



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we rush towards the end of January, I thought it was a good time to give you a few updates about key projects in school.

Additional Funding

The government have recently awarded schools additional funding to be used to ensure that we minimise the impact of covid as much as possible in relation to our pupils' learning. This funding, in the form of two grants - School led tutoring and Recovery Premium, is aimed at supporting our most vulnerable pupils and those most affected by the disruption to schooling. Being a small school, with very little deprivation, the amount that we have received is small compared to some other local schools, but we have decided to use it to release teachers in some classes for a period of time each week, to enable them to work with individual or small groups of children. They will be providing short bursts of bespoke, targeted teaching, aiming to fill in some of the gaps in missed learning.

Nature Ninjas

Work on the site has halted until the ground dries out, at which point the machinery needed will be able to gain access and start moving soil and marking out paths. Once this has happened and the site is safe, we will look to begin using the space with children.

As you are aware, we ran a competition last term to design a logo for our new initiative. Congratulations to our 5 winning pupils, (Anna, Martha, Joseph, Izzy and Reece) who created stunning designs for a new Nature Ninjas logo. Their designs were singled out for impact, imagination and relevance. Unfortunately we couldn't have all 5 designs, but have amalgamated 2 to make the final logo. Huge thanks go to Christina Fitcher – Law for producing this for us.



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Breakfast Club

I'm pleased to say that Breakfast Club is now well established – we do have places available every day.

To pre-book a place for your child/ren, please email breakfast@balcombeschool.co.uk and complete payment on Squid - £5 per session. When booking, please do give us 48 hours' notice so that we can ensure we have enough staff to supervise the children.

After School Childcare

We are very pleased to announce, that in response to parent demand, following our half term break, we will be offering after school childcare. This will run alongside our usual afterschool clubs, with pupils able to take part in one or both. The booking procedure is still being set up - we will be in touch with details when they are finalised. In the meantime, please click [here](#) to find out more.

Virtual Book Fair

During the week beginning 14 February we are hosting a Virtual Book Fair through booksforbugs.co.uk. Every book costs just £2.50 and for every 5 books that are ordered through their website, school will earn 1 book free! This is a great opportunity to update your bookshelves. We will remind you nearer the time when you can start ordering but in the meantime, you can browse on their website.

www.booksforbugs.co.uk

Parking

We have been asked by a local resident to ".....ask for your consideration regarding parking on the Haywards Heath road leading down from the pub to the school.

It is becoming more frequent that cars are parked all the way up the hill towards the pub and due to the bend in the road it is not possible to see if any vehicles are coming up the hill when you start to pass them, which is causing cars to meet with nowhere to go." They go on to ask that you "be mindful of not parking too far up the road so cars coming down the hill will have a visible line of sight to any cars coming up the hill."

We understand that finding somewhere to park is tricky, but have seen first-hand incidents caused by this. Please remember that you can park in the car park by Victory Hall and walk, or use the lay by near St Mary's Church.

Covid Procedures

Despite the recent announcement that there is going to be a further relaxation of procedures relating to Covid, until we have conducted a thorough review of our risk assessment, all of our policies and procedures will remain the same. If and when this changes, we will let you know.

Flu Vaccination Clinics

We are aware that Public Health England have sent out blanket texts and letters to our parents reminding you that you can still visit a clinic to get your child's influenza nasal spray. Please just ignore these if your child has already had the vaccine.

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Notification of absence

If your child is going to be unexpectedly absent from school, please ring us and leave a message rather than send an email. When our internet fails (as oft it does) we can still check phone messages but are unable to check emails.

Cross Country Finalists!

Well done to our team of cross country runners who got through to the Mid Sussex finals – a brilliant achievement! They put every ounce of effort they had into their runs. We are very proud of them.



Road Safety E-Scooters

We have been asked by WSCC Road Safety Team to alert you about safety concerns regarding e-scooters and to ensure you are aware of the law. Please visit the website below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

Dates for your diary

Fri 11th Feb – FoBS Pizza and Cookie Experience
Mon 14th Feb – Sun 20th Feb – Virtual Book Fair
Mon 21st Feb – Fri 25th Feb – HALF TERM
Fri 4th March – FoBS Quiz & Curry night
Fri 18th March – Red Nose Day, details to follow
Sat 19th March – FoBS Six Nations
Sun 20th March – Bull Run
Fri 8th April – Term finishes at normal time
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/balcombprimary>

Vacancy - Chartwells

Chartwells Catering have a vacancy

Are you interested in school catering that fits around your family life? If so, why not join our friendly, professional team!

Positions are term time only over 5 days a week.

Appropriate training will be given, smart uniform will be provided and staff discounts are available.

For more information please contact:

Laurey.davis@compass-group.co.uk

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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.