



Balcombe CE Primary School Sports Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It scarcely seems possible that we are finishing another academic year. We have had a slightly different sporting year, joining Mid Sussex Active in late October, after our usual NEARS events could no longer be organised. It has led to a huge number of children participating in an outside sporting event, which has been a real highlight of the year for me personally. We have been able to participate in cricket, tag rugby, football, tri golf, tennis, hockey, new age kurling, boccia, basketball, badminton, netball, cross country and a girls get active event. I am looking forward to seeing the calendar for next year and planning our participation in as wide a range of activities as possible. I must take this opportunity to thank any of you who have helped with transporting children to and from events. Without you, we really could not take advantage of all the opportunities on offer.

Tag Rugby

This term has had a mixture of events both inside and outside school. We began on the very first day of term with a Tag Rugby Tournament at Haywards Heath Rugby Club.

This was a great afternoon of sport with our team playing superbly well. We won all our matches in the group stages to progress through to the semi-finals. In an extremely close run match, which went to extra time we just lost resulting in us playing in a third place play off final. Again, another tense match which went to extra time saw us just pip our opponents to third place. The whole squad played strongly all afternoon against a wide range of schools, including schools many times bigger than our own. Everyone put in a great effort and all contributed to a fantastic team effort. Special mention must go to George, who played superbly all afternoon.



Girls Football Festival

We have a number of girls in school who enjoy playing football. This is an area I would like to develop more. The afternoon at St Paul's School was a great mixture of skill development and small games against other local schools. The girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I look forward to seeing more girl's football next year.



Tennis

This was a new experience for Balcombe, not having participated in a tennis competition in recent years. This event was held at The Weald Squash and Tennis Club. The participants had to already be at a certain level of accomplishment to compete. We are fortunate to have a number of children who attend the village club and therefore were able to take part. The format consisted of singles and doubles matches in group stages. We played very well, demonstrating our very effective ground strokes and improving overhead serves. Unfortunately, we just missed out on progressing to the semi finals. It was a really great afternoon of tennis played in superb facilities.



Year 4/5 Cricket

This event was held at Ansty Cricket Ground. We had an even split of girls and boys taking part. The squad was really encouraging and the games were played in a great spirit. We played really well in our group, winning all our games, and went on to the semi-finals where we met Harlands Primary, a much bigger two form entry school. They had an extremely well-practised team who

really provided us with a goal to aim for in terms of batting and bowling. Well done to Lana, George, Abigail, James S, Oenone, Daniel, Freda and Thomas C for all playing so well as a team.

Year 5/6 Cricket

Later the same week we had another competition held at Bolney Cricket Ground. This time we took Thomas DL, Thomas C, George, Molly, Lena, Josh, Benji and James S. This competition was a little harder and we struggled to really get our batting going. There were some lovely cameos by both Thomases in a few of our matches but we didn't win any matches outright. The afternoon was very enjoyable and gave us some pointers as to where to focus our practice next year.

Cricket

Cricket has been really popular in school this year. We have played in class from Coombe up to Mill. Small games and practise sessions have sprung up on the playground and field at playtime and lunchtime. We were due to play in a Girls' Tournament too, but it was unfortunately rained off. It is great to hear that so many of the children have been playing up at the village club also.

Tri Golf Festival

This was a new activity for us to try. An excited group of ten Y3 children went to Burgess Hill Academy to experience the Tri Golf Festival. There were lots of different activities that tested our putting and chipping skills. The Sports Leaders were extremely encouraging and our skills greatly improved over the course of the afternoon.



NEARS Athletics

We took over 30 children from Y3 – 6 to Handcross Park a few weeks ago. We had boys and girls from each year group competing in standing long jump, throwing and bean bag shuttle events to start with. This group really surpassed themselves with lots of winners and highly placed positions. We then moved onto the more traditional sprints, long distance runs and relays. Again, every child ran their socks off! When the final positions were announced we were delighted to hear that we had come second overall. An absolutely superb effort from a big group of pupils. Well done everyone!



Year 6 Sports Morning

This year I asked our Year 6 to help out more with the running of Sports Day. The Sports Crew have been fantastic all year, encouraging the younger children to take part in a range of activities. They have never been short of extra helpers from Year 6, so I decided to take advantage of their enthusiasm and dedication. In order that they did not miss out on their own sporting activities I arranged a morning of 5 aside games for them to participate in. The teams paired up with each other across three different games – handball, basketball and tag rugby. Everyone took part in each sport and we had a lovely morning watching some less confident children being encouraged by their friends. At the end of the session Bats, Bees and Badgers all scored 7 points and Bears 3 points. These points went forward to the Sports Day scores.





Sports Day

We had a fantastic Sports Day. Everyone had the chance to jump, run, throw, kick, bounce, catch, step and work as a team. During the morning both infants and juniors gained points for their teams by participating in eight different activities, whilst Year 6 helped. Here is a small snapshot of the morning.



During the afternoon our traditional races kept everyone busy. It provides an important chance for children to show their athleticism and for us to celebrate the effort that everyone puts into their races. These photos show just how much it means to everyone.



However, it's also really important that we have fun and enjoy the afternoon too. The Year 6 dressing up race always reminds us that sport has the chance to let us work together as a team and have fun together!



Thank you

I would like to thank Year 6 for all their sporting achievements over the past four years whilst I have been at Balcombe. They have been a pleasure to teach and take out to sporting events; always well behaved and keen to do their very best. I hope that they continue to compete and enjoy new opportunities as they go to secondary school.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and healthy summer holiday. I look forward to seeing you back in September all wearing our smart new sports kit.



Best wishes

Lucy Dunsby