

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.

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Holiday Activities / Camps



LOCATION & BOOKING
Handcross Park School
Handcross Park in Sussex, awarded Prep School Of The Year in 2016, has outstanding facilities, including a swimming pool that offer a truly wonderful environment for our first class activity camps.

Address: London Road, Handcross, RH12 4JF

CAMP DATES
EASTER: TUES 11TH - FRI 14TH APRIL
SUMMER: MON 17TH JULY - FRI 19TH AUGUST

EARLY BOOKING OFFER
£205 PER WEEK
SAVE £40
STANDARD PRICE £245

£48 A DAY
SAVE £6
STANDARD PRICE £54

Offer ends Wednesday 1st March 2023

- Pay by childcare vouchers
- Drop off from 8.30am & pick up until 5.30pm
- Home clothes for free up to 16 days in advance
- Extended hours available 8am to 6pm
- Book by the day or week
- Monday to Friday
- Ofsted Registered

Outstanding holiday camps for 4 to 14 year olds this Easter and summer at Handcross Park School, Haywards Heath

BOOK NOW on ultimateactivitycamps.co.uk or call 0330 111 7077

Ultimate Savings When You Book Early!



JUNIOR BAKE OFF
...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S BEST YOUNG BAKERS
AGED 9 - 12

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 12th MARCH 2023**

Enquiries:
applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk



SCS SOUTH COAST SPORTS

GIRL'S FOOTBALL

10 AM - 3 PM
£10.00 PER DAY

Monday 3rd April - Tythe Barn, Pondtail Road, Horsham, RH12 5JF
Tuesday 4th April - Eastergate Cricket Club, Barnham Road, PO20 3RP
Thursday 6th April - The Woodside, 120 Middle Village, Haywards Heath, RH16 4GJ

PLEASE ONLY BOOK TO ATTEND ONE SITE TO ENSURE AS MANY GIRLS AS POSSIBLE RECEIVE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

Easter Activity Camps

Easter camps are now open for bookings!!!

Felpham Easter Activity camp

Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April

(HAF eligible children/Ukrainian Refugee children can attend this camp for FREE)

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/bishoptufnell-easter-camp/>

Bognor Easter Activity camp

Tuesday 11th April - Friday 14th April

(HAF eligible children/ Ukrainian Refugee children are able to attend this camp for FREE)

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/stmarys-easter-camp/>

Handcross Easter Activity Camp

Week 1 Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April.

Week 2 Tuesday 11th April - Friday 14th April

(Week 2 HAF eligible children will be able to attend for FREE)

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/handcross-easter-camp-week-1/>

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/handcross-easter-camp-week-2/>

Horsham Football Camp, Tythe Barn

Week 1 Tuesday 4th April - Thursday 6th April

(Week 1 HAF eligible children we be able to attend this camp for FREE)

Week 2 Tuesday 11th April - Thursday 13th April

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/the-tythe-barn-easter-horsham-football-camp-week-1/>

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/the-tythe-barn-easter-horsham-football-camp-week-2/>

Haywards Heath Activity Camp

Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/haywards-heath-easter-camp/>

INSET DAYS: 5 JUNE 2023

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Northchapel **Activity** **Camp**
Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April
(HAF eligible children/ Ukrainian Refugee children are able
to attend for FREE)
<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/northchapel-easter-camp/>

Tangmere **Activity** **Camp**
Tuesday 11th April - Friday 14th April
(HAF eligible children/ Ukrainian Refugee children are able
to attend for FREE)
<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/tangmere-easter-camp/>