



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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

14 NOVEMBER - NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing half-term break.

It's wonderful to welcome everyone back as we begin this new half-term, full of energy and anticipation for the exciting weeks ahead.

As is tradition at this time of year, the children have been learning about Remembrance and its significance. On 11th November, Fr David led a thoughtful Collective Worship, helping the children reflect on the importance of this occasion.

Looking Ahead to Christmas (apologies for mentioning it so soon!), please keep an eye on the diary dates—there are lots of exciting events planned, and we don't want anyone to miss out. From performances to celebrations, it promises to be a joyful and busy time!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes,
Ben Turney
Headteacher

Celebration Assembly

Since our last newsletter, the following children have been celebrated:

Max – Lake Class – being so creative in Drawing Club, drawing superheroes and writing so clearly.

Yazen – Lake Class – being so creative, making up fantastic games for his friends.

Alice F - Coombe Class – creativity in art, she painted a fantastic superhero

Pippa – Coombe Class – being very caring by helping other members of the class.

Florence – Forest Class – being the best that she can be! Always working hard.

Patrick – Forest Class – being respectful. Always polite, kind and follows the class rules beautifully.

Elizabeth – Spring Class – ambitiously carrying out extra research into Anglo-Saxons at home.

Flora – Spring Class – being creative and ambitious in her writing.

Eleanor – Mill Class – 'Being the best that she can be'. Always modelling our school values, a star pupil!

This week, we have celebrated:

Lily-Rose - Lake Class – showing such kindness to others; even helping them learn.

Ivor - Coombe Class – being ambitious in maths.

Lillith – Forest Class – being resilient, working hard on times tables despite setbacks.

Aengus - Spring Class – creativity in our portrait work in Art.

Nula - Mill Class – Creativity; creative response to homework tasks

School Photographs

As you will be aware, we had to postpone our school photographs due to illness in school. The new date will be in the Spring Term.

For any families that had pre-school sibling photographs taken, these will be delivered to the office before the end of term.

Update on Lunchtime Routine

Following a review of our new lunchtime system, we will be making a small but important adjustment to improve the experience for the children. We will be switching the order in which younger and older children go to lunch. This means that younger children will now go to lunch first, followed by our older pupils.

This change will allow us to create a short period at the end of lunch where all children can spend time together, fostering a sense of community and giving them an opportunity to interact across age groups. Children will be informed of this change during Monday's Collective Worship, and Chartwells (our hot lunch provider) will work to implement this as soon as practicable.

We really appreciate your continued support as we work to ensure our lunchtime routines run as smoothly and positively as possible for all our children. These small tweaks help us create the best possible experience for everyone at Balcombe CofE Primary School.

Children in Need

Parents, Staff and Children have raised an amazing £576 today for Children in Need.

If you have not yet made a donation for your child/ren to wear their own clothes please click on the link below:

[Link to JustGiving page for Children in Need](#)

Christmas Service at St Mary's Church

Our Christmas Service will take place at St Mary's Church on Thursday 18 December at 1.45pm. Parents, carers and grandparents are all welcome to join us.

We will need help to walk the children to and from the Church. If you can help, then please email the office – parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

Christmas Jumpers & Lunch

This year we are inviting the children to wear a Christmas Jumper on Thursday 11th December, no donation required.

On the same day, we will also have our Christmas Lunch – see menu below. Please book your child's Christmas Lunch by **27th November**.



Spring Class – Collective Worship

Spring Class will be leading Collective Worship on Thursday 27 November – parents / carers are warmly invited to attend.

Eco Warriors

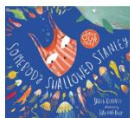
The Eco Warriors have launched an eco competition open to all age groups. Each winner from each year group will win a prize (£20 garden centre voucher provided by Shanley Homes). Entries will be judged by the Eco Warrior team.



Share an environmental issue to raise awareness.
Use any medium!

Examples of ways in which
you can raise awareness.

story



video

PowerPoint

art work



poster



poem

What will make an effort?

Who will make an effort?
For the biggest problem we've ever faced,
It only takes a second,
To look at which side to choose your words,
Instead of saying no one,
Or take a little or with your friends,
If everyone does their small part,
The world will be a better place.

By Nicky

Song/rap



Deadline – Friday 19th December
(last day before the Christmas holidays)



Results will be announced
in the first two weeks back in January 2026.

Sickness

Unfortunately, there are still a few cases of vomiting in school. Please can we remind you that children should remain at home for at least 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to help prevent further spread of the virus.

Thank you for your continued help in keeping our school community healthy.

Upcoming FoBS Events

Cake Challenge

We've had an incredible start to our fundraising year, with **Lake Class** kicking off the Cake Challenge in style. They raised an amazing **£473**, the highest total we've ever achieved for a cake sale. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and supported.

Next up, **Coombe Class** will take on the challenge later this month. Join us **after school on Friday 21st November** to support them.

Bounce-a-thon Success

A huge thank you for your generous sponsorship of the Bounce-a-thon. Together, we raised an incredible **£1,168 profit** for **Balcombe School**. This fantastic total brings us closer to our goal of funding the **Outdoor Classroom Project**, helping create more opportunities for learning.

Hot Chocolate Friday & Uniform Sale

Warm up on **Friday 28th November** with our **loaded hot chocolates**, available to purchase in the school hall alongside our **uniform sale**.

This year, we're also introducing **nativity costume rentals**, a sustainable and budget-friendly way to get festive. If you have costumes you can donate, please drop them at the school office before the sale. On the day, we'll have a lovely selection to browse and borrow.

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

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Join us for one of our favourite festive traditions, the **Christmas Wreath Making Workshop**.

Wednesday 4th December at 7pm
The Balcombe Club

Spaces are limited, so be sure to [buy your ticket](#) by the end of November. It's always a wonderfully creative and social evening – no experience necessary.

Christmas Fair

Save the date for our **Christmas Fair** on **Friday 12th December**, which will take place during the school day.

Each class will be running a stall, and class reps will share details and requests via WhatsApp soon. If you can, please **volunteer some time between 11am and 4pm** to help make the day magical for our children – and to enjoy the festivities together.



Dates for your Diary

Mon 17 Nov @ 3.30pm – Bowles talk for year 4 & 5 parents

Fri 21st Nov @ 3.15pm – Coombe Cake Challenge
Thurs 27th Nov – Spring Class Collective Worship
Fri 28th Nov @ 3.15pm – FoBS Hot Chocolate Friday and Uniform Sale
Thurs 4th Dec @ 7pm – FoBS Christmas Wreath Making
Thurs 11th Dec @ 9.30am – Nativity
Thurs 11th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 11th Dec – Christmas Lunch
Fri 12th Dec @ 9.30am – Nativity
Fri 12th Dec – FoBS Christmas Fair
Thurs 18th Dec @ 1.45pm – Christmas Service, St Mary's Church

Fundraising for School

Donate with
JustGiving

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.

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.

Local Adverts for information



**CHRISTMAS
MARKET**

Sunday 16th November 2025
10-2pm
The Ark, Turners Hill,
RH10 4RA

VISIT SANTA
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
***ARTS, CRAFTS, BAKES, GIFTS,
MUSIC AND MUCH MORE***

Free Entry
**Come along and support
local businesses**



Santa's Grotto & Christmas Kids Trail

29th November - 21st December

Experience the magic of Christmas at Borde Hill. Visit Santa in his grotto, or explore the Garden on a daily festive kids trail.

Grotto (weekends only plus preschool sessions on Fri 5th & 12th Dec)
£19 - booking required. Trail: £4.50, plus admission.

BORDEHILL.CO.UK 01444 450326 WEST SUSSEX, RH16 1XP



ACTIVE KIDS. HAPPY DAYS!
**JOIN THE FUN THIS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS IN
HANDCROSS**



DATES, LOCATIONS & AGES:

Handcross Primary School
Monday 22 - Tuesday 23 December
Tuesday 30 - Wednesday 31 December
Suitable for 5 - 12 year olds

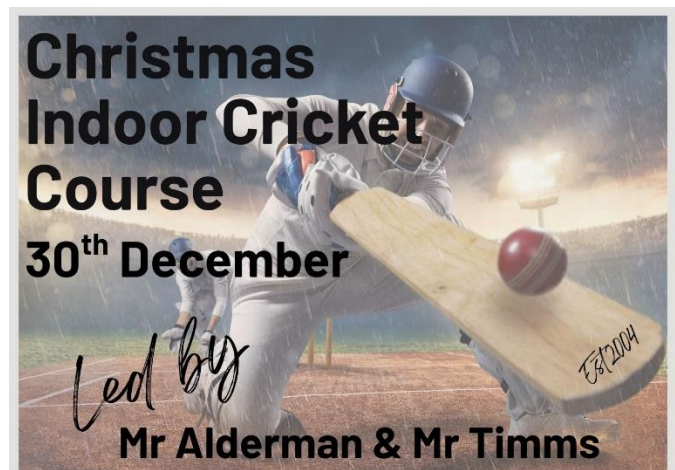
BOOK NOW: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

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



**Team Sports / Fitness
Trampolining / Gymnastics
Nerf Games / Indoor Caving**

**9.15 to 3.30 - £25 per day
At Warden Park Secondary
Open to years Reception to Year 9
Jamesprostarsports@gmail.com**



**Batting/ Bowling
Fielding / Matches**

**9.15 to 3.30 - £25 per day
At Warden Park Secondary
Open to years Reception to Year 9
Jamesprostarsports@gmail.com**



**Conditioned games 3v3 - 6v6
Skills - Shooting / Passing
Dribbling / Defending**

**9.15 to 3.30 - £25 per day
At Warden Park Secondary
Open to years Reception to Year 9
Jamesprostarsports@gmail.com**

The magical winter lantern trail

Under 4s go free!

27 November 2025
- 3 January 2026

Glow Wild

Wakehurst
Flexi tickets and group discounts available

Kew

Glow Wild

As darkness falls, let the magic begin...

Sussex's award-winning Christmas light trail sparkles with seasonal surprises, featuring exclusive installations, handcrafted lanterns, and immersive moments, with new experiences that promise even more festive fun than ever before!

Glow Wild invites you to walk on the wild side and explore an illuminated wonderland, where seeds spark stories and the wild glows after dark – all exclusively handcrafted by leading artists. Encounter fantastical animals, walk among giants, and uncover the hidden secrets of our natural world. Don't miss the iconic Christmas tree, giant mythical sea creature, and our biggest-ever installation!

Unsure of plans? Book today and swap dates up to 7 days before you visit!

Sessions to suit you

Whoever your loved ones are, Glow Wild offers the perfect night for all, with early evening slots to suit little ones, Quiet and Relaxed sessions for those with additional needs, and exclusive over-16 evenings.

Pre-book now for this sell-out Christmas event.

Seasonal savings

- Off-peak, standard and peak options
- Under 4s and essential companions go free
- Group and family discounts
- Child pricing
- Exclusive member rate

wakehurst.kew | wakehurst_kew

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