



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

[parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk)

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

Dear Parents,

What a fun filled last few days of term we are having.

Our children loved the visit from Rocksteady Music school last Friday – they absolutely rocked the rafters with "We will rock you". Don't forget to reply to the email we sent out on Friday if you are interested in your child taking part in our school workshops.

Rocksteady will be coming back into school to run two **trial workshops** for pupils and their parents who are interested in registering for lessons. These will be held on **30<sup>th</sup> January at 9am for Mill and Spring and 9:45 for Lake, Coombe and Forest**. Obviously, for working parents it might be difficult to attend; this is fine, your child will still be included. If you are free and able to join us for either workshop, please do just turn up.

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

On Monday, Florence and Libby from PQA (Haywards Heath) facilitated some brilliant singing, dancing and acting inspired by the film "The Nativity". It was lovely to see our pupils having such a great time working together to make a video. PQA run two sessions on a Saturday (am and pm) for children from 4 - 18. The areas covered include film, musical theatre, comedy and drama.

<https://www.pqacademy.com/academies/haywards-heath/>

On Tuesday, we journeyed to India and tried some Bollywood dance. This was a more relaxing and serene experience, with the children showing really good concentration.

On Wednesday, Mrs Butcher brought us her own unique style of Christmas madness, through elf drama. This was greatly enjoyed by all, especially the older children exploring the concept of moody, teenage elves!

Today, our carol service at St Mary's made for an atmospheric and reflective afternoon, pondering on the meaning of Christmas. It was lovely to see so many parents joining us.

And finally, tomorrow, we will bring 2024 to a close with our end of year celebration assembly. Parents are very welcome to join us - we aim to start just after 9am.

I would like to say a huge thank you for the cards and gifts that have come into school for us all over the past few days, they are very much appreciated and will certainly be enjoyed over the holiday (if not already demolished in the staffroom)!

On behalf of all of the staff and governors at Balcombe School, we wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Best wishes,  
Wendy Millbanks

### Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who filled in the recent HET survey and shared opinions about what the school does well and also areas where we can improve. I will take some time over Christmas to look at the survey results in detail and send a more detailed response in January



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## Dates for your Diary

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025** – \*\* INSET day \*\*  
**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Spring Term starts  
**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Clubs restart this week  
**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Spring Class trip to South Downs Planetarium  
**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Census Day  
**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Spring Class Cakes (FoBS)  
**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Mill Class Cakes (FoBS)  
**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb** - \*\* HALF TERM \*\*  
**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** – World Book Day  
**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar** – Bull Run  
**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 4pm – 7pm** – Parents Evening  
**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> April 3.30pm – 5.30pm** – Parents Evening  
**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Term Finishes @ 3.15pm  
**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> April** - \*\* 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.**