



25 SEPTEMBER - NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the fourth week of the school year, it is a pleasure to reflect on the learning, enthusiasm and positivity that continue to be evident throughout the school. The children have settled confidently into their classes and routines, developing strong relationships with staff and their peers and embracing the opportunities that a new school year brings.

One of the things that continues to make us particularly proud is the way our children support one another. They have shown kindness and respect in their interactions, welcomed new members of our school community and worked collaboratively with their peers.

It has also been encouraging to see our school values being lived out each day. Children have demonstrated respect, ambition, resilience, care, creativity and curiosity both inside and outside the classroom. They are making a positive start to the year and we look forward to celebrating many more successes in the weeks ahead.

Safeguarding at Balcombe

At Balcombe, the safety and wellbeing of every child remains our highest priority. All staff are trained in child protection and safeguarding processes, and the entire team completed safeguarding training on 1st September 2026 to ensure our knowledge and understanding remain up to date.

If you or your child have any concerns, however small they may seem, please speak to any member of staff. All concerns are taken seriously and will be managed in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.

Our safeguarding team remains:

- **Ben Turney** – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- **Liz Bendall** – Deputy DSL
- **Lara Power** – Deputy DSL

The safeguarding team can be contacted via parents@balcombeschool.co.uk.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we greatly value the partnership we have with families in ensuring that all children feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

We look forward to sharing more examples of the wonderful learning and achievements taking place across the school throughout the term.

Best wishes,
Ben Turney
Headteacher

Celebration Assembly

**Be Respectful, Be Ambitious, Be Resilient,
Be Caring, Be Creative, Be Curious,
Be The Best That You Can Be**

Since our last newsletter, the following children have been celebrated for demonstrating one of our Values in Action:

Amelia - Coombe Class – being the best that she can be in everything she does

Fletcher - Forest Class – being caring! Looking after classmates.

Rose – Spring Class – being respectful and helpful since starting in Spring class!

Max – Mill Class – resilience and ambition in taking his maths learning to the next level.

This week, the following children have been celebrated for demonstrating one of our Values in Action:

Thomas – Coombe Class – resilience in handwriting

Alice F – Forest Class – being the best she can be every day!

Reuben – Spring Class – being caring to his peers, working hard and being a role model.

Jacob - Mill Class – being ambitious when choosing a more challenging task in English, and completing it successfully by including all the features we discussed!

INSET DAY

Please note that Monday 28th June will be an INSET day and school will be closed. This is on the school calendar.

Clubs

Football Club on a Friday still have places available. Please book via SCS website
<https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/>

We have a new guitar teacher who comes to school on a Tuesday – he has capacity for more groups. Please contact West Sussex Music directly to find out more information.

Harvest Service

Our Harvest Services will take place on Thursday 8 October at 1.45pm. All welcome to join us. More details to follow.

We will need adult helpers to walk the children to and from the Church – please contact the office if you are able to help.

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk or 01444 811403

St Mary's Church are once again hosting a Harvest

Harvest Barn Dance

Barn Dance. It will take place in Victory Hall on Saturday 3 October at 6.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from Balcombe Stores – adults £18, children £9.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 3rd Oct @ 6.30pm – Harvest Barn Dance

Tues 6th Oct – Flu vaccinations

Thurs 8th Oct @ 1.45pm – Harvest Service. St Mary's Church all welcome

Mon 12th – Fri 16th Oct – Year 6 Bikeability

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct – HALF TERM

Mon 2nd Nov – INSET Day, school closed

Fri 18th Dec – Autumn Term finishes

PUPIL PREMIUM

updated criteria from 1 September 2026

The government has announced that the eligibility criteria for free school meals will change from 1 September 2026.

All children who live in a household that receives Universal Credit can get free school meals.

There will be 2 types of benefits-related free school meals (FSM).

Targ
eted free school meals

Children can get targeted free school meals if their household receives Universal Credit and earns £7,400 a year or less.

Children who receive targeted free school meals can also:

- take part in the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- help their school receive extra Pupil Premium funding

Expanded free school meals

Expanded free school meals are for children whose household receives Universal Credit but does not qualify for targeted free school meals.

Children in this group can receive free school meals, but they cannot access the extra support linked to targeted free school meals.

Targeted free school meals in all West Sussex maintained and free schools and academies are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- [Universal Credit](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of state [Pension Credit](#)

If your child already gets free school meals, West Sussex County Council will check whether they qualify under the new rules before 1 September 2026. They will tell the school the outcome, and we will notify you.

Once West Sussex County council (WSCC) give your child a free school meal status, either Targeted FSM or Expanded FSM, they will keep that status until the end of that school year.

WSCC will check your child's eligibility every year before the start of the new school year. If they do not have the information they need, they may ask you to provide updated details.

If your child does not qualify for benefits-related free school meals but is in Reception, year 1 or year 2, they can still get Universal Infant Free School Meals

(UIFSM). You do not need to apply however you do still need to book their meals on the new FEED website.

If your child receives UIFSM and also qualifies for Targeted FSM, it is important to register for Targeted FSM.

Registering helps your child's school claim pupil premium funding. This extra funding gives schools more money to support children with their learning and wellbeing.

Fundraising for School

[Link to PayPal](#)

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.

HOLIDAY HEROES
ACTIVITY CAMPS

**OCTOBER HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CAMP
IN HANDCROSS**

**AGES
5-11
YRS**

DATES & LOCATION
Tuesday 27th - Thursday 29th October
Handcross Primary School, Handcross

We accept childcare vouchers

BOOK NOW: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

Autumn Half Term

at Borde Hill



Follow our spellbinding daily story trail from from 17th Oct - 1st Nov, with activities on selected days.

Halloween Trail & Activities



Scan to book



Climb up into the canopy for an unforgettable woodland adventure this half term, 29th-31st October.

Canopy Tree Climbing



Scan to book

BORDEHILL.CO.UK 01444 450326 WEST SUSSEX, RH16 1XP

INSET DAYS: 2 November 2026, 25 March, 7 June, 28 June 2027