



Balcombe CE Primary School Sports Newsletter

Dear parents,

As I write this newsletter we are already organising events for the start of next term. It has been a really busy term full of activities both in and out of school. Our membership of Mid Sussex Active has allowed us to participate in bigger events offering a wider range of sports. At the moment our biggest issue in ensuring we get the most from our membership is getting the children to and from the events. With many parents working, moving the children to and from events during school hours is becoming ever more difficult. We are looking into different options so that this issue doesn't have an impact on the number of children who can participate in the activities available.

New Age Kurling and Boccia Festival

Back in January a group of Year 4 and 5 children went to the Triangle to try Boccia and New Age Kurling. Boccia is a target sport played with soft leather balls. It was devised as a game for sports people with high support needs and is therefore played from a seated position. It is great fun to play and we often try a version of it in Coombe Class. This event allowed us to use the proper equipment and everyone who attended loved the cut and thrust of the game.



We are fortunate to have a New Age Kurling set at school. It is again a sport that we play in Coombe class. The older children really enjoyed being able to send their stones down a larger hall and test their skills against each other and other schools from the local area.

Basketball Festival

A group of Year 5 & 6 children went to Warden Park to participate in an afternoon of Basketball activities run by Year 8 students. We were delighted to see a number of old Balcombe pupils organising the event. The group was kept busy practising dribbling, shooting, shielding and passing. Let's hope in a few years we see them running events for our younger children



Fitness Challenge

During the cold months of January and February, all the Junior classes compete in the fitness challenge. Each year we develop new skills and challenges to test the children's core fitness and conditioning. They record their progress every week, with the challenge being to make steady progress across the half term.

The winners of the challenge this year were:

Forest – Harry M and Bonnie

Spring – Elias and Imogen

Mill – Lena and Eoin

Well done to everyone who participated with such gusto this year. You can see from the compilation of photos that we all pushed ourselves to our limits.



Badminton Festival

A group of Year 4 children went to The Triangle to sample a set of badminton based activities. This is a sport that we do not offer within the curriculum, but have run previously as a club. We were keen to see what the sport could offer us. There were a huge range of skill stations set up and everyone who attended really enjoyed a packed morning of activity.



Quicksticks Hockey Tournament

On a glorious February afternoon, a group of Y5 and 6 children who had attended the after school club went to the MSA Quicksticks Hockey Tournament. We played extremely well as a group and progressed to the second stage of the tournament. The play was quick and skillful and everyone involved enjoyed the games against other schools. Well done to the squad for their progress in the competition and improving their game skills.



Netball

The netball squad has had a really busy half term. We first competed in the NEARS Netball Tournament. The afternoon saw eight teams compete in a round robin competition. There were two teams that were unbeaten until the last round – Balcombe and Twineham. The last round saw them play each other to win the tournament. It was a very close run match but Balcombe gained in confidence as the match went on and they saw off a spirited Twineham team to win the tournament.

The next week saw the squad compete in the MSA B Team competition. This saw us matched against the second teams of the larger schools in the area. We progressed through the initial stages through to the semi-finals and finals, finishing as undefeated winners. This was a great confidence boost as we went on the following week to the Mid Sussex finals.



The Mid Sussex finals see the winners of the East Grinstead leagues, Mid Sussex tournaments and NEARS tournament compete against each other. It is always an extremely competitive afternoon of netball with the best schools in the area competing. Balcombe played well after a difficult initial defeat, losing by only one goal to two teams and competing strongly against the eventual winners – drawing with them at half time. Everyone played their part and I am extremely proud of everything that the squad has achieved this year. Apart from Marcus in Y4, all the members of the squad were from Y6. I am hoping for an uptake in interest from the current Y4 and especially Y5s as we start a new year in September.



NEARS Football Tournament

At the end of March a squad of keen footballers went to The Triangle to compete in the NEARS Tournament. It was set up as a round robin competition. Unfortunately, due to a nasty collision between two players a number of our games were cancelled. The boys were really well behaved and didn't grumble about the shortage of games they played compared to other teams. I was really proud of their attitude. They played and lost a couple of games early on and finished with a creditable draw. Their play improved across the afternoon as they got used to playing on a bigger and flatter surface than our field provides. Many of them will benefit from the experience as they go into Y6 next year.



Girls' Indoor Cricket

Last week a group of interested Y4 and Y5 girls went to The Triangle to an event run by Sussex Women's Cricket. It was a great morning full of skill activities followed by two games with schools from across the area playing together. The atmosphere was great and all the girls were so supportive and keen to do well.

Well done to Abigail who with her positive attitude and commitment won a Sussex Sharks mascot and tickets to watch the Sussex Women's team later on in the summer.



Sports Festival

This week a group of Y3 and 4 children went to Twineham School to take part in a Sports Festival. The children were mixed with those from other NEARS schools, so everyone had the opportunity to make new friends over the course of the afternoon. There were activities based around lacrosse, golf, hockey, netball and rugby.



Class lessons

During class lessons this term we have participated in: tag rugby, hockey, netball, indoor cricket, gymnastics, fitness challenge, boccia, new age kurling, dodgeball. Here is a very small montage of some of these sports.

