



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's only the third week back and already we have confirmed cases of Covid and lots of coughs and colds in school. We can't keep the germs away completely, but please do help us by ensuring that when children have been poorly, they are properly better before returning to school. That said, if your child is off with a minor headache, tummy ache or other ailment that dramatically improves during the day, we are more than happy for them to come back part way through the day as every lesson counts!

Last year, we introduced some pupil leader roles, which we intend to build upon this year. One of the initiatives that worked well, was older pupils running lunchtime clubs for younger ones. We would love to run a construction club but sadly, are lacking in resources. If you, or anyone you know, have children who have grown out of any construction toys such as Lego, Meccano or small blocks and are looking for a good home for them, please do keep us in mind.

Dress Down Day

Don't forget, this Friday, in exchange for a bottle or jar of something that can be eaten, drunk or used to make us smell nice, our pupils may wear their own clothes to school.



Skip2bfit

On Monday 30th September, our pupils will be taking part in a skipping workshop, led by Skip2bfit. During the day they will learn how to skip properly (like a boxer) and have a chance to challenge themselves to speed skip in a 2 minute period. Our younger children (for whom skipping might be tricky) will take part in skipping based activities. They will also be learning about the importance of exercise and healthy eating and will receive a small pot of blueberries to eat. If you do not wish your child to have the blueberries, please let us know

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before the day. FOBS have kindly agreed to fund this activity.

Following the skipping workshop day (and possibly after school on the day itself), pupils will have the opportunity to buy a skip2bfit rope for use at home. The ropes are adjustable, so can be used by parents as well as children and have counters to help keep a tally of how much skipping has been done. See attached sheet for more details on the ropes and cost involved. If we sell a few ropes, school will get some free.

Then, once everyone has had a chance to practise their skills, we plan to hold a sponsored skip on Friday 11th October. Pupils should wear trainers to school on both dates. More details about this event will be sent out by FOBS soon.

Harvest Service

Our Harvest service will take place on Tuesday 8th October – time to be confirmed.

Every year, as part of the service, our pupils donate food to a local charity (Family Support Network) which we ask them to bring in to school on either the 7th or 8th October. Non-perishable items are preferred please.

Parents are warmly invited to join us in our celebration at St Mary's Church. We would welcome parent volunteers to walk to the church with our pupils please – let the office know if you are able to help.

Parents' Evenings

These will take place on Monday 14th October (3:30pm – 5:30pm) and Thursday 24th October (4pm – 7pm). We will notify you when our booking system is open.

INSET Day

Friday 25th October is an INSET day. On this day, we will be training at Hurst College with colleagues from the HET schools.

Children in Need

We will be marking this day and as usual, plan to engage our older children in coming up with creative ways to raise money for this worthwhile cause. More details to follow next month.

Book Look

On Thursday 5th December, we would like to invite you to come into school and look at your child's work with them. Parents (or parent stand-ins) are invited to visit between 2:15pm and 3pm. Our youngest pupils often find it upsetting if they are expecting you to arrive and you are unable to, so please let us know if you are not able to join us and we can manage your child's expectations and distract them elsewhere.

Wellies

As the weather changes, the children will need named wellies in school to be able to make the most of our wonderful grounds. Our class welly racks currently have last year's welly boots on them, many of which probably don't fit.

Please can you visit last year's welly rack and take your child's welly boots to their new class wellie rack. If they do not fit but could be used by someone else, please leave them by the class gate so we know they are 'spares'. We will then leave all the 'spares' out for other parents to take as required.

INSET DAYS: 2 September, 25 October 2024, 6 January, 4 April, 2 June 2025

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Drama Club

Drama Clubs are up and running and the children are excited to be learning all sorts of fun games to help develop their focus and co-ordination.

Each session the children put themselves 'in role' as a character or work as a group to make up plays. This helps develop and channel their natural creativity.

The lower group will do games until after Christmas when we'll think about making up a short play for them. The upper group will look at rehearsing a short play after half-term. This year they will each make up their own section in small groups so they will stay active during all the rehearsals. This should make it a really fun and valuable experience for them.

We have space in both groups so please do sign up. helsavagebutcher@gmail.com

Upcoming FoBS Events



FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

Annual General Meeting & Parent Drinks

THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2024

THE HALF MOON INN

8:00 PM

ALL WELCOME



FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

PRE-LOVED
SOFT TOYS

We're holding a pre-loved, nearly new soft toy tombola in December.

We are currently looking for pre-loved soft toys in good condition to raise money for Balcombe School.

Please leave all donations with the front desk at Balcombe School.

Dates for your Diary

- Fri 20th Sept** – FoBS Dress Down for Donation
- Mon 30th Sept** – skip2bfit Challenge
- Tues 8th Oct** – Harvest Service, St Mary's Church
- Thurs 10th Oct** – FoBS AGM/Parent Drinks
- Fri 11th Oct** – FoBS Sponsored Skip
- Mon 14th Oct @ 3:30pm – 5:30pm** - Parents Evening
- Mon 21st Oct** – Flu vaccinations
- Weds 23rd Oct** – School Photographs
- Thurs 24th Oct @ 4pm – 7pm** - Parents Evening
- Fri 25th Oct** – INSET day, school closed
- Mon 28th Oct – Fri 1st Nov** - *HALF TERM*
- Fri 8th Nov** – Coombe Cake Challenge
- Fri 18th Nov** – Lake Cake Challenge
- Fri 29th Nov** – FoBS Christmas Wreath Making
- Fri 6th Dec** – FoBS Christmas Crafts
- Weds 11th Dec & Thurs 12th Dec @ 9:30am** – Nativity
- Thurs 12th Dec** – Christmas Jumper Day
- Fri 20th Dec @ 9am** – Final assembly
- Mon 6th Jan 2025** – INSET day, school closed

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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/balcombprimary>

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.



Hurstpierpoint & District Ploughing Match
SUNDAY 29TH SEPT 2024
9.30AM - 3.30 PM
HOME FARM
STAPLEFIELD, RH17 6AS

A great day out in the countryside!
Watch ploughmen in action with their horses, vintage and modern machinery
BBQ, Bar, Terrier racing, Dog Show, Bouncy Castle, Face Painters, Sheep & Goat Show

Why not enter our Cooking & Craft competitions? Open to all, adult & child classes. See our Facebook page for details

Adults £7.50
Kids 10-18 £5
Under 10's free



 FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

SOCCER SCHOOL



Fun, engaging, inclusive, safe football activity for boys and girls of all abilities, during the school holidays. Book now by either scanning the QR code or using the below website and specific course code.

chelseafcfootballdevelopment.com
course code: SS-TBCC-X-42

Area	Venue	Activity Dates
Sussex Crawley	Thomas Bennett Community College	Tuesday 29th October Wednesday 30th October
Timings	Ages	Cost
Start - 9.30am Finish - 3.00pm	5-12 Years Old	£48 Full Course

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