



# 16 JANUARY - 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,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026 and a slightly belated Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your families and were able to make some wonderful memories.

It was brilliant to see that so many members of our community were able to attend the Christmas events prior to the holiday. On behalf of the pupils and staff, I would like to say a big thank you to all of those who planned, set-up or attended the events.

We are really looking forward to a productive spring term of learning; it's a time for the children to really push on and build on their learning from last term and we have some exciting enquiries of learning to capture the children's interest and imagination planned.

As this is a short term and before we know it, it will be Easter. There are lots of events planned to take place during the term so please check the diary dates on this newsletter to keep abreast of the various happenings.

Here's to a happy and successful term!

Best wishes,  
Ben Turney  
Headteacher

## Celebration Assembly



This week, we have celebrated:

Skye – Lake Class – being so kind and caring at school, always.

Amelia - Coombe Class – being ambitious in PE. She performed an amazing sequence of balances and jumps

Guillaume – Forest Class – being resilient – overcoming setbacks and making progress in maths.

Madison – Spring Class – resilience when practising for Times Table Tuesday.

Annie May – Mill Class – Curiosity – asking interesting questions and making thoughtful observations in class discussion.

## Clubs

From the Summer Term, after school clubs will start from the first week of term and finish during the last week of term. Please be aware that this will be at the discretion of the club provider so you will need to carefully check the dates on the schedule and on the school calendar on the website.

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## Hot liquids



Please can we kindly ask that you do not send hot liquids in flasks into school for break or lunch times. We appreciate that a hot drink or hot soup at lunch time helps during the cold weather but unfortunately, there is a risk of burns if the flasks are knocked over and spilt.

## Nut Allergies

Please can we remind you that we have learners with nut allergies. Our 'no nuts' policy includes tree nuts e.g. pine nuts.

If you are not sure about a food item, then please don't send it into school.

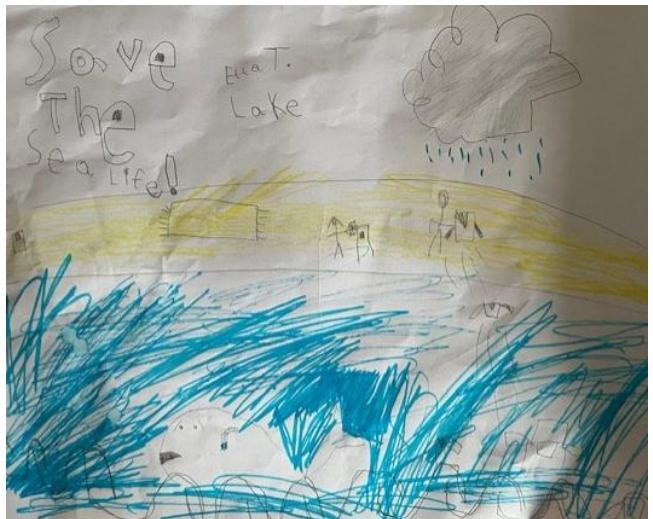
## Forest Class Collective Worship

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January Forest Class will lead our Collective Worship. Parents are warmly invited to join us in the Hall at 9am.

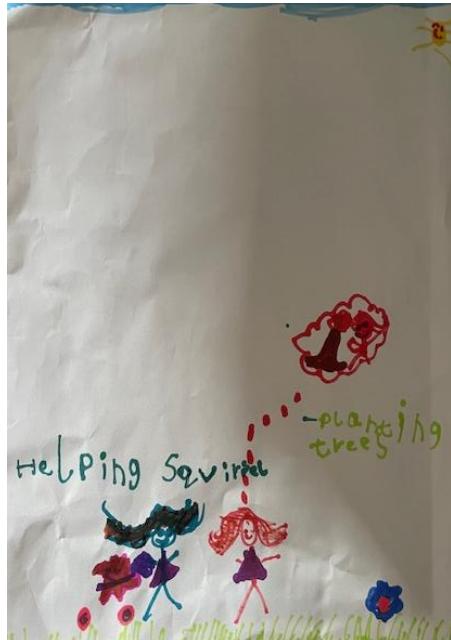
## Eco Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the 'raising awareness' eco competition last term. There were several amazing entries and the judges had a really difficult job deciding the winners. Here are the winning children from each year group and each will receive a £20 voucher to spend at a local garden centre. The prize money has kindly been donated by Shanley Homes.

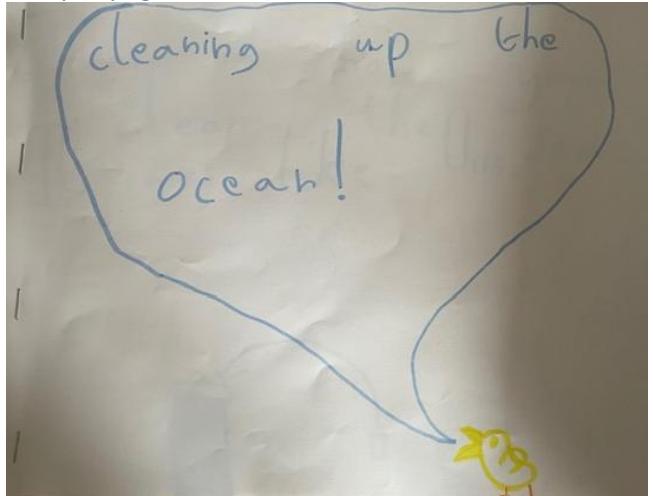
Etta Year R Lake



Arisha Year 1 Coombe



Harry (5 page booklet) Year 2 Coombe

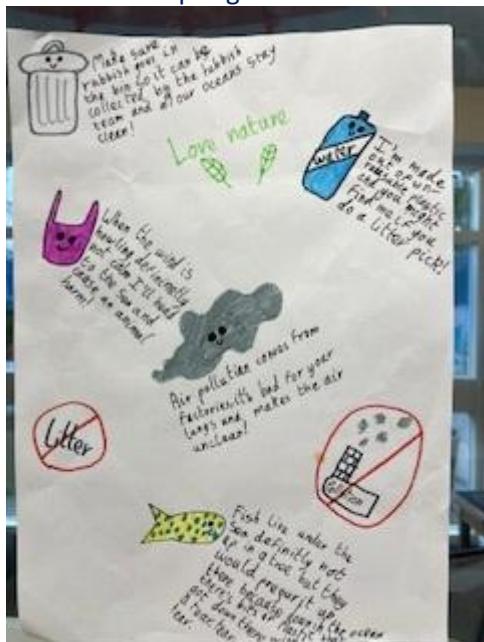


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Bella (invention for sucking up rubbish) Year 3 Forest



Astrid Year 4 Spring



## FoS – Upcoming Events

Who's already over the January reset? Bring on this term's Cake Challenges!

You know the rules - each class will be asked to host a Cake Sale, the class that raises the most funds will be rewarded with a classroom resource of their choice worth up to £100!

The classroom representatives will coordinate cake donations with your class/es so for now, just save the dates below. You can support us by baking (or buying) cakes for donation or by buying cakes on the days.

The next cake challenge will be **Spring on Friday the 23rd January**.

- Forest - 27th February
- Mill - 24th April

Cake Challenges will take place directly after School at 3:15 pm, in front of the office or under the canopies if we have rain. Cash & Card will be accepted.

We are also running **Break the Rules Day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – see the email that was sent out to parents earlier this week with details. As the children will be bringing in personal items, please ensure that they are named so that they can be safely returned if lost.

## Dates for your Diary

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan @ 9am** – Forest Class Collective Worship  
**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan** – Spring Class Cake Challenge  
**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan** – FoBS Break the Rules Day  
**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb @ 3.30-6.30pm** – Parents Evening  
**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 3.30-6.30pm** – Parents Evening  
**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb** – \*\* HALF TERM \*\*  
**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Forest Class Cake Challenge  
**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – School Photographs  
**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Spring Term ends at 3.15pm  
**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March** – \*\* INSET DAY \*\*

## Fundraising for School

[Link to PayPal](#)

Remember to join easyfundraising - 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.

## REMINDER Pupil Premium

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

**INSET DAYS: 27 March, 1 June & 3 July 2026**

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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.**

**M & M**  
Theatre School

BE PART OF THE DRAMA THIS

# FEB HALF TERM

16 - 20TH FEB 2026



Sing, Dance & Act with West End Professionals

AGE 6-16YRS  
9AM-4PM  
BALCOMBE SCHOOL

**£140**  
*(Siblings £110)*

PERFORMANCE  
AT THE  
END OF THE WEEK!

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

[flynnaandfloproductionsltd@gmail.com](mailto:flynnaandfloproductionsltd@gmail.com)

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