



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## MAY 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,

By now, many of you will have heard about Blue and/or Ruby coming into school. For those who haven't met them yet, they are my two Cocker Spaniels.

The intention is to have one or both dogs in school most days. Research shows that having animals in school can have many benefits for both pupils and staff. We are always keen to support the wellbeing of all members of our school community and I believe that by having "school dogs", we will be better able to do that.



Blue has a very calm character and likes nothing more than cuddles, so for children feeling anxious or upset, some time spent with Blue may well help them to feel better.



Ruby is far more outgoing and exuberant. Whilst she is still young and learning good manners, the intention is that she will eventually spend time with children in class or when learning outside.



At the moment, the dogs will always be with me and won't be allowed to approach children. Most

children who we bump into in the corridor, seem very happy to say hello to them, but I am aware that not all children are dog lovers.

If you think that your child would rather not come into contact with Ruby and Blue, or you think that they will be very nervous, please let your child's teacher or myself know.

Obviously, a risk assessment has been completed and relevant precautions will be taken when the dogs are in school.

Warm Wishes  
Wendy Millbanks

## Queen's Jubilee

Although the actual jubilee day is in school holiday and no doubt, many of you will be attending the village celebration, we feel it is important to mark this important date as a whole school community.

Therefore, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, we will be suspending our normal timetable and pupils will be engaging in a day of Jubilee linked activities. This will include (weather permitting) having a picnic lunch outside, complete with regal trimmings and our own rendition of the national anthem. Pupils having school lunch that day will have a "takeaway" version and eat outside too.

We ask that in the spirit of the day, **pupils come to school wearing red, white and blue**, instead of their normal uniform.

If you have any bunting or other appropriate decoration that you would be happy to lend us for the day, we would be most grateful.

## Grow a coin challenge

We would like to invite our families to help us develop entrepreneurial skills in our children and create some additional funding for the school.

As part of our Jubilee celebrations on Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>, I will be speaking to the children about all things "Queen" including the use of her image on our currency. I will be lending each child a £2 coin and challenging them to invest in a "business opportunity" to grow the £2, making a profit to further support the development of outdoor learning in our school.

On this day every child will come home with a £2 coin. We would love you to help your child think of a way to turn that coin into more coins over the next 4 weeks. If you have more than one

child at the school, they can pool their coins and start a family business!

Some ideas that have been very successful in the past include:

- Buying a sponge and fairy liquid from the pound shop and washing cars/garage doors.
- Buying ingredients to make and sell cakes.
- Buying seeds and selling on as little plants.
- Buying paint and selling painted pebbles.

It is really important that children are not given money that they have not earned. The idea is to 'do something' to make their money grow. Children should not directly approach strangers. They should keep accounts so they are able to explain what they spent and where their income came from. Photos of their ideas in action would be fantastic and these can be uploaded to your child's class Seesaw page.

All money should be returned on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June in a clearly named envelope. If you do not wish your child to participate in this challenge, you can either give the coin back to your child's teacher straight away, or hang on to it and send it back in a named envelope at the end of the challenge.

The class raising the most money, will be rewarded with a prize, linked with outdoor learning.

## Whatsapp

Some pupils at the top of the school are part of a WhatsApp group. Whilst this may not seem to be an issue, I believe that recently some comments have been made to the group that are inappropriate and potentially harmful.

As you may be aware, WhatsApp is recommended for young people aged 16 and over. This is largely due to the unfiltered freedom it offers its users in terms of what they

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

say. Although none of our pupils would purposefully set out to damage another's self-esteem and confidence, whilst "hiding" behind a phone, most 10 and 11 year olds lack the maturity, foresight and self-control needed when communicating on an open platform.

In school, our children learn that anything said online should be treated as though it were being said face to face, but in the heat of the moment, this can easily be forgotten when using WhatsApp.

Obviously, as a parent, it is your decision whether or not to allow your child to take part in group discussions, but please consider randomly checking the content of these discussions and ensuring that your child understands the impact of their contributions.

## Nature Ninjas



Well done to Forest Class who have today finished their sessions with Nature Ninjas. They have really embraced the experience. In the new academic year, there will be the opportunity for more sessions.

Next week Coombe Class will start Nature Ninjas.

## Talent Show and Summer Fair

Our Summer Fair is scheduled to take place after school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June and we are planning that the main attraction will be a talent show. When we last did this, several years ago, it was great fun and unearthed some amazing talent and teamwork.

I am sure that there is no limit to our children's talents and anything goes, however it will need to be something that can be presented outside and last no more than about 3 or 4 minutes.

Talent can be displayed by an individual, a family group, or a group of friends and the more unusual or creative, the better. Each child may only participate in one audition.

Heats will be held in school during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> June, with the final taking place during the Summer Fair.

You do not need to do anything yet, but I will be asking for parents to confirm their child's act straight after the half term holiday.

## Class Email Addresses

Please be aware that from after half term, the class email addresses will no longer be used. You should use [parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk) for ALL communications with school

## Celebration Assembly

From Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, we will be reintroducing our Friday Celebration Assembly at 9am. This is an opportunity to celebrate pupils who have either achieved something remarkable in their learning, demonstrated one of our values

*INSET DAY - Monday 6 June*



brilliantly or have persevered to overcome a hurdle.

The children chosen each week, will be congratulated and asked to share some detail with the rest of the school ( age and confidence allowing) and will receive a special sticker. This is a really important opportunity for our pupils to receive praise and congratulations from their peers and school staff.

Parents are most welcome to join us **on any Friday**. If your child is being celebrated you will receive an email on the Wednesday before.

I appreciate that not all parents will be able to attend the assembly, and that it is difficult for those children who do not have a family member there when others do, but we are unable to give more notice or delay celebrating children until parents are free. For the celebration to be meaningful to each child, it needs to be current, especially for young children.

You are welcome to bring pre school children with you, but please only if they are able to sit still and quietly during the celebration.

## Covid – Latest Guidance

We continue to update our risk assessment concerning the risks to our pupils and staff associated with Covid and as such are following the guidance from the NHS. Please read this carefully, not only to safeguard the wellbeing of our pupils and staff but also to ensure that our school is able to function. If several staff members contract Covid at the same time, this would likely result in a class being closed for a few days as covering absent staff is increasingly difficult due to a shortage of supply staff.

NHS guidance states:

***Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you:***

*have any symptoms of COVID-19, and have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or do your normal activities*  
*have tested positive for COVID-19 – this means it's very likely you have the virus.*

***What to do if you've tested positive for COVID-19***

*If you have COVID-19, you can pass on the virus to other people for up to 10 days from when your infection starts. Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days.*

***You should:***

- *try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days*
- *avoiding meeting people at higher risk from COVID-19 for 10 days, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, even if they've had a COVID-19 vaccine*

*This starts from the day after you did the test.*

***If a child or young person aged 18 or under tests positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test.***

*Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults. If they're well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there's a much lower risk that they'll pass on COVID-19 to others.*

If your child appears unwell, please keep them at home as you would with any other illness. We wouldn't expect a child with measles to come to school, nor should any child with Covid.

We will ensure that work is sent home to be completed if your child is well enough.

## Mill & Spring – Visit from McLaren Engineer

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, Mill and Spring experienced a meeting with Alice – a McLaren engineer. She explained to the children how her job worked and what she does every day. Alice said “Engineering goes into almost everything in every day life.”

Gracie (Yr 6) found Alice’s visit inspiring and motivating. It made her feel like engineering was a great opportunity for a job.

Sal (Yr 6) stated “I was fascinated to actually meet a woman who has met and worked with some of the successful formula one drivers.”

The children loved the event and hope to see Alice again.

Seb and James (Yr 6)

## Dates for your diary

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> May – Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> May:** SATs for Year 6

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> May:** FoBS Birchanger Garden

**Fri 20 May:** Celebration Assembly starts

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May:** Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** HALF TERM

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June:** INSET DAY

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> June:** Bikeability Year 6

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June:** FoBS Summer Fair

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July:** FoBS Camp Out

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July:** Balcombe Village Fete

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> 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/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.

*INSET DAY - Monday 6 June*

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

## Holiday Workshops



**M & M**  
Theatre School

Sing, Dance & Act With West End Professionals

### KIDS HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

	<b>30th May - 1st June (£75)</b>	
	<b>1st - 5th August (£125)</b>	
	<b>23rd - 26th August (£100)</b>	
		
		

---

**6 - 16 yrs (9am - 4pm)**

Balcombe School, Balcombe,  
W.Sussex, RH17 6HS

Follow us on Social Media



M&M  
Theatre School



---

**FLYNNANDFLOPRODUCTIONS LTD@GMAIL.COM**

TEXT ~ 07759352479

*INSET DAY - Monday 6 June*