



Balcombe

Church of England Primary School

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



JULY NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents,

What a great year! A year full of adventure and new experiences, a year full of challenge and success and a year full of teamwork and friendship! Your children have been a joy to spend time with and it has been such a pleasure to see them grow and blossom. From our very youngest children in Lake, who have settled so brilliantly into school and who made me smile every single day, to our older children who absolutely sparkled on stage in our production "Pirates of the Curry Bean", they have been a pleasure to work with. It has been an incredibly busy year, with so many memorable times – the sponsored skip, Bowles, the visit from the Owls and the visit to Butser and South Downs Planetarium, Children in Need, Expressive Arts week, STEM week, Cake sales, the Nativity, visits to Hurst College and Christ's Hospital, Sports' Day, Sporting competitions to name but a few. I hope that your children will remember these events, for many years to come – I know that I will.

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement this year and for entrusting your children into our care. Happy holidays!

With best wishes,
Wendy Millbanks

Meet the Teachers

Meet the teacher sessions will take place early in September. These meetings are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher (or meet them again) and to find out about expectations for the coming year, learning topics on the horizon, homework, PE days etc. They take place straight after school, last

about 40 minutes and we offer child care for school aged children whilst you are attending.

Lake Class – Thursday 4th September
Coombe Class – Tuesday 9th September
Forest Class – Friday 12th September
Spring Class – Monday 8th September
Mill Class – Friday 5th September

Please try and attend if you can.

End of year assessments

We are really proud of our assessment results this year –

- In EYFS we had 80% of pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD) compared to 68% nationally.
- In phonics 88% of our pupils reached the expected level compared to 80% nationally.
- In yr4 our multiplication check results showed that 8/13 pupils achieved full marks. This is 62% of pupils scoring full marks, compared to 34% national average.
- In yr 6, 74% of our pupils attained the expected level in Writing, Maths, Grammar Punctuation and Spelling, with 95% attaining this in Reading.

Well done Balcombe School!

Meet the Headteacher – Wednesday 17 September @ 7pm

Mr Ben Turney, our new Exec Head, will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday 17th September at 7pm. This will provide Parents with an opportunity to ask any questions.

Summer Reading Challenge

Below are some suggestions for taking part in Summer Reading Challenges over the holidays.

Summer Book Review Competition

https://www.schoolreaders.org/bookreview?fbclid=IwY2xjawKo_AbLeHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETEeyeUxrcEOyU1c0MVlzMZkAR45PmZbe5bGDNPCCFIDOTcEE6Uz2l7SqaVPdXZ4VqV7WfjHfhDQONLGXLqM0g_aem_IKwGskweLBDydWtxn7_jlg

Library Summer Reading Challenge (online access)

https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22551112462&gbraid=0AAAAACuCUlqhEhto2-xR-PcGkRUYuL9n0&gclid=Cj0KCQjw9O_BBhCUARIsAHQMjS7kq6mmbnUDnUhu7gd07_pEhapVZeRfwzrljn1FLKBQY_TdiUg0QssaAuKqEALw_wcB

West Sussex Libraries Summer Reading Challenge online page - information is to come, but usually starts a bit before the holidays and usually extends into September (usually a prize for completing too)

<https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src>

Clubs

Breakfast Club and Cool 4 School will start again on the first day of the Autumn Term.

All other Clubs will restart w/c 15 September.

Pencil cases and book bags!

For those children in Juniors, please find below a reminder of the stationery list for pencil cases

The pencil case **should** have in it:
Fountain pen (with blue ink cartridges)
Handwriting pen – blue ink
Pencil
Rubber
Ruler
Pencil sharpener
Glue stick
Whiteboard pens

And also **could** have:
A green pen for editing
Coloured pencils
Felt tip pens
Highlighter pens
Scissors
Blue ink cartridges (if using an ink pen)

For those children in Lake and Coombe, we ask that they **only** bring a blue school book bag in as we do not have sufficient storage for rucksacks.

Drama Club – end of year update



Upper and Lower Drama club have been busy this year as always. The Upper Group started the year creating Drama around all sorts of periods of history they have learnt about in their classes - they were keen to cover Boudicca; the Great Fire Of London; Second World War; Greeks and Romans as well as modern subjects such as the Olympics and Computer worlds coming into reality. They moved on to devising their own performances which they scripted

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themselves and performed to parents and the school with great success in March. The idea was a 'Magic Library' where all the books came to life. Each group chose a different story - we had 'Star Wars', 'Matilda', 'Rapunzel' and a 'War Comedy'! In the summer term they have developed their skills of spontaneous improvisation as well as ways to create characters on stage, focusing on the fun of Pirates.



The Lower group started the year exploring all sorts of stories and acting them as a group through games and improvisation. We went from the Olympics, to 'Goldilocks'; 'Red Riding Hood'; Astronauts and Aliens; to 'The Nutcracker'; elves and The Nativity. After Christmas we explored the story of 'Town Mouse Country Mouse' before developing it into a script. The rest of the school loved their play and we toured it to Russettings Care home, which is always a treat for all concerned. In the Summer term we have had lots of fun with a water and sea theme, leading to Pirate Plays!



Funtastic Tales is committed to the importance of regular Drama sessions to help develop children's confidence whilst also unlocking the potential of their social, communication and creative skills. I wish our wonderful year 6's all the very best and look forward to another exciting Drama term in the Autumn.

Helen Savage (Butcher), Funtastic Tales Drama Club

Chartwells information

Moving Classes:

If your child is going into year 3, don't forget that you will need to pay for their school meals from September via ParentPay.

Special Diets:

For children who have allergies or intolerances, you can select the allergy under "Allergies and Diet Types" and they will do the rest. Medical evidence will be required, this can be from a nurse, dietician or whoever manages your child's food allergy. You can also email the team on westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk or for general support from Chartwells call 01243 774175.

Recruitment:

Our kitchens are recruiting – term time contract and school friendly hours. ID for an enhanced DBS will be required. Please contact us at westsussex@chartwells.co.uk to find out more.

Finally, thank you ...!

A huge thank you from all the staff for the wonderful cards, messages and gifts! We truly feel spoilt by your generosity.

INSET DAYS: 3 September, 24 October 2025, 27 March & 1 June 2026

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 4th Sept – Autumn Term Starts
Thurs 4th Sept @ 3.30pm – Lake: Meet the Teacher
Fri 5th Sept – FoBS Uniform sale after school
Fri 5th Sept @ 3.30pm – Mill: Meet the Teacher
Mon 8th Sept – Spring: Meet the Teacher
Tues 9th Sept – Coombe: Meet the Teacher
Fri 12th Sept – Forest: Meet the Teacher
Weds 17th Sept @ 7pm – Meet Mr Turney for a Q&A

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.



Summer Holiday Hockey mornings

Hockey for Boys and Girls (6-16yrs)
Monday and Tuesday mornings in August 2025
8-10am: 4th, 5th
9-11am: 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th

- ⇒ Aimed at experienced players but very suitable for beginners
- ⇒ Take part in stick and ball skills, small sided games and tactical matchplay
- ⇒ Make new friends, learn new skills and have fun!
- ⇒ We can provide sticks

Venue:
Ardingly College, North Pitch
RH17 6SQ

Please use the car park opposite the main school entrance.

Summer promotion - 50% discount included!

(Prices below include 50% discount, each morning session lasts 2 hours.)

1 morning = £7 (£3.50 per hour)	5 mornings = £27.50 (£2.75 p/h)
2 mornings = £13 (£3.25 p/h)	6 mornings = £33 (£2.75 p/h)
3 mornings = £18 (£3 p/h)	7 mornings = £37.50 (£2.68 p/h)
4 mornings = £22 (£2.75 p/h)	8 mornings = £42 (£2.63 p/h)

Non - members, please contact
juniors@midsussexhockey.co.uk to book places.

www.midsussexhockey.co.uk



HOLIDAY HQ SUMMER CAMP

WATER
SPORTS
SCIENCE
PLUS LOTS MORE!

Burgess Hill & Haywards Heath

WEEKLY THEMES
DAILY SPORTS, CRAFTS, TEAM CHALLENGES, SPECIAL EVENTS AND MUCH MORE!

23rd July - 2nd September 2025
Book online at pioneerchildcare.co.uk

Plus FREE HAF Places Available!
Book online at bit.ly/free-haf-pioneer

For primary school aged children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals

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ACTIVE KIDS. HAPPY DAYS.
JOIN THE FUN THIS SUMMER IN HANDCROSS

**AGES
5-11
YRS**



**FREE FOR
CHILDREN
WITH A
HAF ID**

DATES + LOCATION
Handcross Primary School, Handcross
Monday 28 July – Friday 1 August
Monday 4 August – Friday 8 August
Monday 11 August – Friday 15 August
Monday 18 August – Friday 22 August

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk



**SUMMER HOLIDAY
GIRLS FOOTBALL DAYS**



**AGES
5-14
YEARS**

MONDAYS 10AM - 3PM
28 JULY, 4 AUGUST, 11 AUGUST, 18 AUGUST
Tythe Barn, Pondtail Rd, Horsham RH12 5EZ

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk



ACTIVE KIDS. HAPPY DAYS.
JOIN THE FUN THIS SUMMER IN HAYWARD'S HEATH

**AGES
5-11
YRS**



**FREE FOR
CHILDREN
WITH A
HAF ID**

DATES + LOCATION
St Wilf's CofE Primary School, Hayward's Heath
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August
Monday 11 August – Thursday 14 August
Monday 18 August – Thursday 21 August

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk



SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMPS

- ⚽ SKILLS AND TECHNIQUE TRAINING
- ⚽ FOOTBALL-FOCUSED DRILLS & CHALLENGES
- ⚽ SMALL-SIDED GAMES & MATCH PLAY
- ⚽ TEAM-BUILDING, ENCOURAGEMENT & PITCH-SIDE FUN!

**AGES
5-12 YRS**



Tuesday 29 July - Thursday 31 August
Tuesday 5 - Thursday 7 August
Tuesday 12 - Thursday 14 August
10am - 3pm ⚽ Tythe Barn, Pondtail Rd, Horsham, RH12 5JF

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

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