



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



APRIL NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents,

We are almost at the end of half term and I think that it is fair to say, it has been a huge success. Our children and staff remain well and it feels as though we are heading in the right direction towards returning to normal. Clearly, at the current time, we still need to adhere to safety measures and so some of our usual summer term events will look a little different this year.

With Best wishes,

Wendy Millbanks

What to do if your child experiences symptoms of Covid 19 during the half term holidays

From leaving school on Friday 28th May, if your child shows symptoms of the virus or a positive test result, please email parents@balcombeschool.co.uk. This email address will be checked daily until the **end of Monday 31st May**. This is so that we can help with the NHS Track and Trace with contact tracing.

From Tuesday 1st June, please contact the NHS Track and Trace directly.

Please keep an eye on your emails over the holiday. If we have a confirmed case, where the child may have passed on the virus to others in the last few days of term, we will email you to let you know and identify which children will need to self-isolate.

If your child develops symptoms before returning to school on 8th June and needs to isolate during the start of term, please let us know by phone on the first day back

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If anyone does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

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Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

INSET Days

Don't forget, we have an INSET day on Monday 7th June. School will reopen to all from Tuesday 8th June.

INSET Days for the next academic year are still being finalised, but we have confirmed that 2nd and 3rd September will be INSET Days with the Autumn Term starting on Monday 6th September 2021.

Productions

Children in **Forest, Spring and Mill** will be working towards putting on a play towards the end of this term, called "Wow, what a year!" We hope to be able to invite you in to be a live audience, although this very much depends on government guidelines and our risk assessment at the time. Audience numbers will inevitably be more limited than in the past (although we are planning more performances than usual) and social distancing measures will be taken. Details of how to obtain tickets will be sent later this term but the dates for your diary are as follows:

- Mon 12th July and Thurs 15th July @ 7pm TBC
- Tues 13th July and Weds 14th July @ 1:45pm TBC

As we did not have an opportunity to put on our usual Nativity play at Christmas, we feel it is also important to give children in **Coombe and Lake** the opportunity to perform. Again, we will hopefully be able to invite you in to share their rendition of "There's a sunflower in my supper" on Tues 6th, Weds 7th or Thurs 8th July @ 9:30 am.

In both cases, if having a live audience is not possible, then the performance will be videoed and shared with you.

Special note to parents of children in Year 2 - we have had to make arrangements differently this year due to bubbles and class make up. Year 2 children in

Forest will be included with small roles in the "junior" production rather than leading roles in the infant one. As the junior production will mean 2 late nights, please let Mrs Rowland or Mrs Smith know if you are unhappy with this, so that we can ensure provision is made for your child to be absent during the evening performances.

Sports Days

As yet, we have not decided how to organise sport's day this year. Again it is likely to be different to our usual event, but we will be doing something on Tuesday 22nd June. More details will follow nearer the time.

PTA – Summer Fair

You will have seen communication from the PTA about our Summer Fair and some of you have very kindly offered to help on the day. This event is normally our biggest fundraiser for the school and so please try to attend with your child/ren if you can. It will take place on **Friday 2nd July** straight after school. On that day children will be allowed to wear non-school uniform, anything goes and instead of asking for our usual pound donation to school fund, we will be asking you to send donations of items for the fair. More details about this will be sent to you shortly after half term. If everyone sends in something, it will make a big difference and really help us to continue providing those "little extras" for our pupils.

Parent / Teacher Communication

During the summer term, there is no formal parents' evening as parents receive a school report. This year, the format will be altered to reflect the disruption and reduced time in school but still aim to give you a clear picture of how your child is doing. There will be an opportunity for any parent to make an appointment with the class teacher after the reports have been sent out (usually about two weeks before the end of term). If you are worried about your child's progress, friendships or any other aspect of

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school life, please do not feel that you have to wait until the end of term. Meetings with teachers, or myself can be booked via the school office or the class@ email addresses.

Smartie Tubes

Today, the children have been sent home with a tube of smarties from the PTA. Please eat the yummy snack, fill the empty tube with coins and return it to your class teacher by Friday 11th June. Whoever raises the most money will win a prize for their class.

Dates for your diary

Mon 7th June – INSET Day

Tuesday 8th June - School opens and clubs resume

Fri 2nd July – Summer Fair straight after school

Tues 6th July @ 9.30am - Lake & Coombe Production

Weds 7th July @ 9.30am – Lake & Coombe Production

Thurs 8th July @ 9.30am – Lake & Coombe Production

Mon 12th July @ 7.30pm – Forest, Spring & Mill Production

Tues 13th July @ 1.45pm – Forest, Spring & Mill Production

Weds 14th July @ 1.45pm – Forest, Spring & Mill Production

Thurs 15th July @ 7.30pm – Forest, Spring & Mill Production

Fri 23rd July – 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 read the linked information letter which explains that any accepted applications for Free School Meals (whether or not your child takes the meal up) attract £1320 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.
[LINK](#) to pupil premium letter