



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



MARCH NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents,

We are now eight months into our membership of the Hurst Education Trust and I thought I'd tell you a little about a few of the benefits that we are finding so far.

Some of our year 6 pupils have been attending challenge workshops for more able mathematicians, giving them the opportunity to work alongside pupils from other schools and experience being taught by maths specialists. When asked, our children still said they preferred Mr Evans as their teacher though! Last week, all of Mill class spent the day at Hurst College, taking part in an Arts day, trying activities such as street dance, drumming, boomwhackers, Zumba and drama.

We have also used HET minibuses to transport children on occasion, when parents were not able to help. We are trying to keep as much of our mileage allocation in reserve for the summer term when there are many more sporting event happening.

This half term, staff have had the opportunity to meet with teachers in other schools, to work together on developing their leadership in key curriculum areas and through networking, have brought new ideas and resources back into our school. We will soon also be working with the other schools to look at assessment of writing, moderating our judgments together to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Headteachers meet every half term to discuss a range of themes, including assessment, curriculum, policies and improvement priorities for both HET as a whole and individual schools.

We have recently had a visit from our HET School Improvement Partner who worked with the leadership team to evaluate the impact of changes introduced in the school in terms of curriculum, allocation of resources etc and also began to identify priorities for next year.

Just before Easter, we will be attending a shared INSET day focussing on the use of powerful questioning in the classroom, something that as a school we have been looking at this term.

At the moment, many of the benefits are indirectly affecting the pupils, such as provision of resources, professional development, leadership support, but we hope that as time goes on, there will also be more opportunities which will directly positively impact our pupils. Areas being investigated for future focus by HET include provision of school lunches, behaviour for learning, taking the stress out of SATs (for children not teachers) and the use of AI.

With best wishes,
Wendy Millbanks

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will take place on Monday 24 March from 4pm – 7pm and Thursday 3 April from 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Booking will closes on Sunday 23 March.

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Ensemble Reza - FoBS

Yesterday, we were again visited by Ensemble Reza giving us their unique version of Monkey Business. This was hugely enjoyed by all and gave our pupils a fabulous opportunity to hear live music from these very accomplished musicians. This is the fourth time that Reza have visited us and once again, they didn't disappoint.

Massive thanks to FOBS for paying for this very worthwhile experience.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that water bottles contain water only, unless there is a medical reason to provide something else. They should also be clearly named.

World Book Day

We had some wonderful outfits on World Book Day! Thank you for your help in making it another memorable day for the children.



Red Nose Day – Friday 21 March

This year, we are keeping it simple - wear **something red OR everything red**, we really don't mind. There will be a bucket for donations at drop off time.

Book Look – Wednesday 26 March

The new date for this is Wednesday 26th March @ 2:15pm.

We have rearranged this as many parents were unaware that it was originally scheduled for earlier

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this week. We had omitted to include the date in a newsletter, but it was in the calendar (found on our website).

Please do try to look at this from time to time to ensure that nothing is missed.

School Uniform

I have noticed that whilst most of our children are still looking smart in their school uniform, standards are slipping slightly for more than a few.

Please remember:

- No jewellery except watches (for those who can tell the time) and only stud earrings, which must be covered for PE.
- PE kit does not include brand name sports wear with large logos or stripes. Bottoms and tops should be plain school blue, navy or black.....not grey, green or pink!
- Hair should be tied back if it is long enough to do so (including boys) and any accessories should be in school colours.
- Black shoes or boots. Sandals must have toes covered.

Thank you for your co-operation with this. Our uniform is important to us and we want to maintain high standards.

End of term

Spring Term will finish at 3.15pm on Thursday 3 April. As usual, all Clubs apart from Cool 4 School, will have their final session of the Spring Term during the week beginning 24 March.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 14th Mar – Book Fair
Fri 21st Mar – Red Nose Day
Sun 23rd Mar – Bull Run
Mon 24th Mar 4pm – 7pm – Parents Evening
Weds 26th Mar @ 2.15pm – Book Look
Thurs 3rd April 3.30pm – 5.30pm – Parents Evening
Thurs 3rd April – Term Finishes @ 3.15pm

Fri 4th April -** INSET DAY **

Tues 22nd April – Summer Term starts

Mon 5th May - ** BANK HOLIDAY **

Mon 12th May – Fri 16th May – SATs week Year 6

Mon 26th May – Fri 30th May - ** HALF TERM **

Mon 2nd June - ** INSET DAY **

Fundraising for School

Amazon wish lists will remain open should you wish to purchase anything for your child's class.

Please ensure you include your child's name and the class on a gift receipt so we can get your gift to the correct class and thank you for your generosity!

Donate with
JustGiving

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.

INSET DAYS: 4 April, 2 June 2025

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Cool 4 School Easter Camp!

This Easter half-term, join us for an unforgettable adventure! Our camp features a special highlight: the hatching of adorable ducklings! Witness the miracle of life as these little quackers emerge from their eggs. Alongside this unique experience, enjoy a variety of fun activities and games designed to make your Easter break truly special.

Don't miss out on the quack-tastic fun! Register now and be part of this egg-traordinary journey!



QUACK TO THE FUTURE EASTER CAMP

4 - 12 YRS 9-6PM FROM £16.99
APRIL 7TH - 18TH
INSET DAY 22ND
FULL, HALF OR EXTENDED DAY
AVAILABLE WITH FOOD!

Easter Egg Hunt

COOL 4 SCHOOL CLUBS

BOOK NOW

Join us this half term for our Duck Hatching adventure! Watch adorable ducklings hatch with fun games & activities. Limited spaces

OUR ACTIVITIES

- From Dodgeball, Cricket, Football & more
- Arts & Crafts, Drama, Party games & more
- Play ground adventures

OUR FEATURES

- Certified Coaches
- Duck hatching experience
- Lunch & Tea options
- Drop off available
- Child tax vouchers & credits

07475724576 www.cool4schoolclubs.co.uk Lindfield, Haywards Heath



MEGA FUN FAMILY FEST

Over 30 amazing Inflatables and attractions.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL!

Entertainers and shows all included with entry

USE CODE: **SCHOOL10**
FOR AN EXCLUSIVE 10% DISCOUNT!

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND

11TH MAY 2025
1000-1700

MEGA FUN FAMILY FEST
play together

Scan here for tickets



£10 OFF SCHOOL OFFER WHEN YOU BOOK BY 21/03/25- NEW SWIMMERS ONLY

BEGINNER SWIMMING LESSONS SPACES

SPACES AVAILABLE NOW! TRY BEFORE YOU COMMIT

CREST
Swims School

WOODLANDS MEED AGE 3+ | TUES, THURS, FRI 4PM
CHAILEY HERITAGE AGE 3+ | THURS 5.00PM | FRI 4PM & 5.00PM
ST LAWRENCE HURST AGE 3+ | SAT 10.30 & 11.30 | SUN 9.30AM
GREAT WALSTEAD AGE 4+ | SAT 9.30AM, 10.30AM, 12NOON | SUN 11.30AM

OTHER SPACES AVAILABLE AT OTHER LEVELS. CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR SPACE
HELLO@CRESTSWIMSCHOOL.CO.UK 01825 790896

Easter Sports Camp at Warden Park

Click on Link below for information about Easter sports courses at Warden Park Secondary School

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZN4LSDXu0eYEekYxB2PA1wdmrufAc6Fz/view?usp=sharing>

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Easter Holiday Bikeability Sessions

Monday 7th - Thursday 17th April 2025

£20 per child

Oak Grove College, Worthing
Downview Primary, Bognor
Holbrook Primary, Horsham
Three Bridges Primary, Crawley



Is your child in **Year 6** or above?

Would they like to do **Bikeability Level 1&2** or **Level 3 Bikeability**?

The West Sussex Road Safety Team are offering limited **£20 places** for a 2-hour Level 1&2 Bikeability session during the Easter Holidays for those that are not offered it through school or missed out on it when in Yr6.

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For more info, or to apply click here:

[Cycle safety courses for schoolchildren - West Sussex County Council](#)

Or pop us an email...

cycletraining@westsussex.gov.uk

We will be in touch to discuss your enquiry & offer you a date and time for the session

- ✚ *Level 1 bike control will be checked off-road prior to commencing on-road to Level 2. Please let us know if you think we need to spend more time working with your child on their Level 1 bike control skills (so we can accommodate this in their session).*
- ✚ *Level 2 Bikeability introduces children to on-road cycling for riders that have reasonable control of a bicycle.*
- ✚ *Trainees will need a roadworthy bike and a cycle helmet.*
- ✚ *For any other training requests such as Level 3, please email us, as we should be able to accommodate these sessions.*

