

BALCOMBE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

APRIL-14

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy term at school with lots of exciting activities. The children in Lake and Coombe had a visit from a fire engine and wrote some lovely accounts of the visit. Forest had a great Viking day when they were able to handle real artefact and Spring and Mill have enjoyed learning all about Lights, Camera, Action with some great activities such as making pin hole cameras and writing an Oscar acceptance speech. Maybe one day one of them will be

doing it for real! We have also had some other great events and achievements that you can read about below.

A date for your diary

We are holding an 'Outdoor Environment Week' week beginning 16th June which will include an open afternoon at 2.30pm on Thursday 19th June when you can come in and see what the children have been doing during the week.

Results of pupil questionnaire

We have recently carried out a questionnaire with the children. Please find the results below .

Comparing the results in Summer 2012 with Spring 2014

%	All of the time		Most of the time		Some of the time		Never	
	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014
I am happy at school	42	51	42	42	16	7	0	0
Adults explain what I have to do to improve my work	54	70	22	21	24	9	0	0
I learn a lot and have made good progress so far this year	67	69	23	26	10	5	0	0
The school helps me to do my best	74	89	19	7	7	4	0	0
Teaching in the school is good	73	82	23	16	4	2	0	0
I enjoy my work	53	68	30	27	16	5	1	0
I understand how I should behave in school	77	90	18	6	5	4	0	0
Behaviour is good in my class	37	54	40	32	22	14	1	0
I feel safe in school	78	91	12	8	10	1	0	0
Teachers listen to my views and ideas	56	72	25	22	18	6	1	0

As you can see this is an improvement on the survey that was carried out in 2012.

We also asked the children for things that could be improved. The most common were:

- Using the outdoor environment – we are hoping now we have the better weather we will be able to use the outdoors more. Teachers are planning this into lessons more. We are also holding an outdoor learning week. (please see details)
- Have more clubs and have prefect clubs. – We feel there are already a good variety of clubs. Sports Leaders already organise clubs at lunchtimes and there have also been a number of prefects clubs organised.
- Lunchtimes ; more equipment to play with – there is a lot of equipment available. Assemblies have focussed on respecting the equipment we already have.

There were also a number of lovely quotes:

‘I love all of it’ – child in Year 2, ‘Balcombe School is great and could not be improved’ child in Year 4, ‘They make it right for you’ child in Year 5, ‘There are lots of brilliant things about our school’ child in Year 6.

Our friendship wall

Nikki Leatham was tasked with creating our new friendship wall.

She asked the children in each class to have a think about friendship and what they thought it meant. Each child was asked to draw a picture and write a quote to show this.

Nikki then chose a few pictures and quotes from each class, (this was extremely hard as there were so many lovely pictures and some brilliant things written!) and the children were able to draw, paint or make their picture (using paper mache or boxes) to display on canvas. Each quote has been written in different ways.

We now have all of our canvases on display in the corridor by Mill classroom – do come in and have a look!

Thank you Nikki and children – it looks terrific!

Sports relief

The children spent a fantastic time last Friday running two whole Marathons (and a bit more) in aid of comic relief. Many thanks to Mrs Gainey for organising this

event and to everyone who sponsored the children.

See picture [gallery](#)

Our Sport Relief Day

On Friday 21st of March 2014 Balcombe School had their Sports Relief day and the children ran a total of 2 marathons. Each class ran 10 laps around the playground. The pupils ran 2 marathons because they wanted to help all those poor children that are very ill and dying in countries like Africa.

Money was raised through the pupils being sponsored by family and friends.

In the afternoon we watched some films all about Sports Relief and what they do with the money donated.

THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE WHO DONATED – so far we have raised a magnificent £833.00 in sponsorship.

Hollie Greetham

On Friday 21st March Forest took part in a sponsored run for Sport Relief. After assembly we went straight out to the playground and did some warm-ups because the weather was cold. Here are some of the warm-ups we did:

- Stretching from side to side
- Jogging on the spot
- Jumping

We ran an amazing seven laps plus three extra laps for the people who were away, which equals ten laps. It was easy for me but hard for some people.

My team were; Tom B, Millie, Eva, Alice, Alex, Joseph and little old me. We all supported each other by cheering and clapping for encouragement. I was doing well until I got a stitch on my penultimate lap but I managed to carry on.

We all had fun and we raised between £200 - £300. We felt really proud that we raised money for poorer people than us.

By Archie Rhodes

On Friday 21st March 2014 we had to run two marathons for Sport Relief. Each class had to run a certain amount of laps each. Mrs Gainey told us that we had to run seven laps each of our school playground but first we started with a good warm up otherwise there was no point in even trying to run the two marathons. The warm up got us really stretching our legs which helped a lot.

Finally we started the marathon. We got put into groups and each group had a whiteboard and pen so we could put a line for each lap we did. At the end, my group got ready to cheer just when Jude came because then our whole group would've completed the seven laps! In my group was James Buttle (3a), Louis Kirkman (3b), I was 3c, Jessica Strahan (3d), Annabel White (3e), Jacob Morris (3f) and Jude Conway (3g).

But we weren't finished yet! Mrs Gainey gave us another 3 laps! Eventually we stopped running and we had done it! I really enjoyed Sport Relief 2014 and hope my whole class did! I know my group really enjoyed it and I want to do it all over again!

Caitlinn Dinneen

ACHIEVEMENTS

• St Mark's Maths Quiz

On Friday the 7th of March Ben and Ollie, went to St Mark's school to attend a maths quiz.

First of all we had 5 written questions and 5 buzzer rounds, (we had a paddle with our school name written on it. We had to hold it up if we knew the answer.)

Then we got put into leagues. There were four in the first division, three in the championships and three in the premierships including us, so we were fighting for the cup.

In the leagues we had buzzers and each set had twelve questions. Some were challenging. For example, one hundred and ninety six divided by fourteen, which equals, (see the bottom of the page for the answer.)

The final scores were six to us, five to St Joseph's and zero to St Marks. We won out of 10 schools!

By Ben Conway & Ollie Williams (Mill).

• Sport - Balcombe School Show Jumping Team

On Saturday 1st of March 2014 we went to a school show jumping competition. The competition was held at Sands Farm. First we walked the course; it was a very twisty one with lots of jumps everywhere. Then we mounted on our ponies and went to warm



up. Soon they were calling us to go and get ready for the 50cm class.

When Olivia got in the arena her horse got excited, but scraped a clear round and came 2nd. When Hannah got in the arena she managed to get 8 faults after her horse (Quilly) stepped over a fence and got a 7th place Rosette.



Olivia & Tilly



Hannah & Quilly

At the end of the 60cm class, Hannah had come 6th and Olivia had come 8th, so overall, the day was a huge success.

Olivia Nolan & Hannah Greetham

• Sport - Hockey Tournament

On Wednesday the 5th of March 2014, Balcombe School entered the Kwik Sticks hockey tournament at Oathall School. Hannah Greetham, Ella Couves (year 6),



Anna Record, Alexander Thompson, Toby Vickerstaff and Ted Cox (year 5) represented Balcombe in the tournament. When we arrived we all felt nervous, because we were one of the small schools there. We walked onto the pitch and had a quick warm up and knock about. The organiser called all the schools over to the middle pitch and told us who and where we were playing. There were five schools to one third.

We played five matches in total and won two. We had a few injuries, but we put all our energy into the game and carried on. Our last match was against a school in a different section, but we had to play them for our position.

We lost that match and overall we came in a brilliant 6th place out of 11 schools. All of the team enjoyed the wonderful experience to play hockey for Balcombe. We'd like to say a big thank-you to Mr Couves and everyone on the sideline who was cheering us on! Three cheers for Balcombe hockey team, hip hip hooray!

By Anna Record, Ella Couves and Hannah Greetham

• Sport - NEARS Netball tournament @ St Paul's School

On Thursday 18 March our team played five matches in our section, they won 4 and drew 1, finishing as winners of the section. They then played Twineham in the Semi-Finals losing 5-2. Everyone played really well and overall Balcombe came third out of twelve schools – well done team!

• Sport - Football

On Thursday the 19th of March Balcombe School football team played St Augustine's football team. Balcombe FC played

exceptionally well including our two subs Noah Fitzsimons and Hamish Fitzsimons. The final score was 5-4 to Balcombe FC, from two goals from Alexander Thompson, an own goal from St Augustine's, one goal from Ted Cox and one goal from Luca Cavalli. Balcombe FC was 3-1 down at halftime but managed to pull it back to 5-4. Our goalkeeper Ben Conway made some fantastic saves and our two defenders: Toby Vickerstaff and George Burke made some brilliant tackles. Last but not least our left midfielder Harry Hawe made some outstanding runs down the wing and some amazing tackles. Balcombe FC played exceptionally well and scored some fantastic goals.

Luca Cavalli

• Gifted and talented festival 2014

As well as providing activities in class to extend our most able children, we seek to take advantage of enrichment opportunities outside school. One such excellent opportunity is the gifted and talented festival: a range of activities, courses and competitions organised and hosted by local schools.

The festival has got off to a great start. A number of children from Balcombe have already attended courses and activities in trampolining, gymnastics, mathematics and poetry. Ella and Katherine (Mill) commented "We both enjoyed the gymnastics course and we got to create a routine with apparatus. The course leader had an app, which showed the structure of our moves in slow motion, and it helped us to improve. We'd like to do another course like this."

Congratulations to Ben and Oli who used their maths skills and quick thinking to win

Ben and Oli (Mill) celebrate their victory at the Maths Competition



victory at the maths competition, held at Staplefield School.

Caitlinn, Alex and Katie (Forest) said "We went on a poetry course at St Wilfred's school in Haywards Heath. We watched some performance poetry, and learnt some off by heart with actions. We performed poems to our parents. Our favourite poem was called "I wanna be a star!" by Tony Mitton because it was extremely funny." There are more courses to come and we look forward to hearing feedback from the children that will attend.

• Wind turbine workshop

On Tuesday the 4th of March Ben and Ollie went to a wind turbine workshop. They were talking about how electricity was created and one of the ways was through wind and a generator. They said that there are two things in a generator; coils of wire and magnets. Then we were given an instruction manual and lots of other things to create our own wind turbine. We followed the instructions carefully and finally got the wind turbine. Then we put it against the fan to see how well it worked. Next we put two crocodile clips onto the generator on the back and attached the other ends to a calculator looking like thing. When the propellers spun it told you how many volts you powered. We powered 1.61

volts. Then we had to disassemble our turbine. We had an excellent day and would love to go again.

A report by Ben Conway

First World War Centenary

Mr Evans

2014 marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War. In a small way we would like to involve the children in commemorating and understanding this significant milestone in world history. We are building links with the local British Legion, who will be visiting the school to

talk about the First World War with the children in an assembly.

We are also planning to get the children to find out about one relative who fought in the war (perhaps compile a few details and obtain a picture, which can be displayed back in school). In this way we hope that the children will make a direct link to this period in history and begin to see its relevance.

I will provide further information and details of how to get involved in this project, after the Easter holiday.

PTA News

• Rugby Lunch

Many thanks to the PTA for organising such a successful rugby lunch enjoyed by all. They also raised a magnificent sum of money £1550.82! A particular thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

• Balcombe Bull Run – 23 March

On Sunday morning over 70 runners gathered to take part in the first ever 7.5K Balcombe Bull Run. Even the hail storm in the middle of the run didn't dampen anyone's spirits and everyone put in a magnificent effort with the first runner coming in at just over 28 minutes. I would like to thank Matthew Record who did a fantastic job of organising the event, all of the marshals and the PTA for providing much needed refreshments. See Matthew's write-up below:



Bright sunshine and a crisp wind greeted the 73 entrants in Balcombe's first Bull Run - a circular, 7.3km cross-country run over the fields, lanes, styles and footpaths of our beautiful village. We even had a bit of hail thrown in to give it that tougher feel!

Dave Jones (an ex-pupil of the school and successful triathlete) and I had laid out the course the night before with reflective signs. The day started early



with the PTA cooking up bacon sandwiches and refreshments for the gathering runners and supporters. Then we briefed the 18 marshals, who had offered to keep a watchful eye over the runners, and gave the runners a race briefing. Harriet Record got everyone in the mood with a warm-up before I called the runners to the start line.



Looking over to it I could see a wonderful mix of runners - from the young (12) to the older (60+), from the experienced to the fun runner. There was fancy running kit on show and one competitor who I'm sure was wearing surf shorts! It is so rewarding to see people raring to go and getting stuck



in. Jackie Stone blew the air horn to start and the race was off. It's amazing that even before they reached the top of Westup Lane the runners were strung out - from the gazelles to steam engines....

They continued along Rowhill Lane, passed Spicers Farm (where David



Vickerstaff had set up a water table) before going onto Postman's Walk and across the fields to Westup Farm and back home. This a muddy, hilly and tough course - not to mention the added hail. I was astounded at pace of Rob Watts (mens winner in 28m 14sec), Rachel Baker (ladies winner 36.14), Eleanor Stoner (girls winner 37.15) and James Greetham (boys winner 44.28). Well done to all.

A big crowd had assembled at the finish and noise was awesome. Everyone was given a cow medal, bananas and water. And the winners got some lovely hats. The cakes and

bacon "sardines" (as my Facebook entry said - damn autocorrect!) were laid on by the PTA - perfect recovery food after a race.



My thanks to everyone who ran, helped and supported on the day. We made over £500 for the school and also secured a regular event in Balcombe's diary. Bring on Balcombe Bull Run 2015!

Mat Record

Extra-curricular activities

Website:

Our School/Extracurricular/Clubs

Please ensure you keep a close eye on the Clubs/Extra-Curricular section of the

website (within Our School) as we regularly upload information from outside schools/agencies about sports and other activities for children. These may be school holiday clubs, weekend activities, etc.

Staff Matters

We will be saying goodbye to Andrea Owens, our Bursar, at the end of this term. After four years at Balcombe School Andrea has decided to move on to bigger things at Southgate Junior School, Crawley. Thank you Andrea for looking after our finances and we wish you luck and happiness in your new role.

We are currently recruiting for a replacement, details of the position can be found on the school website.

A 'plea' from the Midday Meals Supervisors

Please ensure that you pack a drink in your child's lunch box as it is difficult for the children to go and collect their water bottle from the classroom; please also ensure your child likes the lunch you send in - some children are getting very upset when they find they don't like their sandwich fillings. – Thank you.

Focus group

At the last meeting of the focus group a range of issues were discussed, including transport, lunchtimes and parent consultations.

The next group will meet on Friday 16 May.

Booster Seats

Please remember, if your child is under 1.35m and is having transport provided by another parent you must send in a booster seat for the journey unless an arrangement has been made with a driver who already has seats fitted. *(If unsure there is a line in the school office where you can check height).*

Spare swimming kit

On several occasions when children have arrived without their swimming kit it hasn't been possible to contact parents and the child has been unable to swim.

If you have any costumes/trunks/towels in good order that your child has outgrown we'd be grateful to receive them for our 'spares' cupboard.

AFTER & PRE SCHOOL CLUBS

Clubs for the summer term will be uploaded to the website w/c 31 March

DIARY

APRIL		MAY	
1	SPRING class musical assembly @ 2.30pm Netball match v Twineham from 3pm	5	Bank Holiday
2	Assembly – Karate demonstration	9	Bring & Buy Sale (Forest Class)
3	NEARS Football Tournament from 1-3pm Easter Service @ St Mary's Church	16	Focus Group Meeting

	from 2.00pm		
4	End of Term – 3.15pm	19	National Walk to School Week

See all upcoming events in the School [Calendar](#) -

- *Friday 13 June - NEARS Superstars competition @ Balcombe School – Y3-6*
- *Thursday 3 July - NEARS Sports day*

THERE IS NO SWIMMING DURING THE SUMMER TERM – FINAL SESSION THURSDAY 27 MARCH

INSET – The next and final INSET day this term is Monday 23 June.

Summer Term starts

- **Tuesday 22 April**

Summer Half Term 26-30 May

Term ends

- **Wednesday 23 July**

Useful links

- **Junior Golf Passport** – 10 week programme starting end March - [link](#)
- **School meals - Universal [Free School Meals](#) from September**
- **Victory Hall Film Show** - See details of the next [Film](#)
- **Kidos** - Easter [Club](#)