



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



MAY NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout this year, we have been talking to the children about what makes a good learner and what great learning looks like in our school. Through lots of discussion, storytelling, reflection and even by thinking about baking cakes, we have agreed that the following best sums up what a good learner at Balcombe School does so well. Please discuss this and reinforce with your child at home when appropriate. They should be able to explain what a 5 star listener is and tell you how important mistakes are for learning.

A **Balcombe School** learner

- Is a five star learner.
- Is prepared and respects equipment, surroundings and other people
- Is a kind and supportive team member.
- Always does his/her best.
- Embraces mistakes and knows that they are an important part of learning.

As part of this process, staff and governors have reviewed our behaviour policy and I attach that so you can remind yourself of the key messages. We have tried to keep our systems and procedures simple, with clear steps for dealing with unwanted, poor behaviour and ensuring that our responses to poor behaviour are consistent, reasonable and fair. The policy also describes how we reward consistent good behaviour and/or significant improvements. You will notice that our pupils are expected to behave well and be good ambassadors for our school

on the journey to and from school, as well as whilst they are actually inside it..... in fact, at any time they are wearing school uniform.

With best wishes,
Wendy Millbanks

Inset Days

3 September 2025
24 October 2025
27 March 2026
1 June 2026

There will be an additional date which will be communicated early in the Autumn Term, when the new headteacher is in post.

Staff Changes

Sadly, we will be losing two of our wonderful teaching assistants at the end of this academic year; both Mrs Trish Gardiner and Mrs Bryony Jobling will be retiring. We will miss them very much as they are both such key members of our team, but we think they deserve a rest and wish them a very happy retirement, with huge thanks for all that they have done for the pupils past and present at Balcombe Primary School. We will also be saying goodbye to our librarian, Ms Megan Parker Curry and thank her for her work this year in our library.

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

Book Look – 1 July @ 2.15pm

Please be aware that the Book Look will finish at 3.05pm as the Teachers will need to leave promptly to attend a meeting at Hurst College.

Feedback and Marking policy

You may have noticed during the last “book look” session that we have changed the way we respond to your children’s work. Current research has shown that children learn more from feedback when it is instant, verbal and bespoke to them, rather than generic comments written in their book which they do not see until at least the following day. With this in mind, we have been trialling marking in this way this year – speaking with individuals as they carry out a piece of work, highlighting areas that need correcting or improving and celebrating success in a more immediate way. By doing this, pupils are able to correct mistakes more quickly and have successful ideas reinforced. Sometimes, we might stop a lesson and correct a misconception with a group or the whole class, or highlight a successful strategy for example. We feel that, as the research suggests, our pupils learn better with this type of feedback, rather than long notes written when the pupils have gone home. Teachers still look in detail at the work after the lesson, but may only tick it to show it has been seen. Of course, looking at the books will still be used to help teachers plan the next steps for the following lesson.

I am attaching our marking and feedback policy for your reference and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Parking

Hopefully, the National Walk to School week, has inspired you to park a bit further away from school and walk the last part of the journey with your child/children. With that in mind, we have noticed that a few carers and grandparents are parking on Westup Lane. Please can you remind anyone dropping off and collecting that, for the safety of our

community we ask that you do not park here, particularly at the beginning and end of the day to ensure everyone is safe.

Celebration Assembly - a polite reminder!



Friends and family are all welcome to attend our Celebration Assembly, but please remember that the children are asked to sit quietly and calmly when they arrive in the hall. So that everyone can hear what is being said and the correct atmosphere is created, we would politely ask you to finish your conversations immediately the children arrive.

Music lessons

In September, there will be spaces for both keyboard and guitar lessons. Please contact West Sussex Music to add your child’s name to the waiting list.

Junior Production – date change

Due to the availability of our technician for the Junior Production, we have had to make a change to the date of the second performance. The dates are:

Tuesday 15th July at 7pm

Wednesday 16th July at 7pm

We will be in touch after half term with the cast list.

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

Name everything please!

Please can we remind you to name all items that come into school. Children often like to have the same items as their friends and we are regularly confronted with the scenario in the picture below – without a name, it is very hard to return items to their rightful owners!!



Chartwells Survey

We would like your feedback about ordering school meals, whether you are a service user or not, you can enter into a prize draw to win a £100 shopping voucher.

Please click the link to complete the short survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/7PCa7SZ0SF>

Dates for your Diary

Mon 26th May – Fri 30th May - ** HALF TERM **

Mon 2nd June - ** INSET DAY **

Weds 18th June – Sports Day

Mon 23rd June – New Parents evening at Warden Park

Wed 25th June – Sports Day RESERVE DATE

Fri 27 June – Y6 Induction day at Warden Park

Mon 30th June – Y6 Leavers' Service, Christ's Hospital

Tues 1st July @ 2.15pm – Book Look

Weds 2nd July – Lake and Coombe Class trip

Tues 15th July @ 7pm – Junior Production
Weds 16th July @ 7pm – Junior Production
Tues 22nd July @ 9am – Final Assembly
Tuesday 22nd July – Summer Term Ends
Weds 3rd Sept – INSET DAY
Thurs 4th Sept – Autumn Term Starts

Fundraising for School

Amazon wish lists will remain open should you wish to purchase anything for your child's class.

Please ensure you include your child's name and the class on a gift receipt so we can get your gift to the correct class and thank you for your generosity!

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.

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

Ensemble Reza's Crawley Music Collective - Make Music. Meet People. Create Something Cool ... for musicians of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and instruments!

Join us for five relaxed creative sessions jamming and collaborating with our professional musicians, led by world-renowned Music Director **Paul Griffiths**. Together, we'll create some original pieces of music and wrap it all up with a chilled-out, informal gig. **No pressure. Just great music, and a chance to be part of something special.** Watch our 1 minute film from our 2024 Collective workshops: <https://youtu.be/JUmntCgeuFM>.

For more info & to join visit: <https://www.ensemblereza.com/play>

Rehearsals at: Creative Crawley - Unit 79/80 County Mall Crawley: Sunday 18th, 25th May, 8th June from 11-1:30pm, Saturday 21st June, 10-12.30pm and Sunday 6th July* (venue tbc for this date) rehearsal - from 11am-11.45 and concert from 12.30-1.15pm concert.

Feedback from our 2024 members:

'The many individuals become a group very quickly! Loved it!'

'I've been blown away with the enthusiasm and talent in this group. Great afternoon!'

'Just wanted to say a massive thank you for the experience we all shared as a family in the Crawley Music Collective, it's a memory for life!'

Supported with funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.



Tickets
£10,
under
16s free,
small booking fee applies online

Raising funds for
ST CATHERINE'S
HOSPICE



Starts (collect maps) at the Victory Hall,
Stockcroft Road, Balcombe, RH17 6HP

Tickets on sale at Balcombe Stores or via QR code above or at
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balcombe-gardeners-association>

A colorful poster for 'Cool 4 School & Workshop'. It features a cartoon rabbit wearing sunglasses and a wizard hat. The text 'MAGIC SHOW Cool 4 School & WORKSHOP' is prominent, with the tagline 'Enrichment beyond the classroom' below it. At the bottom, it lists two parts: 'PART 1 - COME JUST FOR THE SHOW - MAY 14TH' and 'PART 2 - LEARN REAL MAGIC WORKSHOP - MAY 21ST'. There is a 'SAVE UP TO 10% OFF' badge and a 'FREE DRINKS & POPCORN' badge. A QR code is also present. The bottom of the poster includes a 'BOOK NOW' button, a website URL 'www.cool4schoolclubs.co.uk', and a phone number '07475 724 576'.

INSET DAYS: 2 June 2025

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

MAY HALF TERM
 May 27th - 30th BOOK 4 DAYS FOR THE PRICE OF 3
 Lindfield, Haywards Heath

Full day 9 - 4pm £34.75
 2 hour Drop off £16.99

**INSET DAY
 2ND JUNE**
 Half day 9 - 2 pm or 1 - 6 pm £25
 Extended day 9 - 6pm +£5

SPORTS, ARTS, PARTY GAMES, PLAYGROUND TRIPS & MORE

+ Lunch £3.50
 Lunch + Tea £5
 Inquire for full menu

5.0 RATING

Cool 4 School
 Enrichment beyond the classroom

07475724576 - info@cool4schoolclubs.co.uk - f @cool4school

SCS SOUTH COAST SPORTS

MAY HALF-TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

AGES 5-12 YRS

Tuesday 27 May - Thursday 29 May
 10am - 3pm
 Tythe Barn, Pondtail Rd, Horsham, RH12 5JF

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

HOLIDAY HEROES
 ACTIVITY CAMPS

KEEPING KIDS ACTIVE, ENGAGED & HAPPY THIS MAY HALF-TERM

Looking for a school holiday solution that your kids will love – and you can trust? Our Holiday Heroes Activity Camps are action-packed with:

- Arts & Crafts
- Fun Games & Team Challenges
- Multi-Sports & Active Play
- Skill-Building & Confidence Boosting Activities

Led by our qualified, friendly coaches, each day is full of variety. Whether your child is sporty, creative, or full of energy, they'll find something to enjoy.

For Primary School Children (5 - 11 years)
 Ofsted Registered – use your childcare vouchers.

HAYWARDS HEATH
 Tuesday 27 May - Friday 30 May
 St Wilfrid's CoE Primary School

BOOK ONLINE:
 www.southcoastsports.org.uk/holiday-heroes

SCS SOUTH COAST SPORTS
Coastal CIC

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

5 - 14 YEARS

10AM - 3PM
 £20 PER DAY

Monday 14 April: Tythe Barn, Horsham
 Monday 28 July: Tythe Barn Horsham
 Mondays 4, 11 & 18 August: Tythe Barn, Horsham
 Existing customers: Book via your iPAL app. New to us? Head to our website

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

INSET DAYS: 2 June 2025

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

Bees &
Honey
2025



Children's School or Youth Group Poster Competition

Children in the South East of England are invited to enter the Bees & Honey competition at the South of England Show in 2025.

They need to create a poster of up to A4 about Bees or Beekeeping. Posters will be displayed and judged at the South of England Show

**Deadline for entry
May 30th 2025**

All entries to be posted to:
Bees and Honey Competition, South of England Agricultural Society, South of England
Showground Selsfield Road Ardingly RH17 6TL

Kids Trail

Borde Hill

Oscar & The Dawn Chorus

24th May to 1st June

Follow the story trail helping Oscar the Owl search for the most talented birds for his singing group The Dawn Chorus. Along the way, sing like the rain, tap out a rhythm, and chirp your way around the Garden!

£4.00 plus admission to include a prize / free to members.

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

INSET DAYS: 2 June 2025