



# 30 JANUARY - NEWSLETTER

[parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk)

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful few weeks in school, and I am proud of how hard our children have been working. Across every class, pupils have shown great enthusiasm for their learning—asking thoughtful questions, engaging in lessons and supporting one another as they develop new knowledge. It has been a very positive first part of the term!

I would like to draw your attention to the section of this newsletter that focuses on attendance. As many of you will know, attendance is a key priority for both our Trust (HET) and our school. Every day in school counts, and strong attendance has a direct and significant impact on children's wellbeing, progress, and long-term outcomes. We appreciate your support in helping your children arrive on time and ready to learn each morning.

Thank you for everything you do to work in partnership with us. Together, we can ensure that every child flourishes and continues to enjoy their journey through Balcombe primary school.

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:

Etta T – Lake Class – being the best that you can be!  
For trying so hard in PE to balance on the lines and being super helpful!

Penelope - Coombe Class – being so caring and kind. She is always helpful and very supportive towards everyone in Coombe.

Sophia – Forest Class – consistently being the BEST she can be in every lesson

Rory – Spring Class – resilience when lighting fires at Nature Ninjas in challenging conditions.

Emma – Mill Class – being respectful and caring, she is always a great role model, always helpful and hardworking.

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

Dudley - Lake Class – always working hard at whatever we ask him to do! He's always making sure he's the best that he can be!

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## Arshia - Coombe Class – creativity and ambition when making 3D shapes in maths.

Oscar - Forest Class – being ambitious, great progress with written methods in maths.

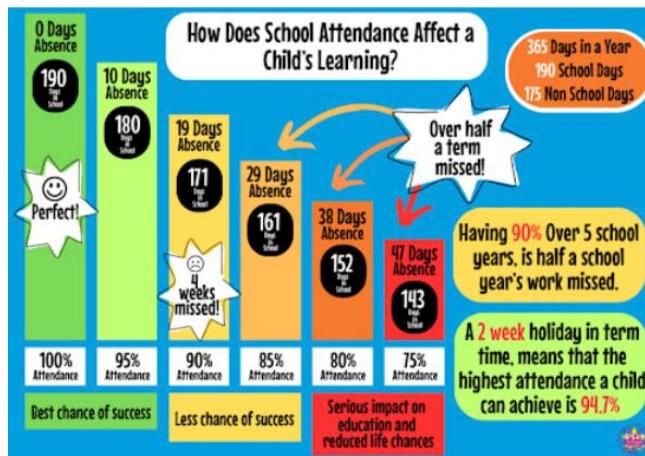
Matilda - Spring Class – creativity in writing and working hard to include all we've been working on.

Eloise - Mill Class – creativity, superb 3D computing design; attention to detail in art lessons.

## Attendance

We would like to remind you of the importance of high attendance – we highlighted this in our 3 October newsletter.

When pupils miss school, they miss crucial learning led by specialist staff. Years of evidence consistently show the significant impact of regular attendance on a pupil's academic success, as well as the impact of not attending school. At Balcombe, we aim for all pupils to achieve 100% attendance. We know that regular attendance and punctuality are key to ensuring pupils are well-prepared for their future educational steps. The graphic provides a helpful guide to the impact of missing education:



We want to work closely with families to support good attendance and ensure that our pupils have the best chance of success and happiness in their time at School. If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance, please contact the school.

If you would like to find out your child's attendance percentage, you can view it on your child's account on MCAS. We would encourage you to take a look.

## Library

Mrs Percy has been working hard in the Library and thanks to FoBS we have been able to purchase some new resources, including the chalk boards and bookcases in the pictures below.

Mill have created a fabulous Book Recommendations display making great use of the new chalk boards.



We have a fabulous new bookcase to display books.



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Thanks to some reorganisation, some of our existing books are now much easier to see and find.



## Parents Evening

Don't forget to book your Parent's Evening appointments. Bookings close on Monday 2 February at 8pm after which you will need to contact the office to make an appointment.

## HET in our school

Now that we are settled into being part of HET (Hurst Education Trust), we wanted to highlight some of the benefits to our pupils that you might not be aware of.

As well as having access to the use of their mini buses, we now have two groups of Hurst pupils that come into school on a Tuesday afternoon. One group listens to our pupils read, just like our volunteers. The second group focus on maths and work with small groups of year 6 children targeting topics that they need help with in preparation for SATs later this year.

Some of our year 6 children have also been attending workshops focusing on Writing at Greater Depth.

Last term, children were invited to the HET Book Awards. This involved reading a set of new titles and then voting for their favourite with a chance to meet the authors.

## Dates for your Diary

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb @ 3.30-6.30pm – Parents Evening**  
**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 3.30-6.30pm – Parents Evening**  
**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – FoBS Disco**  
**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – \*\* HALF TERM \*\***  
**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Forest Class Cake Challenge**  
**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March – School Photographs**  
**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March – Spring Term ends at 3.15pm**  
**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March – \*\* INSET DAY \*\***

## 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.**

## 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.**

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**HOLIDAY HEROES**  
ACTIVITY CAMPS

**JOIN OUR ACTION PACKED HOLIDAY CAMP IN HAYWARD'S HEATH**

**AGES 5-11 YRS**

**DATES & LOCATION**  
St Wilfrid's CoE Primary School, Haywards Heath  
Tuesday 17 - Thursday 19 February

**We accept childcare vouchers**

**BOOK NOW:** [www.southcoastsports.org.uk](http://www.southcoastsports.org.uk)

**FREE**  
TO THOSE ACCESSING  
BENEFITS RELATED  
FREE SCHOOL MEALS.  
BOOK WITH YOUR HAF ID  
VIA THE  
WSSC WEBSITE

**west sussex county council**

### Royal Academy of Arts Competition

If you have a budding artist at home, please consider entering them into the Young Artists' Summer Exhibition being run by the Royal Academy. We have registered school.

For more information, click on the link below.

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/get-involved>

**Haywards Heath Eco Fair**

**Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 from 9:30 – 12:30**

**Organizations participating:**

- RSPB
- Community Energy PATHWAYS
- People, Planet, Pint!
- THE LIVING COAST UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Lost Woods of the Lake District and Dales
- Friends of Eastern Woods Nature Reserve
- LINDFIELD REPAIR CAFE
- SHARE HAYWARDS HEATH LIBRARY OF TOOLS
- FoAB
- SUSSEX GreenLiving
- FAIRER WORLD LINDFIELD
- West Sussex recycles
- Haywards Heath Horticultural Society
- Till GOOD

Meet these organisations and more working in sustainability within our local community

**Haywards Heath Baptist Church, Sussex Road, RH16 4DZ**  
Free, with refreshments provided.  
No need to book, just turn up

**Questions? Contact us**

01444 451480  
ecoteam@hhbchurch.org.uk  
<https://www.hhbchurch.org.uk>

With the support of

Haywards Heath Baptist Church Eco Team  
HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Seed swap, e-bikes, recycling, volunteering, wildlife, solar panels, woodlands, community gardens, heat pumps, children's activities, conservation, waste reduction

Let's work together for a better, more sustainable future!

**INSET DAYS: 27 March, 1 June & 3 July 2026**