



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to all of our pupils for coming back into school so smoothly and a special welcome to our new pupils in Reception and across the school.

It's like we've never been away! The children are settled and the learning has begun with gusto. Children in Lake and Coombe have been enjoying learning outside and exploring the array of resources we have for counting, measuring and drawing. Forest class have been learning a new song or two and finding out about the Romans and pupils in year 5 and 6 have had an amazing time on their residential trip.

We have lots of exciting things planned for this term, including class trips, visitors coming into school and groups going to take part in activities in other schools. Some dates are listed below, so please add these to your diaries and more details will follow in due course.

Thurs 14th Sept – Steve Fishpool visiting school to give us an update on our orphanage in Uganda.

Mon 18th Sept – Year 5 visiting Ardingly College for a workshop with children's author Katherine Rundell

Sat 23rd Sept @ 9.30am-12.30pm – Working Party

Mon 25th Sept – Spring class trip

Fri 29th Sept & Mon 2nd Oct – INSET days, school closed

Thurs 5th Oct – Census Day

Thurs 5th Oct – Author visit for KS1

Thurs 5th Oct – FoBS AGM & Parent Drinks at 7.30pm

Fri 6th Oct – Sponsored walk, we will be asking for lots of adult support, so please keep this date free if you can

Thurs 12th Oct – Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church – parents welcome. Please send in donations during that week.

Tues 17th Oct – Mill class trip

Sat 28th Oct – 6 Nations screening

Fri 3rd Nov – Mill class assembly – parents welcome

Thurs 9th Nov – Spring class assembly – parents welcome

Fri 17th Nov – Children in Need

Mon 20th Nov – Bikeability all week (Year 6)

Tues 21st Nov – Forest class trip

Thurs 30th Nov – Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Sat 2nd Dec – Christmas Fair

Mon 4th Dec – Christmas Lunch

Thurs 7th Dec – Christmas jumper day – Save the Children

Thurs 7th & Fri 8th Dec – Nativity @ 9.30am

Mon 11th Dec – Music week (special visitor in school)

Fri 15th Dec – final Celebration assembly of 2023

Fri 15th Dec – finish school @ 1:15pm.

Help needed!

Do you have a couple of hours to spare on the morning of September 23rd?

We are organising a working party, to tidy up our Nature Ninja site and complete a few maintenance jobs in our outdoor learning areas.

If you are willing to help us weed, chop, dig, barrow, cut back, paint, brush, wash we would really appreciate your help. Mr Graham does an amazing job keeping us tidy and safe, however he is but one man, working mornings only and there is so much to do.

So, on Saturday 23rd September, our willing volunteers will be here from 9:30 – 12:30. What better way to help your school and get some fresh at the same time? Older children will also be welcome to come with an adult and help.

The working parties we organised last year, had a huge positive impact and parents who attended said that it was a really enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours.

Please let us know if you are able to help and bring gloves and useful tools.

Friends of Balcombe School (FoBS)

FoBS are still looking to fill a few roles in their team – details below.

If you are interested then please contact pta.balcombe@gmail.com

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for tracking and reporting the PTA's finances; this focuses on money-in from fundraising and money-out for investments. The Treasurer's main focus is on

profit earned per event, paying invoices and managing the PTA bank account.

Class Representatives

1 vacancy for Lake (Reception)

2 vacancies for Forest

The Class Representatives serve as a liaison between the PTA and a specific classroom within school. This role involves actively engaging with parents and the PTA to facilitate effective communication and collaboration. They may be responsible for one small event in a year like a cake sale.

Internet Safety

I have been asked by a parent for some advice about children using mobile phones. 4 useful guides to the most commonly asked for Apps can be found under the parent tab on our website.

Improvement areas this academic year

As always, we have written a targeted action plan for this academic year, to ensure that the school continues to develop and grow and offers the best possible provision for your children. This year, we are focussing on the following areas:

- Reviewing our long term curriculum map to ensure it reflects our vision and results in the positive impact that we are aiming for.
- Continuing the development of the planning and assessment of foundation subjects.
- Ensuring that all children leave us as confident readers.
- Further developing our pupils' emotional literacy.
- Continuing to improve attainment in writing.

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I will share more detail about new initiatives and improvements as the year progresses.

Census

The school receives funding from the government to pay for Universal Free School meals for all KS1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). This funding is calculated on how many children eat a hot lunch on census days twice a year. Census day this term is **Thursday 5th October**. Please could you encourage your child to eat a hot meal on this day to maximize our funding. If numbers are low on census day we do have to cover any shortfall from an already stretched school budget.

Census

Uniform

All children should wear the correct uniform each day, including PE uniform and accessories.

Long hair must be tied back and headbands and other hair accessories should be blue, white, grey or black; a small thing but it makes a big difference.

Absence

If your child is poorly and will not be coming to school, please ring us by 9 o'clock if possible, leaving a message stating the reason for absence. Please do not email us with this information as the emails are not checked until later in the morning and sometimes this important information can get lost.

Parking

The car park at the side of the school is for staff use only between 8am and 4:30 pm and should not be used for parent, unless previously agreed by the school. Of course, if you have mobility

issues please let us know and we can make separate arrangements.

Snacks at break-time

Please ensure that your child only brings in a fruit or vegetable snack at break-time.

Nuts

Remember we are a NO NUTS school – we have several children with severe allergies to various types of nuts, including pesto, hummus, Nutella and other lunch-time favourites! Please check ingredients carefully so that we don't have to upset any children!

Fundraising for School

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>

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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.