



Balcombe

Church of England

Primary School

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



3 OCTOBER - NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

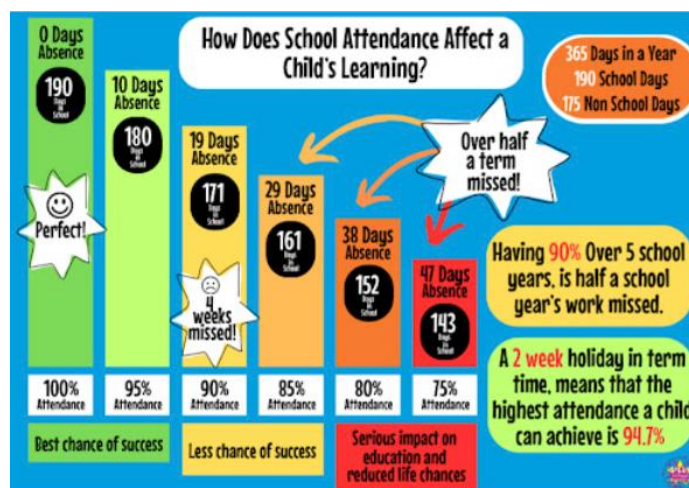
Dear Parents/Carers,

I trust this newsletter finds you all well.

We have had a brilliant start to the new academic year; the children are working hard and enjoying their learning; there has been a buzz of activity and productivity throughout the school. I have been thrilled to see how well our new pupils have settled – well done to you all!

Tuesday 7th October sees us visiting St Mary's church for our Harvest celebrations. We do hope that you will be able to join us at 9.30am for some songs, readings and prayers produced and performed by children from across the school. A key part of our Harvest celebrations is collecting donations which will be shared with good causes. If you would like to contribute to our Harvest collection, we ask that non-perishable foods are brought into the classroom on either Monday or Tuesday – the children carry their donations to Church (for safety, no glass please!). Thank you to those parents that have already offered to help walk the children to and from Church – we still need a few more adults please.

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind you of the importance of high attendance. When pupils miss school, they miss crucial learning led by specialist staff. Years of evidence consistently show the significant impact of regular attendance on a pupil's academic success, as well as the impact of not attending school. At Balcombe, we aim for all pupils to achieve 100% attendance. We know that regular attendance and punctuality are key to ensuring pupils are well-prepared for their future educational steps. The graphic provides a helpful guide to the impact of missing education:



We want to work closely with families to support good attendance and ensure that our pupils have the best chance of success and happiness in their time at School. If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance, please contact the school.

Best wishes,

Ben Turney,

Headteacher

Celebration Assembly



Since our last newsletter, the following children have been celebrated:

Daphne – Lake Class – ambition; she led her group in making a performance of the song for the class

Alice J - Coombe Class – thinking deeply and showing great curiosity when learning about Florence Nightingale

Isaac – Forest Class – kindly swapping tables to support other children in the class

Daniel – Spring Class – being ambitious and wanting to carry on with his writing during break the following day

George – Mill Class – setting himself (and achieving) more ambitious targets for work completion (time and quantity)

This week, we have celebrated:

Maeve Garfield - Lake Class – for being the best you can be! Maeve tried so hard at learning 'Big Red Combine Harvester'

Harry - Coombe Class – great creativity when designing his superhero badge

Elliot – Forest Class – curiosity; careful observations during Nature Ninjas

Astrid - Spring Class – the caring support she gives her class-mates when they are sad or finding something tricky

Harvey - Mill Class – curiosity shown in History lessons. Thinking deeply and finding out more.

Bowles

There was great excitement from all the children when we arrived. Despite the rainy weather, we had an amazing time. Here are some of the highlights of our exciting three days at Bowles. As a group we particularly enjoyed dry slope skiing the most. It was so much fun to glide down the slope on our skis and stopping when we reached the bottom.

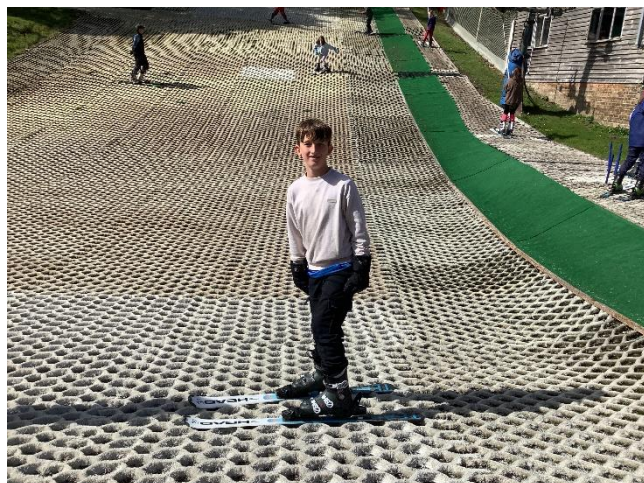
As well as skiing we all enjoyed Harrison's Rocks (crawling through caves) and a lot of us got very muddy. We also did swimming, kayaking, a low ropes course, archery, rock climbing (with a harness) and spent some money at the tuck shop.

Overall, Bowles was a very successful trip and everyone enjoyed it. Also special thanks to the parents and teachers for making it happen and to the instructors for keeping us safe on our adventure at Bowles.

Eleanor and Annie May



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Items in school

Please can we kindly ask that you name everything that you send into school with your child/ren. As an example, we are often confronted with the scenario in the photo below.



Safety on School Premises

We are mindful of the welfare and safety of all our children and would ask that you carefully supervise them around drop-off and pick up times. Parents must ensure that children do not climb on any of our school equipment (such as the netball posts) or in any area of the school site such as the blue railings or the wall at the front of the school.

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Dates for your Diary

Tues 7th Oct @ 9.30am – Harvest Service, St Mary's Church
Tues 14th Oct @ 3.30-6.30pm – Parents Evening
Fri 17th Oct – Mill Class trip to RAF Hendon
Fri 17th Oct @ 3.15pm – FoBS Lake Cake Challenge
Weds 22nd Oct – School Photographs
Weds 22nd Oct @ 3.30-6.30pm – Parents Evening
Thurs 23rd Oct – Flu vaccinations
Fri 24th Oct – INSET DAY, school closed
Mon 27th Oct – Fri 31st Oct – HALF TERM
Weds 5th Nov – FoBS Bounce-a-thon
Thurs 6 Nov @ 9am – Tours for September 2026 admission
Weds 12 Nov @ 3.30pm – Tours for September 2026 admission
Fri 28th Nov @ 3.15pm – FoBS Hot Chocolate Friday
Thurs 4th Dec @ 7-10pm – FoBS Christmas Wreath Making
Fri 12 Dec – FoBS Christmas Fair

Fundraising for School

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.

FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL PRESENT

Balcombe School Cake Challenge



Classes compete to host the most successful cake sale.

3:15 pm outside Balcombe School. The winning class wins a classroom resource of their choice to the value of £100!

- Lake - 17th October
- Coombe - 21st November
- Spring - 23rd January
- Forest - 27th February
- Mill - 24th April

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.