



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



MAY NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Finally, it feels as though Spring is in the air we are so looking forward to the field drying out and being able to use the space at playtimes and for PE. We are also hoping to be able to use the pond to support learning in Science again; huge thanks to our amazing volunteers who have been keeping the plants under control for us.

We are still on the lookout for more volunteers to read with our children, so if you know someone who might have an hour or so a week to spare, please do ask them to give us a ring!

Nuts/Nut products

We would like to remind parents again that we are a **NUT FREE** school as we do have children in school with life-threatening allergies.

We need your help to ensure that ALL food brought into school is safe for everyone! Please carefully check the ingredients of lunchbox items and snacks before sending them into school. We cannot provide a full list of foods that are unsuitable so we need to rely on your help to check that the ingredients in snacks are suitable.

This applies for ALL school activities and includes Breakfast Club, OV After School, Trips and Clubs.

Volunteer Day

Thank you very much to all those that kindly gave up their time on Saturday 27 April and braved the wet weather to help us with our volunteer day.

Unfortunately because of the wet weather, some jobs could not be completed so we are planning to hold another session on **Saturday 8 June** in the morning. Please do consider if you are able to spare a couple of hours to help – we really struggle to keep school looking loved without your help. More details to follow nearer the time.

National Walk to School Week – Monday 20th to Friday 24th May

The Eco Warriors of Balcombe School are encouraging families to take part in Walk to School Week, which is a nationally celebrated five-day walking challenge. In schools and nurseries across the country, children and school staff are encouraged to travel to and from school in a sustainable, healthy way.

Fumes from petrol and diesel cars pollute the air. This makes it hard for everyone to breathe, especially those with asthma or other conditions.

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Fumes are bad for our lungs and our health. Walking is good for the environment - walking is the most environmentally friendly way to travel.

We understand that for some families, walking to school can be challenging for many reasons. During Walk to School Week, maybe families that come by car, could drive part of the way to school and walk the rest. Suggestions include the church layby and the Victory Hall carpark.

Three other good reasons why we should walk to school:

- Walking is good for your body - daily exercise helps us feel fit and healthy.
- Walking can make you feel happy - walking makes you feel more positive and ready to start the day.
- Walking is good for your relationships - having a walk is a great opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.



FoBS Update

Clothing Bin

We are delighted that the Clothing Bin has been successful and is being used by school and the community – remember for every kilo collected FoBS earn 40p! The textiles are collected every 2 weeks and are either sent to Eastern Europe to be used again or converted into insulation materials and industrial cleaning wipes, so less than 1% of what is collected ends up in the

ground. If it is full, please try again the following week. So far we have raised £352.40.

The other bins are for school use ONLY.

Bull Run

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Bull Run this year – either by baking and helping sell cakes or by running in the event itself. This year we raised an amazing **£817!**

Grow your £2 – Monday 20 May

Watch out for more details about this entrepreneurial event ...



INSET Days 2024/2025

2024

Monday 2nd September

Friday 25th October

2025

Monday 6th January

Friday 4th April

Monday 2nd June

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all parents who kindly responded to our questionnaire about clubs and school visits. Having had an initial look at the responses, I can see that there are many different views and suggestions to be considered. During the next Full Governing Body meeting on Thursday 23rd May, we will be looking at these in detail and identifying changes that may be needed to improve our provision further. I will report our findings and decisions to you all following that meeting.

Staffing Changes

Sadly, Mrs Emma Percy will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term as she will be returning to teaching and has secured a post from September. In order to have the time to complete her Master's degree, Mrs Percy elected to work for a while as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and we were delighted to welcome her in to our team. As part of Mrs Percy's role, she has led the development of our library and has done an amazing job auditing the stock, purchasing new titles, supporting our Reading Leaders and generally helping to inspire our children to read more.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Percy for her hard work and commitment to our school. We will all miss her, especially Spring Class with whom she has been working this year and we all wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Message from Mrs Percy - Library Update

It is so lovely to see children coming into the library at lunchtime to browse and share books with each other. There have been some significant changes in the library to support your children in developing a love of reading for pleasure. The books have been re-organised and labelled to make it easier for children to browse and find books that are of interest to them.



Many thanks go to Denise Reed, from Ardingly Outreach Programme, who not only shared her knowledge and experience of being a school librarian but also gave up much of her time to re-organise the shelving of books.

A huge thank you goes to FoBS for funding the changes to the library. We are so lucky to have a good space for a library here at Balcombe and it is fantastic that we have the means to maximise the potential of the library for the children's benefit. On a personal note, developing the library has been an exciting opportunity for me as it has linked with my Open University Master's study on inclusive education. My study, combined with experience of working in a bookshop, highlighted not only the social well-being and academic benefits that reading for pleasure can have for children, but also the

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barriers that may hinder reading. It is a privilege to be able to support children in reading for pleasure and I am thankful for the opportunity. I now have the prospect of writing up my experiences for my dissertation!

The library is now open to all on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes.



There are also boxes of books that the Reading Leaders will take



out onto the playground at break-times and lunchtimes.

I have chatted to the children about what books they would like in the library. Here is a selection of some that we were able to purchase through FoBS support.



Collective Worship

We have two more class led Collective Worship sessions this term. Parents/carers of children in those classes are warmly invited to join us at 9am in the hall.

Forest Class - Friday 24 May at 9am.

Coombe Class - Friday 28 June at 9am.

Reading Leaders

Our reading leaders have been working hard in the library, under Mrs Percy's direction and will continue to take responsibility for looking after the space as some further improvements happen in the next few weeks.

Sponsored Skydive

At the end of May, Fr David is doing a sponsored Skydive from 15000 feet in aid of Family Support Work, a charity that works with families in Sussex, providing practical and emotional support. If you would like to sponsor him there is a link here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-king-1708620506106?utm_source=Facebook&utm_m

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[edium=email_social&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Badge50](#)

Alternatively there is a sponsor form available in St Mary's Church (open from 8.30am - 4pm every day).

Many thanks
Fr David



Dates for your Diary

Mon 13th May – Thurs 16th May – SATs KS2
Mon 20th May – Fri 24th May – Walk to School week
Mon 20th May – Grow your £2
Tues 21st May – Lake & Coombe trip to Woods Mill
Fri 24th May – Collective Worship – Forest Class
Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May – HALF TERM
Mon 3rd June – INSET DAY – school closed
Thurs 6th June – New Parent Drinks with FoBS
Sat 8th June – Volunteer Day
Tues 17th June – Mini Entrepreneur Sale
Weds 19th June – Sports Day and FoBS ice cream sale
Thurs 20th June @ 2.30pm – Book Look, parents welcome to look at children's work in the classroom
Sat 22nd June – FoBS Summer Fair
Fri 28th June – Collective Worship - Coombe Class
Mon 1st July @ 10.30am – Y6 Leavers Service at Christ's Hospital
Sat 13th July – Balcombe Village Fete

Tues 16th July & Thurs 18th July @ 7pm – Junior Production

Tues 23rd July @ 1.30pm – SUMMER TERM ENDS

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.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/balcombeprimary>

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

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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.



OUTREACH PROGRAM

EAST GRINSTEAD HC

CONTACT

TOM TYERS

KEV DEVANI

JUNIORS@EGHOCKEY.COM

EGHC would like to increase their presence in the local community. A primary and secondary outreach programme will be beneficial our local community and the club by creating more positive experiences for our young people in our community.

We will be able to offer multiple experiences to fit the needs and wants of our local community. Understanding what they need and then supplying them with their needs will create a positive link between the local community and our club.

WHAT THE PROGRAMME WILL OFFER

- PE Lessons - premium professional sports coaches to offer a unique experience.
- School clubs - We can offer school clubs a positive experience to get children to love the game.
- East Grinstead Hockey Consult Program - A tailor made proposal to the specific needs and opportunity, highlighting how your consultancy services can add value and address their unique challenges or objectives in getting kids to play hockey. Your consultants and coaches are the best expertise in the hockey. This program will the following and more:
 - Assessment proposal to how we the help the bring hockey to you.
 - Provide an overview organization, including its mission, objectives, and current challenges or opportunities related to field hockey.
 - Highlight all collaborations possibilities with East Grinstead Hockey Club
 - Continual Professional Development for teachers/staff career progression.

They currently run a girls only training on a Wednesday and from September will have a girl's team playing out of Burgess Hill.

To book your free place email Girls@bhrfc.co.uk or WhatsApp 07715 301518

4-11 year olds Join us for **PIONEER CHILD CARE** OFSTED REGISTERED

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CAMP THIS MAY!

Daily choice of Jungle Themed Sports, Challenges, Arts & Performance Activities!

Tuesday 28th - Friday 31st May 2024

ST WILFRID'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BURGESS HILL
 MANOR FIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL BURGESS HILL*
 HARLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL HAYWARDS HEALTH*
 BLACKTHORNS PRIMARY SCHOOL LINDFIELD

8.30am - 5.00pm
*Extended sessions available

BOOK TODAY!

WE ACCEPT Childcare Vouchers & Tax-Free Childcare

Online at pioneerchildcare.co.uk
 For more information call us on 01464 411388
 or email enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk

£35 Per day

Freshly made Lunch Grab Bags £4.50

POKÉMON™

TRADE & PLAY

Saturday 18 May
2-5pm
in NWPA school hall

Entry £2 per person

'Retro' style tuck shop (cash only)
 &
Sussex Coffee Truck (cash & card)

For further information email pokemonevents@northlandswood.co.uk

Together we learn and grow

SUSSEX COFFEE TRUCKS

BOOK NOW! for great discounts!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CHILDCARE
EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISCOUNT!

USE CODE: **SCHOOL20**

LOCAL CAMP AVAILABLE!
 Use code for an **EXTRA £20 off** your booking!
*Minimum of 2 days

Visit barracudas.co.uk or call 01480 467 567

SCAN ME & LEARN MORE!

BARRACUDAS Activity Day Camps

Burgess Hill Rugby Club are running a free Girls Rugby Camp at their club on Sunday 19th May 10am – 1pm for girls in Years 4, 5 & 6.

The first 40 girls to register will receive a free gift bag on the day of the camp.