

# FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter of the Friends of Balcombe School (PTA)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & KEY DATES

Parent Drinks/AGM

**THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER**

Sponsored Walk

**FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER**

World Cup Screening

**SATURDAY 28TH  
OCTOBER**

Christmas Wreath  
Making Workshop

**THURSDAY 30TH  
NOVEMBER**

Christmas Fair

**SATURDAY 2ND  
DECEMBER**



FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

2022 - 2023



Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year.

We're really grateful for all of your support last year and extremely proud to have hit 193.4% of our fundraising goal by raising over twenty three thousand pounds for Balcombe School, including some very generous donations from you as parents and the wider Balcombe community, alongside over eight thousand pounds from fundraising efforts.

Determined to achieve our goal again this year we've set it at £12,000. We've spent the last few weeks planning and have already locked in a few of your favourite events to help us get there, including some new initiatives! We'll update you on how much we've raised throughout the year via this newsletter.

We started the school year by treating our new Lake parents with a welcome pack on their first day of school.

Next we met with Mrs Millbanks who had gathered a list of priority projects for us to consider.

And this is where YOU come in!

Attached you'll find a link to a survey. Please could you take a few minutes to vote on how you'd like us to spend the money we raise. We'll gather this information and prioritise our spending accordingly.

# Fundraising Goal 2023/24



£0 of £12,000

## STAY IN TOUCH



Email us:  
[pta.balcombe@gmail.com](mailto:pta.balcombe@gmail.com)  
[fobsuniformbalcombe@gmail.com](mailto:fobsuniformbalcombe@gmail.com)



Follow us on Facebook @Friends of Balcombe School



Follow us on Instagram @friends\_of\_balcombe school



Come to our AGM - details will be published on our social media pages.



Do you work for an organisation that commits to match funding? If so, please get in touch. We raise over £8k a year in fundraising alone and would love to get this match funded!

# Help us prioritise our investments...

We've shortlisted the following areas where we would like to focus:

- Music curriculum improvements - instrument purchase, teaching resources and visitors.
- Library/reading re-development including teaching resources, staff time, furniture, books for the library, additional Little Wandle books, World Book Day author visits, rewards for reading champions.
- Development of outdoor learning and play areas - Canopies for Forest, Coombe and Mill/library (OV club), floor markings, wall targets, furniture, resources for outdoor learning area in Coombe/Forest.
- Technology investments - interactive whiteboard (projector feature) for the hall, sound system for the hall, sound bars for all classrooms.
- Art investment - budget for the purchasing of theme week resources, additional supplies, supplies to keep running the pod in break times for those that need it.

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## Have you followed us on Social Media?

Simply search for 'friends of balcombe school' to find us and be kept up to date with exciting village events!

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## Pre-loved Uniform

You can pick up pre-loved school uniform through FoBS. For more information or to check out the current stock, please contact Amy (07979 597966) or Lizzie (07779 656470) or email [FoBSUniformBalcombe@gmail.com](mailto:FoBSUniformBalcombe@gmail.com).

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# Upcoming Events

So what's next we hear you ask? We kick off the year with our annual general meeting and parent drinks. Come along to socialise with other parents and vote how you would like us to spend the funds we raised during the last school year.

Next the sponsored walk is back this year on Friday the 6th October. You should have received a sponsorship form by email for cash sponsorship. We offer online sponsorship through Just Giving.

A new event in the schedule this year is the World Cup Final Screening on the 28th October in the School hall so make a note if you're a rugby fan!

The annual Christmas card and gift drawings will be done at school again this year and you'll be able to place an order online if you wish. First orders need to be placed by the 9th October online with artwork dropped at the office.

Our Christmas Wreath Making Workshop has been announced and is already proving to be very popular (let's just say Balcombe has some competitive wreathmakers!). Join us on the 30th November in the Balcombe Club to create a spectacular wreath!

Next, arguably one of our biggest events of the year - The Christmas Fair! Please save the date (Saturday the 2nd December) in the meantime and if you can volunteer on the day, we'd be really appreciative as it does take a lot of hands to put on!



Welcome packs for new reception parents.

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New reception parents welcome at the end of last year.

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# Meet the Commitee

As we welcome a number of new parents to Balcombe School we wanted to introduce ourselves.

## Introducing our Chair

“Hello! I’m Alecia, I’m a Mum to Isla who has just started Year 2 in Coombe and Maeve who is just turning 3. We moved to the village the weekend of the first lockdown back in 2020 and since then, have fallen in love with Balcombe and the community here.

In my professional role, I head up a sales team for an IT consultancy in the City and am now going into my third year as Chair with an extra side hustle role of Social Media Manager.

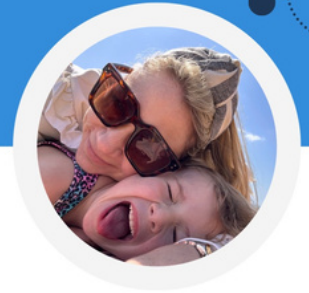
In my role as a Chair, I oversee the overall functioning of the committee, coordinate meetings and activities, and serve as the primary liaison between the PTA and the school. In addition to that, I manage our social media platforms to engage parents, teachers, and the wider community, promoting our events, activities, and initiatives.

The best part? I’m proud of the FoBS brand we’ve created and I love finding fun new fundraising ideas to try. I’m passionate about technology so I love being able to help Balcombe School invest in this area in particular and finally, I wanted our children to go a community school but I didn’t want them to miss out on learning opportunities that having a little extra budget could provide, this way I feel like I’m a part of making that happen!”

FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

## MEET THE COMMITTEE

ALECIA  
RIDOUT



Chair & Social  
Media Manager

We’re currently recruiting for a new Treasurer. If you have 2 hours a month available and would like to support FoBS by taking on this role, simply drop us an email at [pta.balcombe@gmail.com](mailto:pta.balcombe@gmail.com)

## Introducing our Secretary

“Hi I’m Alex, husband of Mel (below) and pleased to have two children now at the school.

I work in IT recruitment so can vouch for how the extra computer equipment we’ve funded will help to set the kids up for success. FoBs has been tremendously rewarding for the way it has brought parents together and introduced us to the other village societies.”

The Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate records of PTA meetings, including minutes, agendas, and attendance. They may also handle correspondence and maintain communication with committee members and the wider PTA community.

In Alex’s case he also picks up a lot of the physical load of our larger events, like setting up marquees and collecting Christmas trees!

## Introducing our Volunteer Coordinator

Next up is our Volunteer Coordinator. Mel has held the Treasurer role for 2 years and now wants to try something new so has stepped into the Volunteer Coordinator role. Responsible for recruiting and organising volunteers for various PTA activities and events, ensuring that volunteer efforts are recognised and appreciated.

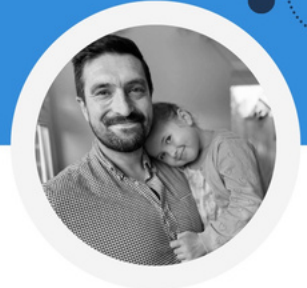
“Hi, I’m Mel, Mum to Bella who has just moved to Coombe in year 2, and Sam who joined Lake in Reception last month. I’ve lived in Balcombe for 8 years now having moved down from London after Alex and I got married.

For work I run a team of analysts for a Property lender and in my spare time I love anything foody, sociable or relaxing. I hope to meet and spend time with more of you over this new school year!”

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## MEET THE COMMITTEE

ALEX WILLIAMS

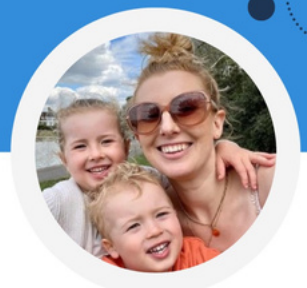


Secretary

FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

## MEET THE COMMITTEE

MEL WILLIAMS



Volunteer Coordinator

## Introducing our Uniform Managers

The Uniform Managers coordinate and manage all aspects of pre-loved school uniform, including collection, cleaning, inventory management, and re-sale. They will work closely with parents to provide a positive and efficient pre-loved uniform experience for families.

“Hello! I’m Lizzie, I am currently on a career break from being a pensions actuary to focus on being a mum to my son who has just started Year 1 in Coombe Class and my almost-three year old daughter.

And I’m Amy, I’m relatively new to Balcombe and feel lucky to have landed here. I have two girls, one at Balcombe and one due to start at school next year.

We believe that second-hand clothes can have a significant, positive environmental and social impact and we’re proud to be the Uniform Managers. We make pre-loved school uniform available to all pupils in the village on a “pay what you think it’s worth” basis.”

## Introducing our Fundraising Coordinator

Hello! I’m Alexandra, I’m a Mum to Ben who is now at Warden Park & Josh who is doing his second year in Spring class. While we do not live in the village (at present) we love the Community and we were welcomed to the school with open arms in January 2021.

In my professional role, I work for a leading travel technology company launching products globally. As part of FoBS, I am taking on the role of fundraising co-ordinator.

The Fundraising Coordinator is responsible for sourcing prizes for bi-annual raffles and various other prize giving events.

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# MEET THE COMMITTEE

AMY KEMP

LIZZIE THOMAS

Uniform Managers

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# MEET THE COMMITTEE

ALEXANDRA MARNEY

Fundraising Coordinator