



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## JULY 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 changeable 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 Village Fete and the Junior Production but there are also other opportunities to come in and help – we still have a couple of 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.

### Open Morning

It was lovely to see so many of you at our open morning. We know that the children love showing you their work and we hope you find it useful as an insight into what we do in school. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for how we could improve our open mornings or offer other opportunities for parents to come in, or even if you have any comments at all, we'd love to hear from you.



### End of Term – Finishing Time



We will be finishing at 1:15 on the last day of this term – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This is to allow staff to clear their rooms ready for building and decorating work that is due to begin the following day.

As is traditional, we will also be holding our final celebration assembly, aiming to start at just after 9am on this day. This is an opportunity to look back over the past academic year and celebrate our achievement and good times. All parents and friends are most welcome to join us but please be advised, it is usually very crowded.

### Sports Day – 17 July

Our Sports Day will consist of two activity sessions, with time for a family picnic in between. During the morning, starting at 10.15am, the children from Reception to Y5 will compete in their house teams in a round robin set of skills activities. They will be active throughout the session gaining points for

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their teams. This year we will have Y6 helping the younger children with the activities. Year 6 will have their own sports session where they will compete in 5 aside games of handball, tag rugby and basketball, whilst gaining points for their teams.

After the morning activities the children will go back to their classrooms before returning to the field to join you, if you can make it, for a picnic lunch from 12pm.

**Please remember that there will be no school dinners on this day so you need to provide your child with a packed lunch if you are not going to be in school at lunchtime to share a picnic with them.**

The afternoon session will begin at 1pm. We have a full programme of races for the children planned, as well as races for pre-school children and parents. This will be followed by presentation of prizes.

Do please join whenever you can during the day as the children love competing with an appreciative audience. Fingers crossed the weather will be fine. The children will be outside for most of the day so please make sure they have sun cream already applied, hats and water bottles with them. We will endeavour to let you know as soon as we can if we need to postpone the event.

As Sports Day is an event where the children compete for their school teams we like them to wear a t-shirt/top in their team colour. Any top or t-shirt in your child's team colour will be fine but if you are having difficulty there are cheap simple plain cotton t-shirts made by Fruit of the Loom available through Amazon in all four colours.

The team colours are:

Bears - orange

Bats - purple

Badgers - green

Bees - yellow

[AMAZON - fruit of the loom](#)

We are very much looking forward to seeing you on the day.

## Lost Property

We seem to have a huge amount of lost property. We will put this outside during the last week of

school. Anything not claimed by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July will be available for parents to "upcycle" on the final Monday. You may take what you like in return for a donation to school funds.



## Celebration Assemblies and Church Services

As you know we encourage parents to join us whenever they can for assemblies and services at St Mary's, but have noticed recently that the background noise level has risen to the extent that children reading or talking are not able to be heard or even concentrate on what they are doing. This is incredibly frustrating and upsetting for them, especially as some of our children are not natural "performers" and take quite a bit of encouragement to present their work or contribution. Please can I remind all parents that we ask you to sit quietly once the children start arriving for assembly, to help create a quiet, calm atmosphere.

Our pupils love to see their younger siblings joining in with assemblies, but if your pre-school child is likely to get restless, please bring something for them to eat, or do, that will not detract from the pupils at the front. Some parents have shared their disappointment that very noisy toddlers have prevented them from enjoying their child's celebration moment. Obviously we understand that it is hard for very young children to be still and quiet for long periods of time, so if your child is becoming unsettled and restless, please take them out.

## Prayer Spaces

### What is a prayer space?

Some of you may know that last week we had a prayer space in the school library. Please see an explanation below:

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Growing up raises lots of questions,

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some to do with their experience, both the good and the bad, and some to do with their sense of wonder at the universe we live in and whether there's more to life than meets the eye. Many have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help them to develop their own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Prayer Spaces in Schools enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore these life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Taking a broadly Christian perspective as a starting point, prayer spaces give children and young people an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment. The approach does not proselytize and purposely allows pupils to make their own meaning and to draw their own conclusions.

During the sessions, the Children always ask how to make the glitter jars so we have included the recipe below.

The Prayer Spaces Team

"I was worried about things before I went to Prayer Space, but afterwards my worries had disappeared and I felt much happier" – Mayzie-Louise, Year 2

## BE STILL/BE CALM

Our lives are busy – the 'outside world' is full of noise, people, things to do and places we should be. We rarely get to stop, to switch off, and just 'be'.

The word 'holy' simply means 'set apart'

For hundreds of years, people have discovered that being set apart from other people helps them to be more aware of themselves and also of God. In our busy world, this isn't easy.

Be still.... there is no need to talk, no need to do anything just 'be'...

Life can be stressful. Our 'inside world', our minds, can be just as full, noisy and busy too.

What's on your mind at the moment ... people, relationships, expectations, pressures,

worries.....

Shake the glitter-filled Calm Jar in front of you and then watch and wait while the glitter settles

*BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD (Psalm 46 v10)*

## How to make a glitter jar

- Clear acrylic plastic container with a well-fitting lid.
- Bottle of Glycerin (from [Boots](#) or a pharmacy)
- Glitter
- Water
- Food colouring
- Washing up liquid

Nearly half-fill the jar with Glycerin and top it up with water to within 10mm of the top

Add quite a lot of glitter - you can always add a bit, put the lid on and shake it to see, then add a bit more if you think it needs it.

Drop in a **very** small amount of food colouring. Try the smallest amount you can and add more if you need to. You don't want the water to become too opaque

Finally, add a small drip of washing up liquid. This is to break the surface tension as without it the glitter tends to stick to the surface of the water. Too much and it all get too frothy

Now put the lid on and shake it. Does it work well enough?

You can always add a bit more of any of the ingredients at this stage - leave about 5mm of space at the top

## Palm Oil

I expect the children have told you that we have moved away from plastic in assemblies for a bit and have been talking recently about palm oil. I showed the banned Iceland advert and we discussed its purpose and why we thought it was banned. We have also been learning a little about orangutans and how the use of palm oil is affecting them. Many of the children were keen to rush home and throw away any food packages that contain palm oil, so we talked about the fact that it

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is in so many different things and erasing it completely from our diet would be incredibly difficult at the moment. We did however all make a pledge to try and persuade whoever does the shopping in our family to choose one palm oil free product each week instead of our normal purchases.

To make things a bit easier for you, please find attached a list of common products that are made either with or **without** palm oil.

<http://www.gardenandgreen.co.uk/palm-oil-free-chocolate/4594476718>

## Parking

Following a complaint from a member of the public concerning inconsiderate parking, I remind you to choose your spot carefully, to ensure the safety of all children.

## STEM Resources



Thank you to our kind anonymous sponsor who recently donated the cost of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) pack of resource books. Our children are really enjoying looking at them.

## Coombe Outside Area

We have noticed over the last few weeks that a number of small children have been playing on the equipment and in the playhouse outside Coombe whilst waiting to collect siblings. Can we please ask that you try and keep them off the equipment and discourage them from going into the playhouse? On a few occasions, snack food has been left there and we are concerned that we may get unwanted visitors!

## A Plea For Spare Uniform

Our stocks of spare uniform are running low. We are in particular need of girl's knickers for ages 4-6 and general uniform for that age range for both girls and boys. We would be very grateful for any donations!

## Fun Dog Show at Village Fete

A reminder that Cherry Tree Kennels will be running the Dog Show as usual at the Village Fete on Saturday 13 July. Entries open at 12noon. Show from 1pm – 3pm. All dogs welcome! £2 per entry or 3 for £5.

## Summer Camps

Treetops Clubs are running summer camps at St Wilfred's School in Haywards Heath from Monday 29 July to Friday 9 August. Please click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.treetopsclubs.co.uk/>

The Spinnettes are also running their annual summer camp at Balcombe – details on the attached file.



Summer  
Workshop.docx

## SCS Holiday Activity Camps

Venue: Handcross Primary School  
Football Camp: Mon 5 Aug – Fri 9 Aug  
Summer Sports Camp: Mon 19 Aug – Fri 23 Aug  
Time: 9am – 3pm      Ages: 5-12

See their website for more details:  
<http://southcoastsports.org.uk/>

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## 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/balcombeprimary>

## School Diary

**Tues 9 July** – 7 p.m. Junior Production

**Wed 10 July** – 9.30 a.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 p.m. Leavers' Party

**Tues 23 July** - **1.15pm** END OF SCHOOL YEAR

Donate with  
**JustGiving**

## 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