



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your care and consideration so far this term, in all things Covid related.

As the number of positive cases locally continues to rise, taking care and suitable precautions remains a priority, in order to protect our school community. Although this term has seen a slight relaxing of "bubbles" and other measures, previous arrangements will be reinstated should the need arise. Our risk assessment is regularly reviewed and updated and should things change, requiring a return to previous systems, you will be informed straightaway.

Best Wishes,
Wendy Millbanks

INSET Days

Don't forget we have INSET days on Friday 1 October and Monday 4th October so school will be closed.

Harvest Celebration – 5th October

Apologies for the short notice, but our Harvest Celebration will be held in church on Tuesday 5th October. We will be taking all of our children, with our oldest pupils helping to look after and be role models for, our very youngest pupils. Parents are usually invited to join us, but on this occasion, with

the current circumstances, we are restricting the service to pupils, staff and those parents helping with supervision only. Hopefully by next year, we will be able to share our service with you all again.

If you would like to contribute to our Harvest collection, we will be sending our usual gift to the Family Support Network. This charity supports families in times of hardship, illness or trauma and are always grateful to receive food donations from us. As always, tins, bottles, jars, packets and cans are particularly appreciated rather than perishable goods.

As we won't now be in school until the day of Harvest, please leave yourself a reminder in an obvious place, so that your child remembers to bring your donation in to school with them on 5th October. If you would rather drop something into school today, tomorrow or Monday, the main door will be open, so please just leave it in the entrance. **Thank you** for your support with this.

School Photographs

We were due to have individual school photographs taken a couple of weeks ago. We are in the process of changing company after mixed feedback following the last two photo shoots. Watch out for a new date!

Sponsored Walk – exciting news!

We are planning a whole school community event to take place on the morning of Friday 22nd October. Weather permitting, pupils will be completing a sponsored walk in Balcombe. We are currently finalising details and will share these with you soon, but it will be a circular route, with a shorter option for our younger children, staying off road for as much as possible.

In order for this activity to go ahead, we will need help with supervision from parents/governors/friends, so please put the date in your diary and come along to support and help us if you can. Please also let the office know as soon as possible if we can put you down as a definite helper - timings are likely to be 9:30 start and back to school by 11ish.

PTA – Volunteers needed

Over the last 2 academic years, our PTA fundraising activities have been somewhat curtailed for two reasons:

1. The potential impact of Covid 19 on large gatherings has been considered too great a risk.
2. The availability of our parents to volunteer as members of the PTA has dwindled to almost none. (Thank you so much to Sian Ritson who has been our lone parent member over the last 12 months).

At the PTA Annual General Meeting last week, three new volunteers came forward (all parents of our new year R children) and we are incredibly grateful to them. Being new to the school, I'm sure that they would appreciate some help from those parents who have helped or attended events in the past, so when the next communication comes out from the PTA, please consider giving your time, even to help at just one event. You don't need me to tell you I'm sure, how much we need the PTA fundraising to be able to provide our children with the

resources and experiences they love in order to enhance their learning.

Census Day

The school receives funding from the government to pay for Universal free school meals for all KS1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). This funding is calculated on how many children eat a hot lunch on census days twice a year. Census day this term is **Thursday 7th October**. Please could you encourage your child to eat a hot meal on this day to maximize our funding. If numbers are low on census day we do have to cover any shortfall from an already stretched school budget.

Balcombe Village Fete

It seems a while ago now (and certainly in a different season), but I wanted to congratulate everyone involved in the planning and execution of the village fete and say a huge well done to those pupils, parents, staff and governors who were actively involved on the day. From the pancakes to the pirates and the tug of war to the flash mob, it all provided a great afternoon's entertainment and hopefully raised some well-earned funds.....some of which will inevitably benefit our children. I don't know about you, but I thought our school stand looked great and show-cased again, what amazing things happen at Balcombe C E School. If you have friends with young children in the village or not far away, please do tell them about our school and encourage them to come and see us.

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Dates for your diary

Fri 1st Oct – INSET day, school closed
Mon 4th Oct – INSET day, school closed
Tues 5th Oct – Harvest Service
Thurs 7th Oct – CENSUS day
Fri 22nd Oct –Sponsored Walk
Mon 25th Oct – Fri 29 Oct – HALF TERM
Sat 27th Nov – Christmas Fair
Fri 17th Dec – Term finishes at normal time

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>

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.