



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



NEWSLETTER

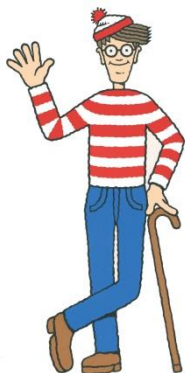
FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Parents,

A bit later than planned, due to the snowy weather, but here is February's newsletter.

The children (and staff) all looked great on Friday, dressed up as an amazing assortment of book characters. There will be photos on our website very soon, so do take a look.



Although the week was somewhat disrupted, the children have taken part in a range of book related activities, with teachers

mainly choosing picture books to use as a stimulus. Of course, we want to get our children actually decoding words and reading for meaning, but picture books can be a great way to share an enjoyment of books, promote book talk and develop those higher order inference and deduction skills. I believe that no home book collection is complete without a few picture books and that as parents,

talking to our children about books, is almost as important as actually reading the words with them.

Of course reading is one area where you can support your child at home, but here's a reminder of a few others. Some are activities you could do daily, whilst others may help to keep them occupied during school holidays.

- Recite the days of the week/months of the year/alphabet/times tables forwards and backwards, in a high voice, low voice, squeaky voice etc.
- Play games to improve mental arithmetic - dominoes, cards, pontoon (without the gambling aspect obviously), darts, top trumps.



**NO NUTS · NO SESAME SEEDS · NO NUTS · NO SESAME SEEDS
NO PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS OR SESAME SEEDS**

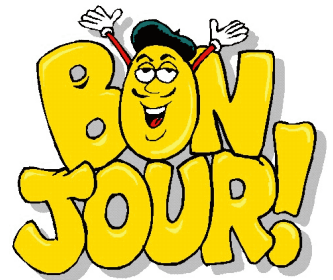
- Play games to improve phonics/spelling – scrabble, I spy lexicon, boggle, hangman, see how many small words can be found inside a long word, wordsearch.
- Write a diary including a log of any spending
- Draw a cartoon strip of an event or activity
- Write instructions for an alien to do an everyday task
- Write and illustrate a short story for younger children
- Cook something – measuring, weighing, timing
- Re-write the ending to a well-known story.



French teaching in KS2

Unfortunately, Mrs Sophie Harding is no longer able to teach French for us on a Monday afternoon. We would like to thank her for working so hard in the time that she was with us and for planning such interesting and engaging French sessions for our Juniors.

We are fortunate to be joined by Mrs Alison Coulson initially until the end of the summer



term. Mrs Coulson is a secondary trained languages teacher who also teaches French at St Giles in Horsted Keynes.

Summer house

The summer house is progressing nicely and we hope that when the weather improves it won't be too long before we can begin to use it. The electrics, railings and pathway are all finished and under advice we have decided not to clad it, at least initially. The professionals say that to do a "proper job" would be very costly and we are trying to make PTA funds go as far as possible. We hope to source some furniture soon and then it should be all systems go.

Book Fair

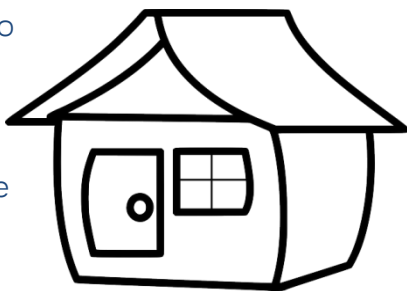


A big thank you to parents and villagers who contributed to book sales – we have been given **£360** worth of books for the school.

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Competition

We would like to invite the children to suggest a name for our new summer house.



The winner will have the honour of cutting the ribbon when we have our grand opening ceremony (date to be advised).

Suggestions should be handed in to the office with the summer house name, name of child/family and reason for the name suggested if not obvious.

Parent Consultations

Booking is now open for the parent consultations on 22 and 27 March.



[GO TO](#) Link to booking system and instructions

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

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CLUBS – SEE [WEBSITE](#)

DATES – SEE WEBSITE CALENDAR – [LINK](#)

Monday, 5 March

PTA : MOTHER'S DAY PAYMENT
DEADLINE

Tuesday, 6 March

NEARS : Netball Tournament (Y4,5&6) TBC

Wednesday, 7 March

12:00 FLIGHT DAY ++ TOP SECRET ++

Thursday, 8 March

18:30 Pilates
18:30 SATS INFORMATION EVENING - Year
6 and Year 2 parents (reschedule)

Thursday, 8 March

Pilates Class

Tuesday, 13 March

NEARS : Football Tournament (Y4,5&6) TBC

Thursday, 15 March

Pilates Class

Sunday, 18 March

10:00 PTA - BALCOMBE BULL RUN

Tuesday, 20 March

09:00 KS1/EYFS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 22 March

15:30 PARENT CONSULTATIONS - 3.30-
5.30
Pilates Class

Tuesday, 27 March

16:00 PARENT CONSULTATIONS - 4-7pm

Thursday, 29 March

END OF SPRING TERM

Pilates Class

Monday, 16 April

NEW SUMMER TERM

Thursday, 19 April

13:15 NEARS : Girls' Football Tournament
TBC
Pilates Class

Wednesday, 25 April

14:00 NEARS : Quicksticks Hockey
Tournament (Y4,5&6) TBC

Thursday, 26 April

Pilates Class

Friday, 27 April

PTA : QUIZ NIGHT - TIME TBA

Tuesday, 1 May

09:00 NEARS : Multiskills Y2 TBC

Thursday, 3 May

Pilates Class

Thursday, 10 May

Pilates Class

Monday, 14 May

SATS WEEK - 14-17 May

Tuesday, 15 May

SATS WEEK - 14-17 May

Wednesday, 16 May

SATS WEEK - 14-17 May

Thursday, 17 May

SATS WEEK - 14-17 May

Thursday, 17 May

Pilates Class

Thursday, 24 May

CLASS PHOTOS
Pilates Class

Monday, 28 May to Friday 1 June

HALF TERM

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Parent Information

[PILATES](#) @ Balcombe School

[MINDFULNESS](#) Meditation Course

VICTORY HALL FILMS

- March showing - [Goodbye Christopher Robin](#)
- April showing, [Darkest Hour](#)

Fairtrade Fortnight – [Design a Poster](#)

Fairtrade Fortnight – [Entry Form](#)

Premier Camps – [Holiday activities](#)

Holiday Camps

- [Tennis](#)
- [Premier Camps](#)

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