



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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

APRIL NEWSLETTER

parents@balcombeschool.co.uk

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

Dear Parents / Carers,

You will see from the reports below what a busy few weeks we have had! Thank you to our reporters from Spring Class.

Thank you for all your fabulous efforts this term with gardening, cake making, costume creating, pupil transportation, attendance at celebration assemblies and other gatherings and generally supporting the school.

On behalf of the staff and Governors, I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Maths Challenge at Christ's Hospital

On 22nd of March, we went to Christ's Hospital for a maths challenge. When we arrived, they took us to a place where we were able to watch the whole school parade into lunch. Their elaborate march was accompanied by a brass band and led by baton-throwing students. After that, the maths challenge began. The quiz was made up of six different tasks and our favourites were 'Make 24' (we were given a variety of numbers and had to make 24 using all of them) and 'Tangrams' (where we were given a variety of shapes to fit into a bigger square). The parade was well-rehearsed and the maths challenge was exciting and fun. We really enjoyed the whole day and we finished it with sausages, chips and

cookies! Out of the 50 teams taking part we were very pleased to achieve 7th and 14th place.

By Ronnie, Lawrence, Maya and Isaac

Dance Workshop at Downlands

Last Wednesday, children from Mill, Spring and Forest went to Downlands School in Burgess Hill for a dance workshop. After we checked in, we walked to their hall where we were going to perform. Some Year 9 girls from Downlands taught us the dance. We had stripes of black painted on our faces. Our dance was called the Haka and it originates from New Zealand. It was full of lots of stomping and "ooofing!" and when we performed it, we wanted our opponents to fear us. Next, we went into a classroom for a chocolate cupcake whilst each school practised their bows. After that, each individual school then did their dance to the parents, who had arrived to watch. Once we finished we all celebrated. Everyone had a great time!

By Izzy, Bella and Anna

Netball Festival

Last Monday, some of the children from Forest and Spring went to a netball festival at Oathall Community College. When we got there, Sports Leaders showed us to the hall, where we had to

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complete different activities. For the first activity, we had to throw the ball against the wall and your partner behind you needed to run in and catch it. However, we need to continue to work on our aim, as poor Mrs Dunsby nearly got hit in the face! We also got to play a small game which was four against four. We both managed to score goals and really enjoyed playing. The afternoon was fun and it was great to meet other schools.

Written by Isla

Nature Ninjas Update

An enormous thank you for all your amazing hard work during our working party on Saturday morning.

Your collective efforts enabled us to:

- Plant 60 new trees.
- Create a new pathway linking the top and bottom of the site.
- Put up the parachute shelter.
- Rig a new scramble rope line.
- Create giant weaving loom.
- Clear areas of wood to create more space.
- And, tidy up the site.

A plea from Nature Ninjas - we need old pots and pans to use in our mud kitchen. If you have anything that may be suitable, please hand them into the school office.

Our pupil's tree planting, and learning at Nature Ninjas about woodland, animals, plants, birds and trees has been recognised by The Woodland Trust and we have been awarded the Bronze Green Tree School Award.



Comic Relief – 17th March



Thank you all so much for supporting your children to bring in toys and games for our second hand sale and also for encouraging them to spend some pocket money buying items to bring home.

I am very proud to let you know that we raised a huge £304.90 for Comic Relief.

Drama Club

Upper and Lower school Drama club have been very busy this term. The Upper group transported their audience to another world, singing and dancing in 'The Wizard of Oz', which, at a full 25 minutes, was easily the longest Drama club play yet. The Lower

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group meanwhile, performed their very own story of 'The Little Gingerbreads' – where the little gingerbread children learnt the importance of listening to their parent's advice and luckily the foxes did *not* eat them! This group not only delighted audiences in the hall, but went 'on tour' to Russettings Care Home. The group were brilliantly behaved both walking there and inside, where the residents loved their performance and told me 'the future is clearly in safe hands with this lot!' We couldn't be more proud!

The Little Gingerbreads taking their bow at Russettings Care Home



The Wizard of Oz cast



Nuts/Nut Products

We would like to remind parents again that we are a **NUT FREE** school as we do have children in school with severe allergies.

This guidance includes hummus, pesto or any other nut/fruit bar. It applies for ALL school activities and includes Breakfast Club, OV After School, Trips and Clubs.

Policies

Most of our key policies are updated annually and available to view on our website. These include policies on equality, behaviour, curriculum, online safety and our safeguarding and child protection policy which is updated each September.

Parent Governor

As there were no challengers for the role, I'm delighted to let you know that Carolyn Rolph has renewed her position as parent governor.

Dates for your diary

Fri 31st March – FoBS Cake Challenge Mill Class

Fri 31st March - Spring Term finishes

Mon 17th April – Summer Term starts

Mon 1st May – Bank Holiday

Mon 8th May – Bank Holiday for Coronation

Tues 9th May – Fri 12th May – SATs

Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd June – HALF TERM

Mon 5th June – Inset Day

Fri 26th May – FoBS Crazy Hair Day

Fri 23rd June – FoBS Summer Fair

INSET DAYS: 5 JUNE 2023

Fundraising for School



[Link to Amazon Smile](#)

Amazon wish lists will remain open should you wish to purchase anything for your child's class.

Donate with
JustGiving

Remember to join easyfundraising and Amazon Smile 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/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.

Holiday Activities / Camps

LOCATION & BOOKING
Handcross Park School
Handcross Park in Sussex, awarded Prep School Of The Year in 2019, has outstanding facilities, including a swimming pool. That offer is truly wonderful environment for our first class activity camp.

Address: London Road, Handcross, RH7 6NF

CAMP DATES
EASTER: TUES 11TH - FRI 14TH APRIL
SUMMER: MON 17TH JULY - FRI 19TH AUGUST

EARLY BOOKING OFFER
£205 PER WEEK
SAVE £40
STANDARD PRICE £245

£48 A DAY
SAVE £6
STANDARD PRICE £54

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding holiday camps for 4 to 14 year olds this Easter and summer at Handcross Park School, Haywards Heath

BOOK NOW on ultimateactivity.co.uk or call 0330 111 7077

Ultimate Savings When You Book Early!

SCS SOUTH COAST SPORTS

GIRL'S FOOTBALL

10AM - 3PM
£10.00 PER DAY

Monday 3rd April - Tythe Barn, Pondtail Road, Horsham, RH12 5JF
Tuesday 4th April - Eastergate Cricket Club, Barnham Road, PO20 3RP
Thursday 6th April - The Woodside, 120 Middle Village, Haywards Heath, RH16 4GJ

PLEASE ONLY BOOK TO ATTEND ONE SITE TO ENSURE AS MANY GIRLS AS POSSIBLE RECEIVE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk

MSDC is running 3 Play Day events during the school Easter Holidays

Come and join in the FREE activities for families to have a go at something active together. Activities will be centred around the park tennis courts there will also be lots of local sports clubs providing equipment for a chance to try out something new!

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Wed 5th April @ Victoria Park, Haywards Heath RH16 4LR – 10.30 to 12.30 : Tennis, Triathlon Tasters, Football, Climbing Wall, Cricket, Rugby, Circus Skills, Golf Course, Gymnastics and soft play.

Wed 12th April @ St John's Park, Burgess Hill RH15 9AA – 10.30 to 12.30 : Tennis, Triathlon Tasters, Football, Climbing Wall, Cricket, Rugby, Circus Skills, Gymnastic Circuit and Crazy Golf.

Thursday 13th April @ Mount Noddy, East Grinstead RH19 3LG – 1 to 3pm : Tennis, Circus Skills, Sailing, Gym games, Football, Rugby, Gymnastics, Triathlon Tasters, Golf Course, Street Dance and Strike a Light game.



Free drop in events



No need to book



Sport equipment provided

Activities will vary at each site – check the website for current details. For details and to register for timely info on free family activities in Mid Sussex: www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays



INSET DAYS: 5 JUNE 2023