



Balcombe

Church of England

Primary School

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

The term is now in full swing and our children are already well settled into their new routines and are getting to know new faces amongst our pupils and staff.

We welcome Mrs Hayley Seeley and Miss Alisha O'Connell to Forest Class and Mrs Paula Bennett to Coombe; they are fast becoming invaluable members of the Balcombe staff team.

Those of you who passed the school over the summer, may have noticed we had some work going on. We now have new markings on the playground, to encourage physical activity at playtime and so that we can actually see the netball court! Already the children have been making good use of these.

Lake also have a new toilet (as do the staff) which will make settling in much easier and also help us to deal with those inevitable little accidents (the children in Lake, not the staff).

Mr Sitford has been busy decorating and school certainly looks much brighter than it did. The area by the steps going down to the children's toilets and the front of the hall have been reinstated as blank canvasses ready for two new murals that will soon begin to take shape. These are to support and reinforce our new Balcombe School values. Last term the staff and governors began reviewing and evaluating our values. We felt that we had too many to remember or indeed, to truly be the core of all that we do. At the beginning of this term, I shared our new improved value set with the children and these values will form the focus for our assemblies this

year and work in the classroom around friendships, community and responsibility.

The two new murals are being created by Andy Bartlett, who did the team mural for us some years ago. We are very excited to welcome Andy back to school and look forward to seeing his wonderful creations. The children have already had a sneaky peek at his plans and have definitely given them their seal of approval.

Love Truth Thankfulness

Our School Values

- **Be respectful**

Have respect for yourself and behave in a way that makes you proud. Show respect to those around you and people of other faiths, cultures and beliefs. Treat our school, the local environment and the world in which we live with respect.

- **Be ambitious**

Set challenging goals for yourself and try hard to meet them. Dream big and believe in yourself.

- **Be resilient**

Understand that things won't always be easy or work out the first time. Persevere even when the going gets tough and learn from your mistakes. If someone upsets you or you have an issue to overcome, dig deep and find the strength to carry on.

- **Be caring**

Consider the feelings of those around you. Be a kind friend to others and be forgiving. Put the needs of the group ahead of your own needs. Look after each other and our world.

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

- **Be creative**

Be an individual. Think your own thoughts and make your own decisions. Believe that all problems can be overcome if you are determined to find an answer. Use your imagination.

- **Be curious**

Ask questions and reflect on the answers. Never be afraid to investigate and experiment. Take things apart. Have a go. Read.

- **Be the best that you can be!**

In all that we do, we are guided by God.

This half term's theme is **RESPECT**.

In line with our focus value this half term being respect, I feel moved to mention something in our community that does not fit with that value. There appears to be an issue with dog mess in the recreation ground. If you see or know someone who does not pick up after their dog, please remind them that not only is it disrespectful to the wider community, but it is particularly disrespectful to our children who use the park and is preventing them from safely exercising their right to play.

Wendy Millbanks

Parking

We would like to remind all parents that the parking area on Westup Road should only be used by parents when dropping off for Breakfast Club before 8am or to collect your child after a club at the very end of the day. It should not be used between 8am – 4pm. This is for the safety of the children as they arrive and leave school.

SCS on Social Media

SCS run Football Club for us on a Monday and Friday. SCS are advertising their brand on social media and as such may take photographs or videos of the children to use for advertising during after school clubs. If you are not happy with your child's image being used for this purpose, please can you let SCS or Toby Elborough know directly.

Harvest Service – 4 Oct @ 9.30am

The Church 'Harvest Festival' is on 6th October. This year the Church would like to use our donations to make hampers which will then be auctioned off at the Half Moon on Sunday 6th October from 6pm. The money raised will then be sent to Charities enabling them to operate when the giving is poor.

So with hampers in mind, the Church have asked for a variety of produce that could include tinned goods, fresh runner beans, pasta or even a bag of potatoes!

The School Harvest Service will be held at St Mary's Church at 9.30am on Friday 4 October. All welcome.

Please bring donations into school on Thursday or Friday of next week.

School Procedures

Please can we remind all parents that if your child is not going to be in school for any reason, you need to let the school office know every day that they won't be present – either by email, leave a message on the ansaphone or pop into the office. This saves valuable time and effort trying to locate missing children.

The lost property bin already has a number of items in it and we are only 4 weeks into the new school year. Please make sure EVERYTHING (water bottles, lunch boxes, shoes etc) that comes into school is named so that it can be returned to you if it is misplaced.

Uniform

We have accumulated a large quantity of donated clothing at school and we need help to sort it out. We would like one or two parent volunteers from each class to come and sort through everything into age or size and item i.e. jumpers, trousers, dresses etc. School will then keep 5 or 6 of each item in the appropriate age or size for every class as spares. The rest of the uniform will need to be sold or failing that, disposed of. Unfortunately, we simply don't have space in school to hold the quantity of uniform that we have been given. If you are able to help,

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

please let the office know.

Edmodo

As you will be aware from the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions earlier this term, we have been considering the continued use of Edmodo.

Amongst the parents we asked, there seemed to be a feeling that Edmodo was a nice idea, giving an opportunity to see a few photos or receive reminders, but that it would not be hugely missed and is not accessed by a large proportion of our parents.

In light of this, we have decided to cease the use of Edmodo, but instead use the monthly newsletter to give you a snapshot of an activity from each class and use email for reminders etc, thus reaching all of our parents.

This will start in the next newsletter, although Forest are keen to share their contribution now – Yuk!



We will also continue to update photos on our website following trips or events in school.

Choir at Ardingly College

Ardingly College has advised us about a Primary School choir they are creating on a trial basis this term, run by Susan Bailey, the College singing teacher.

The idea is for the Choir to run on three Saturdays - one in October, one in November and one in December, followed by a short concert at the end.

The actual dates are

Saturday 12 October
Saturday 9 November
Saturday 7 December

The Choir would meet between 0900 – 1030 including biscuits and drinks.

The meeting point and rehearsal space will be the Recital Room of the Music Department at Ardingly College and it is aimed at children in Year 4 and above.

There will be no charge for these sessions - it's simply about getting together a group of like-minded people, singing some lovely songs and then performing them. Ideally children will sign up all to all 3 sessions, however, it is understood

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

that this might not be practical.

Please contact Harry Hastings on the following email address if you are interested.

Harry.hastings@ardingly.com

Half Term Clubs

★ Oct Half Term Musical Theatre Club ★

☐ THE LION KING &
☐ THE ADDAMS FAMILY

With Matthew Goodgame, Lucy Parsons & Melanie Cripps who have been in West End Shows such as Grease, Starlight Express, 42nd Street, Cats, Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Dirty Dancing, Annie, Chicago and many more!

Your children will learn all aspects of theatre including Singing, Dancing & Acting as well as prop making and stage craft. This fun course will help build confidence and open their eyes to a world in performing. At the end of the week the children get a chance to perform and show their parents what they have been working on throughout the week.

Ages: 5-13 years old
Location: Balcombe School
Date: 28th Oct - 1st Nov
Time: 9am-4pm
Course Price: £150
CRB checked & First Aid Trained

✦ LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE ✦

BOOK NOW or For more details -
Tel/Text: 07759352479
Email : thespinettes@hotmail.com

STEM club at Great Walstead School – October Half Term

We would like to inform you of a **5-day Technology Club** we are running on **Monday 28th October 2019 – Friday 1st November 2019** at **Great Walstead School, RH16 2QL** from **9am to 3pm** each day.

Our technology camps are your child's ticket to another world, with lots of exciting activities for

curious coders, inventors and artists. Kids can learn how to program *artificial intelligence robots*, *modify madness with Minecraft* and even create their own *digital app*! The camps are designed to help children acquire in-demand skills from a young age, which will be needed for their future jobs market. Simply put, it is the perfect place for them to push their coding skills even further and provides an unforgettable learning experience.

Book early using the discount code **EARLYBIRD** to receive 10% your booking. Please Note this offer is only available until 27th September.

For a full list of activities and more information **please see flyer attached. Spaces are limited** and work on a **first come first serve** basis. To check availability or to enrol simply visit:

<https://nextthing.education/product/great-walstead/>

WINTER CRICKET CLUB

RG Cricket Club run a winter academy based at Copthorne Prep School. They run for 16 weeks through until Easter. Details can be found on their website or in the clubs folder in reception.
<https://www.rgcricket.com>

Vacancies in Balcombe

Youth Worker

St Mary's Church, Balcombe currently has a vacancy for an organised and enthusiastic worker to lead our thriving village youth group, running activities for young people between the ages of 11 -14. We meet fortnightly in Balcombe on Friday evenings and you would be supported by volunteers.

Eight hours per month at £10 per hour
For information, please contact Rosalind Merrick
rosalindmerrick@gmail.com
07763 940 980

BALCOMBE PARISH CLERK - VACANCY

Applications are invited for the part - time post of **Balcombe Parish Clerk**.
£14.50 - £15.40 per hour depending on experience.

You will be responsible for managing the day to day affairs of the Parish as well as being the Proper Officer carrying out all the statutory

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

functions. The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer is also responsible for the administration of the Council's finances so some book-keeping is required.

The role requires good organisational and IT skills, sound financial and business sense, good management and interpersonal skills. Full training will be provided for the successful applicant.

The post is part time, approximately 20 hours per week, mostly working from home, including attendance at evening meetings. It is expected that the successful candidate will take up the post in December 2019 and will work alongside the present Clerk until she retires.

Further details including a full job description are available from:-

Rosemary Robertson, **Balcombe Parish Clerk**
Telephone: 01444 811833
Email: parish.clerk@btconnect.com

Closing date for written applications is
Friday 11 October 2019.

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

Fri 27 Sept – 9am Mill Sharing Assembly
Fri 4 Oct – 9.30 am Harvest Service, St Mary's Church
Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov – Half Term
Mon 4 Nov – INSET Day
Wed 6 Nov – 9.15am – 10 am Open Morning
Tues 12 Nov – 4pm – 7pm Parents Evening
Tues 19 Nov – Flu vaccinations
Thurs 21 Nov – 3.30pm – 5.30pm Parents Evening

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

Donate with
JustGiving™