



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



MARCH NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

*We do have learners with allergies, so please remember – **NO NUTS** in school.*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems as though Spring has sprung and we are all looking forward to being able to get outside more often and for longer.

We have a few plans to make improvements to the outside area for both learning and playing and have already started talking to all of our children within school council meetings about how we might do this.

I will tell you more about this in the near future, once our pupils have identified and agreed priorities, but I wanted to let you know that once again, I will be asking for your help.

Please keep us in mind if you have had building work done and you have any leftover wood (especially sleepers and long lengths), clean plastic guttering, plastic pipe (big enough to roll something through it), small tyres (no nails), rope and tarpaulins.

We are also always on the lookout for dressing up clothes, especially aged 7 and above.

Warm Wishes
Wendy Millbanks

Parent Working Party FOR ACTION

Following on from the success of our last three working party mornings, we have organised

another one for **Saturday 2nd April between 9:30 – 12:30.**

Jobs to be tackled this time include painting/staining the Pod and other sheds, creating digging pits for the children (think raised flower bed with cars and dinosaurs) and the transformation of two old dinghys into pirate ships.

We really do need your help to enable projects like these to come to fruition, so please, please spare us an hour or so if you can.

Website

We constantly review the content of our website and try to ensure that all information is easily accessible to parents and other interested parties. As you can imagine, this is quite a time consuming and never ending task. If you notice something that is incorrect or out of date on our website, please do let us know.

We have recently added a lot more detail to the curriculum section, under the heading "Our School", so please do take a look to find more information about what your child will be learning during their years with us.

There is an explanation of why our curriculum is designed in the way it is, why and how we teach each subject, what and how we assess and how

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

the key areas are allocated to each class over a two year cycle.

We are still finalising one or two areas, but these should be uploaded in the next couple of weeks.

St Mary's Pancake Sale



As you are aware, Denise and her merry band of helpers from the church organised a pancake sale after school on Monday. Our children and their families obviously love pancakes as we sold a whopping 120 pancakes, making a total of £150.

Initially, when first planned, the money raised was intended to contribute towards our PTA funds, but in light of the recent events in Ukraine, Denise and I decided to split the proceeds, with half going to the PTA and half to the fund for Ukraine.

I am very proud to tell you, that following discussion with the children, they are of the opinion that our need is not as great as those children being affected by war in Ukraine and therefore the decision has been made to donate all of the money raised to the Ukraine appeal. I am sure, like me, you are delighted that our children have been so caring and generous to others.

What a great outcome to the school and church working in partnership.

Comic Relief – Friday 18 March



Friday 18th March is Red nose Day for comic relief.

As we didn't ask the children to dress up for world book day (and we know that lots of our pupils love dressing up), we are giving everyone the opportunity on this day.

The theme this year is Superheroes, so we ask that children come to school dressed as a hero of some sort. This could be:

- a traditional superhero – batman, Supergirl,
- an everyday hero – fireman, soldier, nurse
- a hero from a book – Moana, Harry Potter, Bilbo Baggins
- an historical hero – Florence Nightingale, Walt Disney
- a sporting hero – Pele, Serena Williams

For the privilege of coming to school dressed up, we ask for a minimum donation of £1. I will have a collection bucket before school as usual.

In addition to this, children in Spring and Mill will also be hosting an activity afternoon for our younger children. This will include games such as guess the name of the cuddly toy, shoot a target and probably involve sweets and chocolate in some form. Pupils will need to bring some money in from home to take part in the games. Most will be priced at around 20p. Please make sure that your child's money is in a named purse or envelope and if worried that it will get lost, hand to your child's teacher at the start of the day.

INSET DAY - Monday 6 June

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

World Book Day

Thank you to all parents who supported our pupils with entering the book in a jar competition and sent in books to exchange.

We understand from a few of you that this approach to World Book Day was appreciated as it felt more about the books and less about the usual costumes. We will make sure that there are opportunities for dressing up at other times throughout the year.

We hope that the children are enjoying their new (swopped) books and feel proud of their entry to the book in a jar competition.....there were some very creative jars.

Congratulations to our three overall winners – Emma in Coombe, Eliza in Mill and Lawrence in Forest.

Cross Country Finals

Congratulations to Anna and Rowan who competed in the Sussex Cross Country Finals on Thursday 3rd March.

For this hardy duo it completed a long journey from running at school back in October to gain a place in the school squad to compete in the NEARS race, followed by qualifying in the Mid Sussex race and then then further qualification into the Sussex final. They have had to dig deep each time and have put every ounce of energy they have into each race. We are so proud of their huge efforts and willingness to keep competing as the competitions got harder. Anna is wearing the silver medal that the Mid Sussex Y5 girls' team, of which she was a part, won.

We are looking forward to seeing them both competing again next year in Y6 and hope that they inspire others in school to join them. Well done!



OV After School

OV After School has been a great success after its first week operating. Thank you to those who have supported this new venture. If you would like to book a place for your child please click on the link below:

<https://www.ovafterschool.co.uk/>

Stationery

Quite a few of our Junior children have returned from half term with items missing from their pencil cases. Providing a well stocked pencil case, greatly eases the pressure on an already stretched school budget.

Stationery List for Juniors

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

INSET DAY - Monday 6 June

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

And also **could** have:

A green pen for editing

Coloured pencils

Felt tip pens

Highlighter pens

Scissors

Blue ink cartridges (if a pen person)

Dates for your diary

Thurs 10th March: Parents Evening

Tues 15th March: Parents Evening

Fri 18th March: Red Nose Day

Sat 19th March: FoBS - Six Nations Rugby, Balcombe Social Club

Sun 20th March 9.30am – 12.30pm: Bull Run

Sat 2nd April 9.30am – 12.30pm: Parents Working Party

Tues 5th April: Easter Service, St Mary's Church, time TBC

Fri 8th April: Spring Term Finishes

Mon 25th April: Summer Term Starts

Fri 27th May: Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Mon 30th May – Fri 3rd June: HALF TERM

Mon 6th June: INSET DAY

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/balcombeprimary>

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.

INSET DAY - Monday 6 June