



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

It already feels like the summer is a distant memory; we have been so busy in school doing lots of learning and for some, settling in to new classes with new routines. A very big well done to all of our new children in Lake Class, they have settled brilliantly and are already finding their feet and showing their wonderful personalities. Welcome too, to our other new children and families who joined us at the start of term, we hope that you will be very happy at Balcombe School and living in this area.

With September almost over, now seems a good time to remind you that the weather is getting colder and all children should really have coats in school please. When the sun isn't shining, an hour on the playground can be a very long time when you are cold!

I would just like to remind you (and inform our new parents) that if you have any worries, questions or good ideas that you would like to discuss with me, I am on the playground each morning before school and would be very happy to have a chat or make an appointment for a more formal meeting. Please remember that I only work 4 days per week, with Wednesday

being my day off. This means that I won't be available on a Wednesday and there may sometimes be a slight delay with correspondence in the middle of the week, however if you request an appointment I will endeavour to meet with you as soon as possible.

I thought it might be helpful to give parents an overview of who's who in school and what they do, I'm sure that sometimes your children talk about adults and you have no idea who they are. Please click on the link below to see an overview of our staffing structure.

[Current Staff Structure](#)

[Our Teaching Staff](#)

[Our Support Staff](#)

Harvest Service

Our Harvest Service will take place at St Mary's Church next Tuesday (3rd Oct) at 9:45 am. We do

hope that some of you will be able to join us and share in the Harvest celebration with the children.



As always, Pam from the FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK will be joining us and I hope that we are able to send her away with a car full of goodies that the children have donated. The FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK works with families locally who are in need of some help, to ensure that they are able to access healthy meals on a regular basis.

Having spoken to Pam recently, she is very appreciative of our help as she says stocks are running very low and she has particularly requested lots of tinned veg, soup and any dried ingredients that can be stored. Apparently the one thing they do have lots of is pasta, so maybe give that a miss this year. I'm sure that some fresh produce would be useful too.

Children should bring their food gifts into school on Tuesday morning please.

Thank you very much in advance for your help.

Infant Class Visits

Coombe and Lake Class will be visiting Washbrooks Farm, Hurstpierpoint on 10 and 12 October, respectively.

Medicine Policy

To remind parents of the school's administration of medicines policy,

- Prescribed medicines will only be administered by staff where there is an official pharmacy dispensing label showing the child's name and dose to be given.

- Parents must complete a medical form and, when given, the Medicine log must be updated and signed by the staff member giving the medicine.
- Medicines (*as above*) will only be dispensed by staff if they are required 4 or more times a day. If you feel there are extenuating circumstances you must liaise with staff.
- Medicines will only be administered by a first aider.

Governor Membership

We welcome Janina Clark (mother of James) as our newest member of the governing body. For your information our current governors are:

Hester Dunstan-Lee	Co-Chair
Duncan Smith	
Adele Burke	Vice Chair
Wendy Millbanks	
Liz Bendall	
Jane Lindsay-Stewart	
David Paul	
Oliver Jackson	
Geoff Lester	
Jill Dawson	
Janina Clark	
Jeff Thompson	
Jamie Kirkman	
Sarah Flint	

If you are interested in becoming a governor or finding out more about the work of the governing body please speak to Mrs Millbanks.

School Diary – See website

Tuesday 3 October – Harvest Service @ St Mary’s – 9.45am
Tuesday 10 October – Coombe class visit to Washbrooks Farm, leaving 9.30am
Thursday 12 October – Lake class visit to Washbrooks Farm, leaving 9.30am
Monday 16 October – Junior visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace
Thursday 19 October – Lake Class Oscar Ceremony
Monday 23 – Friday 27 October – HALF TERM
Monday 30 October – INSET DAY
Thursday 23 November – Art Exhibition
Thursday 7 December – Parent Consultations (4-7) *online booking opens 10 Nov*
Tuesday 12 December – Parent Consultations (3.30-5.30) *online booking opens 10 Nov*
Friday 1 December – Flu immunisation programme – *PLEASE RETURN FORMS*
Thursday 14 December – Infant Nativity – 9.30 *all infant parents welcome*
Friday 15 December – Infant Nativity – 9.30 *all infant parents welcome*
Wednesday 20 December – End of Term

School Clubs – [See website](#)

Children will only be able to stay to clubs where we have been informed by parents, payment has been received, and forms/consents completed where applicable.

USEFUL LINKS

Angela’s Swim School Leaflet – [LINK](#)

Warden Park – October Half Term Activities – [LINK](#)

Victory Hall Film – October – [LINK](#)

INSET DAY – MONDAY 30 OCTOBER – INSET DAY – MONDAY 30 OCTOBER – INSET DAY

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