



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018



Dear Parents

*Happy Easter!*

The sun is shining, the birds are singing and the hours of daylight are getting longer. What's not to like?

As we approach the end of another term, I would like to thank all those parents and friends in the community who have supported us in so many ways this term – from reading help to transporting children to events, from donating Lego® to buying books from the book fair and even just for kind words in appreciation of 'what we do'.

Enjoy a lovely break and we'll see you on Monday 16 April!



## Staffing

Sadly we are losing four members of staff in the next few weeks.

**Rosie Wiltshire** who has been running La Jolie Ronde in school for the last 7 years, has taken the decision to retire and explore other challenges. We will miss Rosie and her bubbly enthusiasm for all things French but wish her a very happy retirement. We will no doubt see Rosie again at school, probably surrounded by Labrador puppies!

We welcome Caroline Dernoncourt who will be taking over the La Jolie Ronde groups after Easter. We look forward to welcoming Caroline as a new member of our team.

We said goodbye to Rosie in assembly on Monday morning when she read the children a brilliant 'Farewell Ode to Balcombe School' which parents will enjoy and is attached [here](#).

**Jenny Smith** who has been assisting us with supervision of lunchtime will be leaving us soon after Easter to take up a new post at Chailey Heritage School. We thank

Jenny for her flexibility and enthusiasm and are delighted that we will still see Jenny in school on a regular basis as Alex and Ella remain pupils here. Good Luck Jenny!

**Claire Cleverton**, who has been working as our SENCO for nearly two years, will also be leaving us at the end of term. Claire has had a massive impact in her role; enhancing our provision for children with special needs, supporting staff to plan, assess and review the progress made by those children, developing strong links with outside agencies and building trusting relationships with our parents. Claire will be sorely missed, by the children, the staff and parents who have worked with Claire. I know you will join me in thanking Claire for her commitment to the school and for the effort and energy she has put into the role, improving outcomes for our children. Our loss, is Milton Mount's gain, as Claire will be increasing her current hours there from the beginning of the summer term. We wish Claire huge success..



From the start of the Summer Term, I will be taking on the role of SENCO in school.

Finally, we are also losing a member of the office staff. **Andrea Hewitt** will be leaving us shortly after Easter to take up a new post in Manor Field Primary School. We will miss Andrea's cheerful nature and willingness to do "whatever it takes"! In the five years that Andrea has been with us, her role has evolved and changed tremendously. Andrea has greeted each new challenge with a positive attitude and played a massive role in supporting the smooth running of the school. We will all miss Andrea, her great sense of humour and the seemingly constant supply of cakes she keeps in her drawer!

Sincere thanks to all three ladies and good luck in your new ventures from all at Balcombe School.

## Morning Procedure

Please ensure that your children arrive at school by 8.50 via the rear playground unless otherwise agreed with staff. The playground is

supervised from 8.40 each morning. All children are expected to be in their classrooms for morning registration at 8.55.

It has become apparent that several children are regularly late arriving and come in through the front as a matter of routine. Late arrival not only disrupts the child's routine but also that of their class making for a very stilted and unsettled start to the day.



## South of England Show Competition

As a School we have entered the South of England Show Schools Competition – 'Enjoying the Countryside'. We would love you to get involved and create some masterpieces at home!

We have optimistically applied for the maximum number of entries, safe in the knowledge that we have some very talented pupils!

In the event of loads of entries, we will judge them on Friday 25/05 and then take the winning entries to the

Show on the Tuesday 5th June. Any living entries will need to be taken home again for the Half term break.

All the competition entries will be displayed during the South of England Show on the 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June in the 'The Countryside Hub' in the Discover the Countryside area of the showground.

- Category 1 – Growing entries should not measure more than 50cm squared in size when displayed.
- Category 2 – Mobiles should be no larger than 50cm width and 1 metre in length.
- Category 3 – Paintings should be no larger than A3 in size.

**Please ensure** that all your entries are clearly marked with your school name/entrants.

**[OPEN POSTER HERE](#)**

## PTA update

The PTA have had a successful start to this year and we would like to thank you all for your continued support and for your time in completing the survey - it is a great

help to know what type of events and fundraising activities you would like us to arrange. We will give you an update soon on how much we have raised and how the money is being spent.



The film night in February proved popular again. This time we offered separate films for the junior and infants. We hope to hold another film night in the summer term with a film suitable for everyone so please watch out for details about this.

Mother's Day gifts were well received and the children produced some fabulous pictures to go on the flower pots. A lot of work went into these by both the children and the PTA team so we hope the pots have pride of place at home!

The Bull Run was a roaring success despite the bitter weather - this was the first time in its history that there has been snow on the ground for the runners. But this was to our advantage as the bacon rolls, sausage rolls and cake were all gratefully wolfed down at the finish line. We were delighted to have raised £550 for St Catherine's Hospice and £550 for the PTA.

We are looking forward to the curry and quiz night on 27 April - get swotting now to be in with a chance

of winning the trophy! At the time of writing we only have one table left. If you have not yet paid for your table, please do so ASAP to secure it!!

## **DATES** – for full calendar see [website](#)

Tues 27 March	NEARS Tag Rugby @ Warden Park – afternoon Parent Consultations 4-7pm
Wed 28 March	Mid Sussex High 5 Netball Finals, East Grinstead
Thursday 29 March	Church Service @ St Mary's 1.45pm – ALL WELCOME END OF TERM 3.15pm
Monday 16 April	New Summer Term begins
Friday 27 April	PTA Quiz Night
w/c Mon 14 May	SATS week
Mon 25 June	SPORTS DAY
Mon 16 July	RESERVE SPORTS DAY

INSET Days – Monday 4 June & Friday 13 July

NOTE: Year 2 Swimming has now finished

## **CLUBS** – for full details see [website](#)

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

[Tumble Tots](#)

[Bikeability](#)

[Swimming](#)

[Chartwells' latest menu](#)

[Kudze Easter Club](#)

[Darkest Hour – April showing at](#)

# 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

HAVE A  
VERY HAPPY EASTER



NO NUTS · NO SESAME SEEDS · NO NUTS · NO SESAME SEEDS