



# Balcombe

## Church of England Primary School

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

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

[parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk)

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Half term is almost upon us and I wish you all a very sunny and restful week. Please ensure that in addition to playing outside and relaxing in front of the TV, your children use the time to catch up on some reading. There's nothing quite so lovely as losing yourself in a good book!

## Staffing Changes

Sadly, Mrs Sharon Kingsland will be leaving her role as Lake Teaching Assistant on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February to concentrate on family matters. Lake won't quite be the same without her, but we are delighted that she will still be supporting OV club and has agreed to help us out if we need cover for staff absence in school. We are grateful to Sharon for her commitment to the school and have very much enjoyed having her as part of the team and I am delighted that we will still see her fairly regularly.

Ms Victoria Pryimak, who has been supporting our older Ukrainian pupils will also be leaving us soon to take up her new position working for the Local Authority, supporting schools to meet the needs of Pupils from Ukraine. We are sad to lose Victoria but pleased that she has been successful in securing a permanent post and wish her good luck in her new role.

Mrs Kirby, although still continuing to work as a Teaching Assistant in Mill, is stepping down from her role as Learning Mentor after half term; an important

role that she has fulfilled brilliantly for the last 10 years. I am sure that there are countless pupils and parents who would want to join me in thanking Mrs Kirby for the time, care and understanding she gave in order to ensure that difficulties were overcome and good mental health and wellbeing remained a priority.

We are currently recruiting for the roles of Learning Mentor and Teaching Assistant and I will update parents with the outcome of that process soon.

## World Book Day

Our celebrations for World Book Day will be on **Friday 3rd March** instead of the official national day (which is the Thursday of that week).

- We would like to invite the children to get involved by dressing up as their favourite book character. Alternatively, for children who prefer not to dress up, wear or bring a prop or props to represent their favourite character.
- It would be great if all children could bring in one of their favourite books from home to read at school, and share with classmates.
- Competition - get creative by making a book character at home using the inside of a toilet roll - please send the children in with their completed character on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. There will be a prize in each class for the best entries!

## No nuts or nut products please!

As we have children in school with allergies to nuts, we kindly remind you that this includes hummus which contains tahini sesame paste.

## NSPCC Number Day

The children really enjoyed all the number activities and we raised an amazing £175.44 for NSPCC.

## Victory Hall Centenary

We are a small group who are planning to mark the centenary of our Victory Hall next year.

The afternoon will begin at 2.30 with a talk by Roy Bliss, an expert on the history of the Hall and its murals.

After a break for tea and cake, we hope to have a performance of "The Day The Train Came By" performed by the children of Balcombe. This short musical play remembers when the first train came through Balcombe, and was written by the late Jon Fielder, who lived in the village, and wrote the play for Balcombe School. It was first performed in 1985. Jon was an exceptionally talented musician, writer and teacher. He lived in Balcombe with his partner, Maggie, was head of music at Warden Park, then at St Mary's Reigate, and wrote many musicals which were performed locally, nationally and on television. Maggie will be the Director.

This is not a school production, so auditions and rehearsals will be outside school hours, and will start on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the Parish Rooms from 2pm to 4pm. We plan to film the performance and sell DVDs, with proceeds going to Balcombe School and the Victory Hall. We will of course request permission from parents.

We hope that your children, regardless of school, will be able to take part...and as we're sure you will have

questions, please call or email one of the contacts below.

The Victory Hall Centenary Committee:

Roy Bliss

Julie Budgen

Sheila Illsley

Maggie Kear

Helen Oman... [helen.oman@sky.com](mailto:helen.oman@sky.com)

Linda Short.....[adnilshort1@gmail.com](mailto:adnilshort1@gmail.com)

## Are you a dog lover and fancy a few minutes of fame?!

Could you provide a loving home for a rescue dog? The Channel 4 series, The Dog House is looking for couples, individuals, friends and families who are seriously considering bringing a rescue dog into their lives and are willing to share their reasons for doing so. Please follow this link to apply:

<https://www.channel4.com/4viewers/takepart/the-dog-house>

## Dates for your diary

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – HALF TERM**

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Inset day, school closed

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Feb @3.15pm – 4.30pm** – Pancakes at The Parish Rooms with St Mary's Church

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb @ 3.30pm to 5.30pm** – Parents Evening

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Spring Class trip to Planetarium

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March @ 4pm – 7pm** – Parents Evening

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Celebrations for World Book Day

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March** – British Science Week, details to follow

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March** – Red Nose Day

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Open Morning

**Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March** – Spring Term finishes

## Fundraising for School



[Link to Amazon Smile](#)

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>

## 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.

## Holiday Activities / Camps

**LOCATION & BOOKING**  
Handcross Park School  
Handcross Park in Sussex, awarded Prep School Of The Year in 2016, has outstanding facilities, including a swimming pool, that offer a truly wonderful environment for our first city activity camp.

**Address:** London Road, Handcross, R11 2LP

**CAMP DATES**  
EASTER: TUES 11TH - FRI 14TH APRIL  
SUMMER: MON 17TH JULY - FRI 19TH AUGUST

**EARLY BOOKING OFFER**  
£205 PER WEEK (SAVE £40)  
£48 A DAY (SAVE £6)

**GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!**

Outstanding holiday camps for 4 to 14 year olds this Easter and summer at Handcross Park School, Haywards Heath

**BOOK NOW** on [ultimateactivity.co.uk](http://ultimateactivity.co.uk) or call 0330 118 7077

**Family Trail**

**The Enchanted Garden**

Follow the story trail around the Enchanted Garden to help Piccolo earn his pixie wings

11th February - 26th March, 10am-5pm daily  
£4 per trail, plus admission to include a prize. Free to Members

[BORDEHILL.CO.UK](http://BORDEHILL.CO.UK)

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## February Half Term

We are very excited that we have **FOUR** Half Term camps happening this February!!

Our camps are filled with **FUN** activities and there is lots for your children to experience and take part in.

Details and booking links are listed below.

**Bognor Regis** activity camp is being held at St Mary's Primary School, PO21 2DJ  
Monday 13th - Thursday 16th February.

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/st-marys-bognor-feb-half-term-camp/>

We are able to offer **FREE** places at this camp for Ukrainian Refugee children, thanks to funding from **Arun Homes**.

We want to help young Ukrainian children integrate into their new community which also allows them to experience **FUN** and engaging experiences. Please book using the link below if you are entitled to a free Ukrainian child place at the Bognor Regis camp.

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/supporting-ukraine-bognor-half-term-camp/>

**Handcross** activity camp is held at Handcross Primary School, RH17 6HB  
Monday 13th - Friday 17th February

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/handcross-activity-camp-feb-half-term/>

**Haywards Heath** activity camp is our newest addition!!

The camp venue is St Wilfrid's CE Primary School, Haywards Heath, RH16 3NL. This is a school that we already work in partnership with and we are very excited to be able to host our activity camp here this February half term.

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th February.

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/haywards-heath-half-term-camp/>



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**Horsham Football** camp to be held at Tythe Barn,  
Horsham, RH12 5JF

Tuesday 14th - Thursday 16th February

Please book your child on using the link below.

<https://southcoastsports.org.uk/product/the-tythe-barn-horsham-football-camp-feb2023/>

Keep an eye on our Facebook/Instagram pages  
for further updates.

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## Easter Activity Camps

We are well on the way to planning out Easter Activity camps and will again be providing **FREE** places for HAF eligible children at our various camp locations.

Below are the details we know so far, more information will be released over the coming weeks, once final details have been confirmed.

### **Bishop Tufnell Easter Activity camp**

Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April

(HAF eligible children we be able to attend this camp for FREE)

### **Handcross Easter Activity Camp**

Week 1 Monday 3rd April - Thursday 6th April.

Week 2 Tuesday 11th April - Friday 14th April

(Week 2 HAF eligible children will be able to attend for FREE)

### **Bognor Easter Activity camp (venue TBC)**

Tuesday 11th April - Friday 14th April

(HAF eligible children we be able to attend this camp for FREE)

### **Horsham Football Camp, Tythe Barn**

Week 1 Tuesday 4th April - Thursday 6th April

(Week 1 HAF eligible children we be able to attend this camp for FREE)

Week 2 Tuesday 11th April - Thursday 13th April

**Haywards Heath Activity** camp details still to be confirmed.

**INSET DAYS: 20 FEBRUARY & 5 JUNE 2023**