



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

[parents@balcombeschool.co.uk](mailto:parents@balcombeschool.co.uk)

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a good half term.

A couple of questions came up at the FOBS AGM when parents were discussing priorities for spending and I thought it worth sharing my responses with all parents.

It seems like a long time ago now, but our summer was hot and a question was raised about why we don't have ceiling fans in Lake. The answer is down to the fact that the ceiling is a false one, so to install ceiling fans would be a very expensive job and the staff report that neither they nor the pupils struggle with the heat sufficiently to warrant spending money on this. The doors are nearly always open and most of the time there is a pleasant breeze in the classroom.

School meals were also discussed, the fact that we only have a small kitchen, not large enough for cooking from scratch and whether or not funding from FOBS could remedy this. The kitchens in West Sussex are not full production kitchens, this was a council decision 20 years ago to remove the catering facilities from their primary schools. Back in 2016, small finishing kitchens were installed to allow a hot meal service to take place, but the food is made off site and delivered in daily to be steamed and served. Unfortunately, even if we had enough money to purchase the appliances and resources needed for a "cook from scratch kitchen" we simply do not have the space within our current

building. Being part of an academy may open up new possibilities in the future, if this were to be considered a priority for our school and/or the academy as a whole.

Another topic of conversation concerned offering support to families who struggle to pay for trips and activities. We always offer this support to parents, with letters about trips encouraging anyone in this position to come and talk to us. The FOBS also have a small pot of money put aside each year to help subsidise activities for children if parents are unable to contribute.

The topic of musical instrument lessons was also discussed, with parents wanting more group lessons. Unfortunately, this is beyond our control as the lessons are provided by West Sussex Music Service. Should the service notify us of their wish to offer group lessons, this is something that we would certainly accommodate if we can.

During this year, it is our intention to install several new canopies to enable better use of our outside space. At the meeting, a parent questioned as to whether canopies by the roadside might trap air pollution and therefore be unsafe. Having contacted the company who will be installing them and asked this direct question, they have assured us that there is no evidence that this has been the case in any of the installations they have carried out. The canopies have open sides and are tall enough to ensure good circulation.

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Finally, a parent suggested that it would be good to offer our pupils more opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), particularly an after school club. Research already carried out to try and source such a club has been unsuccessful, due to the number of pupils needed to make the club financially viable for outside providers, but it is something that we would love to offer. If you know anyone who could help us in this area, please do let us know. In the meantime, we will keep searching.

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov @ 9am** – Mill class assembly (Collective Worship) – parents welcome

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Nov @ 9am** – Spring class assembly (Collective Worship) – parents welcome

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** – School Photographs

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Children in Need

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> – Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov** – Bikeability (Year 6)

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – Forest class trip

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – Flu vaccinations

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** – Christmas Fair

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas Lunch

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> & Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Nativity @ 9.30am

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Music week (special visitor in school)

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – final Celebration assembly of 2023

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – finish school @ 1:15pm.

## Introducing Our New Pupil Leadership Roles

We are very proud of our pupils who have volunteered to take on leadership roles to continue to improve our school. These roles include being Team Leaders, Sport's Crew, Eco Warriors, Play Leaders, Art Ambassadors and even Captains of Media.

Look out for more information about these pupils in our future newsletters.



*Captains of Media*

Introducing our newly appointed Captains of Media.

Adriaan, Harriet and Amelia are already doing a great job organising the technical side of assemblies and church services. They will also be important in the smooth running of any events where sound is needed and in time will be experts on all things technical! In their letters of application, they talked about being respectful and looking after our technical resources, having good knowledge of how computers work and also being able to keep calm under pressure, especially when things go wrong in assembly!

## Entering the building

Please remember that NO parents or visitors should enter the school building at any time (including after school) without first speaking to a member of school staff. This is to enable us to properly safeguard our pupils. If you wish to come in to school to check for lost property or to speak to a teacher, please go to the main office entrance. Children attending clubs should be collected from the designated collection points and door bells used if the door is closed.

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## Collective Worship – Dates for your diary

Collective Worship (Assembly) will be led by Mill and Spring on the dates listed below. Parents are welcome to attend.

Friday 3 November @ 9am – Mill Class

Thursday 9 November @ 9am – Spring Class

## FoBS - Donation Requests

Please donate small prizes for the games at the Christmas fair for example, multi packs of sweets or chocolates, packs of pens, stationery sets, key rings or new books.

We are also looking for pre-loved toys in nearly new condition for a pre-loved toy stall.

Finally we would also be grateful for bottles of wine to use as prizes.



## FoBS – Key Dates

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop - 28th November \* please note this date has been changed due to facilitator availability.

Christmas Fair - 2nd December

Nativity Refreshments - 7th/8th December

## Guitars – Free of Charge!

We have been offered two guitars (free of charge) by a Balcombe resident – one of them is practically brand new. If you would be interested, please contact the office for more information.

## 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/balcombeprimary>



## 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.

### Witches & Wizards Choral Masterclass

<https://burgesshillgirls.com/2023/10/13/spooky-singing-masterclass/>

On 8th November, 4.30 – 6pm, Burgess Hill Girls is offering a “Witches and Wizards” choral masterclass for Year 6 girls in Sussex\* who love singing and want to improve their vocal skills. Only limited places are available, so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

CHRISTMAS  
SPORTS COURSES.

Multi-Sports 18th & 19th December

Indoor Football 20th December

9.15 to 3.30 - £22 per day

Warden Park Secondary

Open to years Reception to Year 9

[jamesprostarsports@gmail.com](mailto:jamesprostarsports@gmail.com)

Pro Star Sports

**ARDINGLY**  
College

**FOOTY STARS  
FREE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB**

Where – Ardingly College, AstroTurf Pitch  
When – Mondays, 4.30pm – 5.15pm  
Age Groups – Primary School Pupils  
These football clubs are run by our Senior School pupils and supported by a member of Ardingly College staff.

**FREE OF CHARGE**  
If you are interested in attending, please [CLICK HERE](#)



**The magical winter lantern trail**  
23 November 2023 – 1 January 2024

**Glow Wild  
Wakehurst**

Opening week promotion and flexi tickets available  
[kew.org/glowwild](http://kew.org/glowwild)

**Kew**

Under 4s  
go free!  
10th anniversary  
celebrations

**west  
sussex  
music**

**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**



**18-20 DECEMBER**  
BOGNOR REGIS - RAP & LYRIC WRITING

**18-20 DECEMBER**  
CRAWLEY - DJ & MUSIC PRODUCTION

**21-22 DECEMBER**  
LITTLEHAMPTON - RAP & LYRIC PRODUCTION

**18-21 DECEMBER**  
WORTHING - ROCK & POP BAND

**AGES 8 - 16YRS**  
**SIGN UP HERE**  
[WWW.WESTSUSSEXMUSIC.CO.UK/HOLIDAYACTIVITIES](http://WWW.WESTSUSSEXMUSIC.CO.UK/HOLIDAYACTIVITIES)

