



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already in week 4 and half term is only another couple of weeks away!

As always, school has been a very busy place. We have had a large number of visitors in already this term: music teachers from West Sussex Music Service teaching our pupils to play guitar, piano and (the whole of Forest) ukulele; professionals from a variety of services to meet with parents and staff to help us support children with additional needs; Ensemble Reza; Kerry Henderson, who kindly delivered workshops to Forest and Spring on Rocks and the Mayans; Suzie Cleere who is on loan to us from Ardingly College on a Thursday morning and teaches French to Spring and Mill and members of the leadership team of Hurst Education Trust. One thing they all have in common, is that they all state how much they enjoy coming here and how impressed they are by our children's attitude, energy and good manners! I think that is worth sharing!!

Parking outside School

We have been notified about dangerous parking on the yellow zig zag road markings immediately outside school. Yellow zig-zag lines outside schools, hospitals, or fire, police or ambulance stations indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. The

Highway Code states that you should keep these areas clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children.

The majority of our year 5 & 6 children walk home from school without an adult and have to cross the main road. Keeping the area clear of cars to enable everyone to see and be seen is of particular importance. We do not have a crossing patrol on a daily basis so we would really appreciate your help by parking considerately to ensure that everyone can stay safe when crossing this busy road.

Parking on the lane is for staff only.

Healthy Snacks

I have been asked to clarify what is counted as a healthy snack that children may bring in to eat at playtime. Any fruit, vegetable or small meaty snack is fine, as are cereal bars (but please check they **do not contain nuts**). Pastries, chocolate bars and crisps should only be eaten as part of a packed lunch or as a snack after school.

Thank you for your co-operation in this manner.

Volunteer Day – 27 April

We are hoping to hold a Volunteer Day on Saturday 27 April in the morning – exact times to be confirmed. Mr Graham is assessing what needs to be done but it will likely involve some painting, gardening and maintenance jobs

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around the school grounds. We will ask you to let us know if you are able to help nearer the time, but in the meantime, please make a note of the date in your diary ... many hands make light work!!

Library

Lots of work has already taken place in school towards the big library "revamp". Huge thanks to Mrs Percy, who has spent a large amount of time re organising and re categorising books, moving furniture and researching ideas for future development. Plans are under way to transform the whole area further and I will keep you up to date with our progress on this.

Our Reading Leaders have been working hard to keep the library organised, but have also been thinking about promoting reading in our school. Here are a few book reviews to share with your children.

Izzy is reading *Twitch* by M. G. Leonard



Twitch is a boy who lives in Bridvale and gets bullied by Jack. Will they be enemies forever? Twitch meets a man called Billy who is very suspicious around the police. Robber Ryan has escaped from prison and 2.5 million pounds is missing. Can Twitch see if the money is hidden in Bridvale and will he find out who Billy and Robber Ryan really are? Read it to find out!

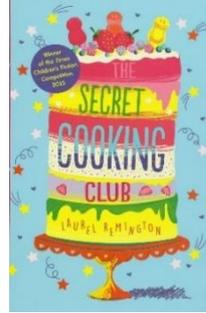
Varvara is reading *Peril on the Atlantic* by A. M. Howell



This book is about sabotage. I would recommend it because it is mysterious and you are never

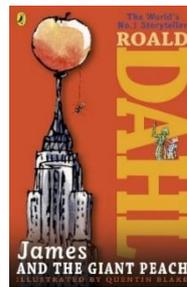
sure what will happen on the next page.

Maya is reading *The Secret Cooking Club* by Laurel Remington



This book is thrilling and secret filled. It shows the mix of blogs, friends and family. I love reading this

Lily is reading *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl



This book is good because it is exciting, mysterious and interesting when you first look at it. It is about a giant peach that grows and grows and grows. I would recommend it.

William N is reading *The Highland Falcon Thief* by M. G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman.



Hal and Uncle Nat jump aboard the Highland Falcon, which is a famous steam train. When a jewel thief strikes, Hal and his new friend find themselves at the centre of the investigation. Can they catch the thief before the end of line? Read this book to find out.

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Team Leaders



We are Maya, Izzy, Nula, Dexter, Iris and Lexi - the Art Ambassadors. We love all things arty and regularly help in school with art activities. We also run lunchtime art clubs for children who want to learn new skills or practise drawing and colouring. We love being “teachers” and sharing our passion for art.

Our Eco warriors have been very busy planting spring bulbs and making bird feeders to hang in our grounds. Now we just need to wait for the birds!



Downlands Dance Festival

We are hoping to take a group to participate in the dance festival at Downlands School on **Wednesday 6th March**. At the moment we have only 5 pupils signed up for this, due to the rehearsal times clashing with other clubs. We are therefore going to organise rehearsals at lunchtimes, to enable more pupils to take part.

If your child would like to join in and is available to attend the festival on 6th March, please let the office know. **Without your permission children will not be included in the rehearsals.**

The pupils from Downlands School who are choreographing the dance routine will still be coming in as originally agreed, so children should attend any of those sessions that they possibly can, but do not need to attend all of them to be included.

Sessions after school (please attend if possible);

- Friday 2nd February
- Tuesday 20th February
- Tuesday 27th February

The performance will start at 4pm on Wednesday 6th March, however children will need to be there earlier to practise beforehand. We will advise the exact time as soon as possible.

Ensemble Reza

We were very lucky to have a visit from Ensemble Reza last week, to share their musical version of Snow White with the children. They were brilliant and captivated all of our pupils with their dramatic retelling and musical talents. Here's what some of our pupils thought:

We enjoyed Snow White and the Three Cool Dudes because it was very funny and we really liked the rap because we got to join in. The

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story-teller dressed up as the Evil Queen but whenever she laughed it frightened us! The queen was very jealous of Snow White so she would keep trying to poison her to make her die. Our favourite 'Cool Dude' was Brainy because he was the mechanical one who built everything and was very funny.

Anna and Nula in Spring



I liked it when the lady used the wigs to make her look different and I liked her different voices. It was amazing!

Flora in Coombe

Their performance was so top notch for the audience with laughs, fun and wonderful music. It always kept us interested. I loved the twist which made the story better and the lovely flowing music. I felt as if I was watching them in the theatre and I would happily watch it again.

Maya (Mill)

There were three cool dudes in the story but in reality it was four cool musicians with brilliant skills.

Jan (Mill)

I enjoyed Snow White and the Three Cool Dudes, firstly because there was a special band who were great fun. Secondly, I liked the live music and lastly I liked how the story was told.

Jack (Mill)

Dates for your Diary

Mon 5th Feb – Fri 9th Feb – Children's Mental Health Week

Mon 5th Feb – FoBS Uniform Sale

Weds 7th Feb – Safer Internet Day

Mon 10th Feb – Fri 16th Feb – HALF TERM

Mon 19th Feb – INSET DAY school closed

Thurs 22nd Feb @ 2.30 – 3.15pm – Book Look

Sat 24th Feb @ 7.30pm – FoBS Curry & Quiz

Weds 28th Feb @ 3.30 – 5.30pm – Parents Evening

Mon 4th Mar @ 4-7pm – Parents Evening

Weds 6th Mar – Downlands Dance Festival, performance at 4pm

Thurs 7th Mar – World Book Day

Mon 11th Mar – Fri 15th Mar – British Science Week

Fri 15th Mar – Red Nose Day

Thurs 28th Mar – SPRING TERM ENDS

Mon 15th Apr – SUMMER TERM STARTS

Sat 27th April – Volunteer 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.

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<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 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.



BABY BALLERS

BASKETBALL 3-7 YEAR OLDS

THESE SESSIONS PROVIDE AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF BASKETBALL WHILE FOCUSING ON ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT SKILLS

3-4 YEAR OLDS & RECEPTION - SATURDAY –
9:45AM- 10:30AM @ THE HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

RECEPTION & NOVICE YR 1 - SATURDAY –
9:00AM-9:45AM @ THE HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

EXPERIENCED YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 - SATURDAY –
9:00AM- 10:00AM @ THE HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL



SIGN UP FOR A TASTER SESSION HERE:
WWW.STORMBASKETBALLCLUB.COM/BABY-BALLERS
EMAIL: KARL@STORMBASKETBALLCLUB.COM

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 **CHRIST'S HOSPITAL**
A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

**OPEN MORNING
INVITATION**

SATURDAY 2 MARCH

Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form Entry

Easter Sports courses at Warden Park:

-  [Football Course - 2nd - 4th April - Easter 2...](#)
-  [Netball course 2nd - 4th April Easter 2024](#)
-  [Cricket Course - 10th - 11th April Easter 202...](#)

INSET DAYS: 19 FEB, 3 JUNE 2024

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[Rugby Course 2nd - 4th April- Easter 2024.docx](#)

[Multi sports 8th 9th April - Easter 2024](#)



**FEBRUARY
HALF-TERM
FOOTBALL CAMP**

**HORSHAM
FOOTBALL
CAMP**

AGES
5-12 YRS

13TH FEB - 15TH FEB
Tythe Barn, Pondtail Rd, Horsham, RH12 5JF

10AM - 3PM
£60 FOR ALL 3 DAYS

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk  



**FEBRUARY
HALF-TERM
ACTIVITY CAMP**
WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!

HANDCROSS

AGES
5-11 YRS

9AM - 4.30PM
1 day: £27 | 5 days: £120

OR 8.30AM - 5PM
£32 1 day | 5 days: £145

**SCHOOL
ATTENDING
4 YEAR OLDS:**
9AM - 1PM
£16 per morning
£70 for all 5 mornings

12TH FEB - 16TH FEB Handcross Primary, London Rd, RH17 6HB

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk  

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