



# Balcombe

## Church of England

### Primary School

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



## JUNE NEWSLETTER

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

### From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

I'm delighted to say, that despite the recent inclement weather, we're all feeling rather summery in school as we start the final push to the finish line. The summer still seems a long way off, but the rest of term will pass very quickly (it always does) as there is so much going on. Please keep looking out for emails and check the calendar on the website to ensure that you don't miss anything. We hope to see you at Sport's Day, the Summer Fair and the Junior Production but there are also other opportunities to come in and help - we have a couple of trips/events coming up and rely on parent help for them to run smoothly.

This year, we have welcomed more members of the community into school to help as volunteers than ever before. They perform a range of tasks from reading to cooking, and art to helping with Forest School. If you find yourself with some spare time on your hands or know someone living locally who would like to come in and support our children with their learning, please do let us know. We have so many ideas for activities and events that we would like to do with the children, but are limited in our capacity, so any offers of help are very warmly received.

### INSET Days

Please make a note in your diary of the planned Inset Days for school year 2019/2020:

2 September 2019  
4 November 2019  
6 January 2020  
1 June 2020  
20 July 2020

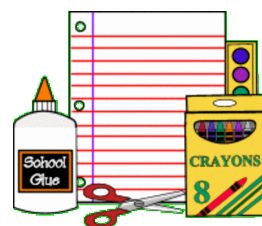
### Crossing the Road

Stop, Look, Listen



Please remind your junior children walking to and from school unsupervised, that they need to cross the road sensibly. There have been some reported incidents where a crowd of children have charged across the road "en masse", thinking there is safety in numbers, rather than stopping and looking to cross safely.

### Pencil Cases



In an effort to encourage our children to be more independent and to try and make our resources stretch further, we ask that from September all children in Forest, Spring and Mill bring a **named** pencil case in to school.

The pencil case should have in it:  
Fountain pen (if a pen person - Parker Vector or similar)  
Handwriting pen  
Pencil  
Rubber  
Ruler  
Pencil sharpener  
Glue stick  
Whiteboard pens

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And also **could** have:

A green pen for editing

Coloured pencils

Felt tip pens

Highlighter pens

Scissors

Blue ink cartridges (if a pen person)

The children will be encouraged to use their own resources and take responsibility in looking after them.

Thank you for your support with this.

## SATS

Well done to our children in Year 6 for conducting themselves very sensibly during the SATS last month. We know that some children enjoy the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and understand but for others, the week of testing was a rather uncomfortable experience. We await the results and hope that they will be a true reflection of the effort put in by children and staff, but whatever the outcome, we are really proud of all of the pupils because it was clear to see that they all applied themselves, did their very best and handled the test situation very well.

During the week, we had an unannounced monitoring visit by local authority officers. This visit is to check that the tests are being administered according to guidelines and that there is no “questionable” practice. I’m pleased to say, that they were extremely happy with our administration; in fact they said that they couldn’t fault it. They also commented on what a lovely school this is and were very impressed by the attitude and manners of our children. Gold star for us!

Year 2 have also been taking part in some assessment “quizzes” and “challenges” during the last week or so and they too have behaved very sensibly to make sure that they and the others around them, have done their very best. Well done Year 2!

## Litter Pick

Emily and Isobel Year 6

Over the last few days, we have been taking part in a litter pick around Sussex. Previously, we had learnt about World Oceans Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and we wanted to do our bit. Everybody was asked to go and collect litter with their families over the weekend and bring it into school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

All the rubbish was piled up into the 4 team’s piles (Bees, Bears, Bats and Badgers). Mill then sorted all of the rubbish into groups, such as plastic bottles, cans and packaging.

Lana, Year 5 said “I liked helping the environment and co-operating with my friends.” We collected so much waste that we think we must have saved many animals lives. In the end, Bats won for having the most plastic and were awarded a prize. We hope we do something similar again soon.



Zara and Matilda helping take the rubbish to the tip!

## Mini Marathon



Congratulations to the children in Lake who took part in their Mini marathon on Friday. Despite the weather, they ran like champions and showed themselves to be excellent athletes. Thanks also to the children from Spring, who acted as their buddies, counting laps, supplying water and cheering them on with great gusto. Once all of the sponsor money has been collected, I’m sure the children will enjoy spending it on resources to use in their outdoor learning area.

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## Staffing Matters

It is with great sadness that we must tell you that Mrs Bolland will be leaving at the end of this term. She has been working at the school for 15 years as TA in Coombe. Rather than putting her feet up, Mrs Bolland will be focusing on her Reflexology business so do get in touch with her if you are interested in an appointment. We wish her all the best and thank her for her commitment to the school!

From September Mrs Jones will take over from Mrs Bolland as the TA in Coombe in the morning.

Unfortunately we have two other staff members leaving us at the end of this term – Mrs Dunford has been running the Breakfast Club with Mr Sitford for the last two terms and has decided she'd like to have a few lie-ins! Mrs Budgen's contract also finishes at the end of this term and she has been offered a post elsewhere.

As a result, we will be recruiting for the following roles:

Afternoon TA and lunchtime Assistant

Breakfast Club assistant and morning support assistant

Lunchtime support and afternoon support assistant.

More details can be found on the school website

## Classes Next Year

Some of you have begun to ask about classes next year and request confirmation about which class your child will be in. Unfortunately I'm not in a position to answer that at the moment. As always, this year we may have some children leaving us at the end of the school year, either to relocate or go into the private sector. We also have waiting lists in some year groups and are aware of some new families potentially moving to the village. Until this information becomes certain, I am unable to confirm class lists, as for some year groups/ classes one additional child arriving could mean that a reshuffle is needed. It would not be fair to tell children that they are in a class now and then in a few weeks' time, change that decision. For this

reason we wait until much later in the term, when changes are far less likely to be needed.

I will inform the children and parents about arrangements for next year as soon as is possible.



## Summer Camps

EVO Hockey runs world-class, creative hockey camps and events for young players at all levels, connecting them with some of the best international players and coaches on the planet.

Please click on this link for more details [downloadable flyers here](#).

## Fundraising for School

Remember to join easyfundraising 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/balco-mbeprimary>

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## School Diary

**Wed 19 June** – Balcombe Estate Day (Spring & Mill)  
**Friday 21 June** – 3.30pm – 5.30pm PTA summer Fair  
**Mon 24 June** – New Year 7 Parents Evening, Warden Park  
**Friday 28 June** – 9.15am – 10.15am Open Morning  
**Wed 3 July** – Sea Life Centre trip (Infants only)  
**Tues 9 July** – 7 p.m. Junior Production  
**Thurs 11 July**  
10.45 a.m. Leavers' Service at Worth Abbey  
7 p.m. Junior Production  
**Weds 17 July** – SPORTS DAY  
**Mon 22 July**  
1.45 p.m. Leavers' Service at St. Mary's  
3.15 – 5.15 p.m. Leavers' Party  
**Tues 23 July** – END OF SCHOOL YEAR

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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 read the linked information letter which explains that any accepted applications for Free School Meals (whether or not your child takes the meal up) attract £1320 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.**

[LINK](#) to pupil premium letter