Balcombe
Church of England
Primary School
"In all that we do we are guided by God"

23 OCTOBER - 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 our first half term at Balcombe CofE Primary School, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what a positive start to the school year it has been.

There has been a real sense of enthusiasm and purpose around the school, and I am incredibly proud of the way our children have approached their learning, friendships and wider school life. Thank you, as always, to our fantastic staff and to all of our families for the support you continue to give the school.

I hope you found our recent Parents' Evenings useful and enjoyed having the opportunity to hear more about how your child has settled, the progress they are making and their next steps. Please remember that these conversations do not need to be limited to Parents' Evening. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, we are always happy to hear from you.

As autumn is now firmly with us and the weather has become noticeably colder, please make sure that children come to school with appropriate clothing for the weather, particularly a warm and waterproof coat. We want children to continue enjoying their breaktimes, lunchtimes and outdoor learning, so having the right clothing is really important. Please also remember to name coats, hats, gloves and other items wherever possible.

Finally, I hope that all of our children and families have a lovely and restful half-term break. It has been a busy but hugely positive start to the school year, and I hope everyone has the opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy some time together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term, refreshed and ready for another exciting few weeks ahead.

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:

Dudley - Coombe Class – being ambitious and challenging himself in maths.

Arshia - Forest Class – being resilient and caring!

Patrick – Spring Class – being resilient in his writing of instructions this week.

Edith – Mill Class – showing ambition in maths and being the best that she can be at all times.

This week, Lake have joined our collective worship and the following children have been celebrated for demonstrating one of our Values in Action:

Skyla – Lake Class – being so ambitious, carefully cutting out many shapes to make a super rocket.

Harper – Coombe Class – fantastic science! Working so hard to be the best that you can be.

Yazen – Forest Class – being ambitious – working really hard at home to be a brilliant learner!

Tom – Spring Class – being the best that he can be everyday by pushing himself to be resilient.

Iris - Mill Class – showing ambition and resilience in the cross-country competition but also for living our school values every day at school!

FoBS Events

What's coming up?

Friday 23rd October - Lake Class Cake Sale

Lake Class is kicking things off with a delicious cake sale! Thank you to everyone who bakes, donates and buys a treat to help raise funds for our school.

Half Term - Sponsored Reading Challenge

Keep those pages turning over half term! Our reading challenge is a fun way to encourage children to enjoy books while raising money for Friends of Balcombe School. More details will be shared separately.

Friday 6th November - Coombe Class Cake Sale

Saturday 14 November - The Balcombe Jumble

Join us from 2pm in the Victory Hall for the Balcombe Jumble. Come along to browse, grab a bargain and support our local community while helping raise funds for air conditioning units for the school.

Friday 20 November - Festive Friday

We'll be bringing some festive cheer to school with hot chocolate sales in the hall. A lovely way to start the Christmas season, so keep an eye out for more details!

Friday 4 December - Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop

Get creative and make your own festive wreath at our Christmas wreath-making workshop. It's a lovely opportunity to enjoy some seasonal creativity while supporting the school. Book your tickets here before they sell out!

Thank you for your support

Every cake bought, book read, bargain found and event attended helps Friends of Balcombe School raise funds for the children. We're grateful to all the parents, carers and volunteers who make these events possible.

If you're able to lend a hand at any of our upcoming events, we'd love to hear from you. Even a little time makes a difference!

Alecia Ridout
PTA Chair
email: pta.balcombe@gmail.com
mobile: 0794 6669 420
Friends of Balcombe School
Charity number: 1099358

Nativity Costumes wanted!

Nativity costume donations needed!

It's almost that time of year! FoBS are collecting pre-loved nativity costumes to make them available to borrow later this term.

Please leave your clean, good quality costumes, bagged and labelled for size/age where possible, at the school office.

Thank you! Lizzie and Caroline
FoBSuniformBalcombe@gmail.com

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

Open Days for Reception 2027

We will be holding two Open Days for prospective Reception 2027 children. The sessions will comprise of a presentation by Mr Turney and then a tour of the school. If you know of anyone considering applying to Balcombe for a place for their child, please let them know and share the dates. Places can be booked by emailing the office – parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

Wednesday 11 November @ 3.30pm
Thursday 19 November @ 9.30am

Dates for your Diary

Fri 23rd Oct @3.15pm – Cake Challenge – Lake Class
Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct – HALF TERM
Mon 2nd Nov – INSET Day, school closed
Fri 6th Nov @ 3.15pm – Cake Challenge – Coombe Class
Wed 11th Nov @ 3.30pm – Reception 2027 Open Day
Sat 14th Nov @ 2pm – The Balcombe Jumble, Victory Hall
Thurs 19th Nov @ 9.30am – Reception 2027 Open Day
Fri 20th Nov – Festive Friday
Fri 4th Dec – Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop
Thurs 17th Dec @ 1.45pm – Christmas Service, St Mary's Church
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).

Targeted 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.

Job Opportunities with ISS
Click on link below for more information
Jobs at ISS

HET Blackthorns SENCo Vacancy – please see school website for details

LINK to SENCo Vacancy

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