



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## NEWSLETTER

APRIL  
2018



Dear Parents,

This term has got off to a really good start, with some lovely sunny days and opportunities for outside learning. Please make sure that the children always have a sun hat and water bottle in school, but also (as we are in England) please continue to leave wellies here so that the field can still be used even on wet days.

As we enter the last term, children begin to think about moving classes at the beginning of the next academic year and parents often ask how year groups are divided. Where year groups are split, this is generally done according to age; the older children moving in to the next class, whilst the younger ones remain in the previous class. This of course does not mean that those children repeat a year; on the contrary, they still have learning activities tailored to their needs and ability, but possibly in a different way.

Our teachers are incredibly skilled at meeting the needs of two year groups in one class, even though some curriculum areas dictate different learning objectives are covered. Evidence shows that the journey a child takes through the school in terms of time spent in each class, has far less bearing on final outcomes, than a great number of other factors. On occasion, an older child may remain with the younger children in the year group, or a younger child move with the older half of the cohort, if this is felt to be beneficial for the child, but this will only be in exceptional circumstances and only then, if doing so does not have a detrimental impact on the class or rest of the peer group.

**NO NUTS ○ NO SESAME SEEDS ○ NO NUTS ○ NO SESAME SEEDS**  
**NO PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS OR SESAME SEEDS**

As we are a small school, we deliberately leave allocating children to classes until the very end of the summer term, as even one child joining us late, or receiving last minute notification of a child moving into the village, can have a big impact on the balance of each class. We would hate to tell a child they were in one class and then have to change it at the last minute.

The children will “shuffle up” into their new classes on the afternoon of 19th July and reports coming home on that day will include the name of their new class and teacher.

## SWIMMING

As you may be aware, there is a requirement in the PE curriculum that children

should be able to swim 25 metres and perform self-rescue by the time they reach the end of Key Stage 2. Historically we have taken children in year 2 swimming during the Autumn and Spring terms to try and meet this expectation.

For a variety of reasons, we have decided to change this arrangement and move the focus to children in year 5. We feel they will be better placed to meet the swimming objectives, changing and organisation will be quicker and easier and depending on ability, we may not need to swim for so many sessions, thus having less impact on the learning in school.

As the current year 4, 3 and 2 children have already completed their swimming (when they were in year 2), we intend to



begin this when the current year I reach year 5. It seems a long way off now but will be upon us before we know it I'm sure.

## SUMMER HOUSE GRAND OPENING

This will take place on Friday 4th May at 9:15am. It won't be a fancy affair, just a few words and the cutting of the ribbon by our competition winner (to be announced on the day), but parents are most welcome to join us if they wish.



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## SPONSORED SKIP

The school council are keen to organise another charity event to raise some more



money for the school in Uganda that we supported in the Autumn Term. We know that the money we raised made a huge difference and we are keen to continue that support.

The children would like to provide some sporting equipment for the orphans at the school and have suggested we do a sponsored sporty event to raise money to purchase balls, skipping ropes and other resources for them.

We know how busy you all are, so the council have tried to think of an event that is fun for our children, but simple to manage and straightforward to sponsor.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May, each class will skip for half an hour to try to reach a target number of skips. The targets are below.

- Lake 1500
- Coombe 3000
- Forest 6000
- Spring 10,000
- Mill 10,000

The target for each class is deliberately challenging so we are asking you to commit to sponsor your child's class to reach half way, three quarters of the way, or (fingers crossed) the whole

amount of skips.

Your child will bring home a sponsor sheet for their class, on which we hope you will write your chosen sponsorship amounts. Unlike some other sponsored events we are not expecting the children to hassle neighbours, friends and family for individual sponsorship, however if several individuals wish to club together to sponsor a larger, single amount, that would be wonderful.

Please send the sheet back into school before the event .

After the sponsored skip has taken place, your child will bring their sheet home again, with the number of skips achieved recorded on it.

We would then ask you to send in the required amount of money as soon as possible

## DISPENSING PARACETAMOL AND ANTIHISTAMINE

Where parents have authorised the school to dispense Paracetamol and/or Antihistamine to children this authorisation will continue for the next term

unless notice is received by the school to the contrary. If you have not yet given your permission and wish to do so please use this [LINK](#).



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# 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

## USEFUL LINKS FOR PARENTS

VICTORY HALL FILMS

- [The Greatest Showman](#)

- [Finding Your Feet - June](#)

CHARTWELLS - [Menu](#)

[LABEL CREATING](#)

BIRCHANGER OPEN GARDEN – [CLICK HERE](#)

BALCOMBE TENNIS CLUB – [CLICK HERE](#)

WARDEN PARK HOLIDAY SPORTING ACTIVITIES – [CLICK HERE](#)

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# CALENDAR

FRIDAY, 27 APRIL 19:30 – 23:00  
PTA : QUIZ NIGHT

TUE 1 MAY 09:00 – 12:30  
NEARS : MULTISKILLS Y2 TBC  
THE TRIANGLE

**THU MON 7 MAY**  
**EARLY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY**

W/C MON 14 MAY  
Y2 & Y6 SATS WEEK - 14-17 MAY

WED 23 MAY  
FOREST - EGYPTIAN WORKSHOP

THU 24 MAY 08:30 – 12:00  
CLASS PHOTOS  
SCHOOL HALL  
&  
SPONSORED SKIP

**W/C MON 28 MAY**  
**HALF TERM (SUMMER)**

**MON 4 JUN**  
**INSET DAY**

W/C MON 11 JUN 09:00 – 12:00  
Y6 BIKEABILITY

SEE ALL EVENTS ON THE [WEBSITE CALENDAR](#)

Check the CLUB SCHEDULE [here](#)

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