



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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

### From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to announce that we have a new PTA Chair, Treasurer and Secretary in place, to continue the work of the PTA this year.

Huge thanks go to the volunteers listed below:

Chair – Sian Ritson

Treasurer – Di Pospisil

Secretary – Donna Dove-Wallington

For a while it looked as though our PTA would fold, which would have led to a massive negative impact on our children. I hope that as many parents as possible will now step up to support the new committee as the funds they raise are vitally important to the school and provide both essential and some "nice to have" items. These items enhance your child's learning and enable us to be more creative with our planning and teaching. You can support by volunteering to run a stall, being a class rep or just attending an event. Please help, in whatever capacity you are able.

A big thank you to the members of last year's PTA, for their hard work and significant financial contribution. Our PTA has always done us proud and I look forward to another successful year of fundraising and great events!

Wendy Millbanks

### Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 18 December.

To ensure there is enough food for Christmas celebrations, please advise the office by the **end of November** if your infant child does not normally have hot dinners on this day but would like to on this occasion. Juniors can book as usual on Chartwells website.

### Contacting School



When sending emails to School to ensure a quick response, please can you use the email address below?

**Parents@balcombeschool.co.uk**

### Transport to Events

If you are helping with transport to and from events we do require you to complete an Authorised Drivers Form giving details of your vehicle, insurance and MOT. The form can be found on the school website under the Parent Information tab.

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

A reminder to **all** parents, that if your child is being transported to an event and requires a booster seat, it is up to you to provide one – we do not have any spares at school. Children will not be allowed to go without the correct seat.

The law states that “Children must normally use a child car seat until they’re 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.”

## Pencil Cases

Over half term can you please check that your child’s pencil case is fully stocked for the second half of term, as per the list below – a few of the items required seem to have either run out or disappeared!

The pencil case **should** have in it:  
Fountain pen (if a pen person – Parker Vector or similar)  
Handwriting pen  
Pencil  
Rubber  
Ruler  
Pencil sharpener  
Glue stick  
Whiteboard pens

And also **could** have:  
A green pen for editing  
Coloured pencils  
Felt tip pens  
Highlighter pens  
Scissors  
Blue ink cartridges (if a pen person)

The children will be encouraged to use their own resources and take responsibility in looking after them.

Thank you for your support with this.

## Antibiotics at School



A reminder that we do not routinely give medicines/antibiotics in school unless your child requires it 4 times per day.

## School Hot Dinners for Infants

Please note that all infant children are entitled to Free School Meals – a hot dinner provided by Chartwells.

Currently there is no ordering system for infant free school meals which can result in discrepancies in our numbers from time to time. In order to ensure that ALL children are catered for at lunchtime, we would appreciate a weeks’ notice to advise us if you change your current request that you provided on your data sheet. If you have not yet provided information about your child’s lunch arrangements we will contact you directly to ensure we have the correct information recorded.

## Personal Belongings

We would like to remind you to name **everything** you bring into school clearly. When items are handed into the office having been left at home, it would help us enormously for them to be clearly named so we can give them to the correct child.

## Treetops After School Club

Thank you for your responses to our survey regarding Treetops providing an after school club subject to sufficient numbers signing up prior to start date. We are delighted to announce that there will be a provision for this service from January. More details will follow later this term.

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## Half Term Clubs

Unfortunately due to lack of numbers, the October Drama Workshop has been cancelled. Look out for dates for Christmas Workshops.

Netball Development Event:



  
**magic**  
[www.magicnetball.co.uk](http://www.magicnetball.co.uk)

**NETBALL  
DEVELOPMENT  
MORNING**

**SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2019**  
INDOOR SPORTS HALL  
@ THE BURGESS HILL ACADEMY  
**£2**  
YEARS 3-4 9AM-10.30AM  
YEARS 5-6 10.30AM-12PM

OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS, WHO ARE  
NOT PART OF A NETBALL CLUB, BUT  
WANT TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS  
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
GAME!  
JOIN US FOR A FRIENDLY, RELAXED MORNING  
OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. RUN BY MAGIC'S  
EXPERIENCED LEVEL 2. REGIONAL NETBALL  
COACHES. A BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITY TO  
DEVELOP SKILLS TO TAKE BACK TO YOUR  
SCHOOL TRAINING OR GAMES.

LIMITED PLACES. SIGN UP VIA  
[WWW.MAGICNETBALL.CO.UK/  
DEVELOPMENTMORNINGS](http://WWW.MAGICNETBALL.CO.UK/DEVELOPMENTMORNINGS)  
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL US AT  
[ADMIN@MAGICNETBALL.CO.UK](mailto:ADMIN@MAGICNETBALL.CO.UK)



**Tues 19 Nov** – Flu vaccinations

**Thurs 21 Nov** – 3.30pm – 5.30pm Parents Evening

**Mon 2 Dec – Fri 6 Dec** – Bikeability (Year 6)

**Thurs 12 Dec & Fri 13 Dec** – 9.30am Nativity (Infants)

**Mon 16 Dec** – Music Workshop (whole school)

**Wed 18 Dec** – Christmas Dinner

**Thurs 19 Dec** – 1.45pm St Mary's Church, Carol Service

**Fri 20 Dec** – 1.15pm TERM ENDS

## 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 read the linked information letter which explains that any accepted applications for Free School Meals (whether or not your child takes the meal up) attract £1320 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.

[LINK](#) to pupil premium letter

## Fundraising for School

Remember to join easyfundraising and 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/balco-mbeprimary>

## School Diary

**Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov** – Half Term

**Mon 4 Nov** – INSET Day

**Wed 6 Nov** – 9.15am – 10 am Open Morning

**Tues 12 Nov** – 4pm – 7pm Parents Evening

Donate with  
**JustGiving™**