



Dear parents,

What a busy half term we have had both in school and competing in leagues and tournaments with other schools. This always seems to be the most hectic half term as the traditional winter sports seasons finish. As ever, the weather has played havoc with some fixtures meaning that the boys' football tournament will not take place until after the Easter holiday. However, there is plenty of good news to share with you.

NEARS Netball league - Winners!

There have been two league evenings this half term. In early March we played against St Peter's winning 26-0. Our second match of the afternoon was against Handcross. A competitive game ended in a win for Balcombe 9-5.

These results meant that both Balcombe and Twineham were the only unbeaten schools in the league. It was an interesting twist of fate that our last match of the season was against each other. It was, as our squad this year is made up of only year sixes, the final match this group were going to be playing together. After losing against Twineham in the Netball Tournament the squad were determined to win the league. The match started well, with Balcombe taking a 4-1 lead in the first quarter. The second and third quarters were closer meaning we had an 8-2 lead going into the final quarter. The match was a fantastic advert for netball with both teams playing some lovely passes. However, on this occasion our defence in particular was tougher and we were able to restrict Twineham's scoring chances. We finished the match 13-4 winners. The seven players were delighted as you can see from this picture!



During the course of the league Balcombe scored 122 goals and conceded only 11, fantastic statistics. Well done to you all. We will miss your effort and drive to succeed next year but also know that you have given the younger members of the netball club lots of great practice and plenty to live up to next year. We hope you continue to enjoy playing netball as you move onto secondary school. Here is a picture of the complete winning squad, who played across the whole season, with their trophy.



NEARS Netball Tournament

We always enjoy competing in the NEARS Netball Tournament as it provides an afternoon of competitive games which everyone enjoys. This year we competed strongly in our round robin section of the tournament losing only to Twineham by a single goal. This meant we progressed to the semi finals where we beat Handcross. In the final we were up against Twineham again. As the two strongest teams in the NEARS competition this was always going to be a tough match, as it proved. Despite a valiant effort we were unable to hold off a strong Twineham side who took all their chances and beat us 9-5. Well done to the squad, pictured below, with their second place medals.



NEARS Football League

The team have played two matches this half term, winning against Albourne but narrowly losing to St Mark's. The squad have since had to be patient as the tournament was postponed and the last league match conceded. We now have a date for the tournament at the start of next term. However, they have had a successful season so far. We have been confirmed as second in the league, which is a great result. The league has been really close this year, with no one team dominating. We are delighted with the result. Here is a picture of all the boys who have competed in the league. Well done boys and good luck for the final matches next term.



Tag rugby

Both Spring and Mill have enjoyed playing tag rugby this half term. Both classes have enjoyed honing the skills required to become successful players. Here you can see some pictures of Spring as they practise passing the ball under pressure.



NEARS Tag Rugby Tournament

With tag rugby lessons and a club on a Friday run by Toby we were hopeful of competing well in the Nears Tournament. We started strongly with a win against St Peter's with players running strongly and evading being tagged to score a number of tries. We then played Blackthorns, who had been invited to join our competition on this occasion. It was a great game of mazy runs which we lost, but it was enjoyable to compete so strongly. Our final match against St Augustine's saw us needing to win to reach the final. We grew in confidence and some good individual bursts including some from Anna, James, Nathan, Tom B and Connor saw us win. The final match was against St Mark's. We started well but suffered when stepping into touch a couple of times. By half time we were 4-1 down. A sterling effort both in attack and defence, by Tom B in particular, saw the final result 4-3 to St Mark's. The squad were bitterly disappointed but should be very proud of a great effort.



NEARS Girls' Football Tournament

The girls have been eagerly anticipating this tournament. They have been practising with Toby on Friday lunchtimes and were eager to play well. Seven local schools took part during an enjoyable afternoon. Balcombe managed to win two games, draw three and only lose one game to the eventual winners Albourne. Every member of the squad competed strongly and the standard of football was higher than last year. We were therefore delighted to come second. Well done girls!



Dates for next term

Some dates for next term have yet to be confirmed, and some may change, but to help you with planning here are the sporting dates for next term.

Friday 28 th April	Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament Y5/6	Worth School	1.45 – 4pm
Wednesday 3 rd May	Football Tournament Y5/6	Triangle	1pm-4pm
Friday 5 th May	KS1 Multi Skills Year2	Triangle	10-00 – 12:00
Friday 19 th May	Superstars Competition	Balcombe	1:00 – 4:00pm
TBC	Stoolball Competition	TBC	1:00 – 3:00pm
TBC	NEARS KS2 Athletics	Handcross Park School	1:00 – 3:00pm
TBC	KS1 Athletics	St Augustine's	1:30 – 2:20pm
TBC	Kwik Cricket Tournament	Warden Park	9:15 – 12:15
Friday 7 th July	School Sports Day		
Friday 14 th July	Reserve Sports Day		

May I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have helped with transport over the past two terms. Without your help we simply could not compete in the number of competitions that we currently do. We are also really grateful for the support from the side-lines – it has made a real difference this year.

Wishing you all a happy Easter,

Best wishes

Lucy Dunsby