



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Dear Parents,

What a talented bunch our pupils are! It never ceases to amaze me how much our children achieve and how varied their talents are. Last week our team won the NEARS stool ball tournament, I saw some great examples of creative and purposeful writing and I heard some children calculating mathematically beyond their years. Then today, I enjoyed spending time with some of our budding artists and also was shown a reply that one pupil received after writing to the Queen! Working in a school is certainly never boring and working at

Balcombe School is particularly enriching. I look forward to the (somewhat crammed) rest of term and the surprises that I am sure await us all.

IMPORTANT

IT'S HOT! – please ensure your children come to school with sunscreen applied and bring sunhats and water bottles.

STAFFING CHANGES

Sadly, we will be losing two members of staff at the end of term.

Mrs Gainey will be leaving us to undertake a new challenge, working at Woodlands Meed School in Burgess Hill. Mrs Gainey began her teaching career at Balcombe school and during her time here has taught

children in year 2,3,4 and 5. I know they will all have lots of happy memories of time in her class, especially taking part in those more unusual activities such as looking after eels and releasing them into the wilds, or completing fitness circuits, or raising money to improve the class outdoor area. I know the children and staff will miss Mrs Gainey's sense of humour and enthusiasm and we would like to wish her tons of luck in her new job and thank her for all that she has done for Balcombe school.

I am pleased to let you know that from September, Mrs Smith (who has been working here since January with groups of Junior children) will take up the role of Forest class teacher, in a shared role with Mrs Rowland.

Mrs Barber will also be leaving at the end of this term. From September Mrs Barber will be taking up a new full time post at St Andrew's school in Nuthurst. Although Mrs Barber has only been with us for this year on one day per week, she has quickly become a valued and popular member of the

staff team. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

I am very pleased to report that Mrs Butcher, who has been working in Lake as a TA on a Thursday and Friday this year, has agreed to dust off her teaching qualification and take on the role of class teacher on a Friday from September.

Congratulations to all on their new jobs!

We also say farewell to two of our popular lunchtime ladies, Mrs Anantha and Mrs Shukla who have done a great job in keeping our children safe and happy at lunchtimes. Both ladies are soon to be moving area, so we wish them all the best for the future.

HEADTEACHER FOR A DAY

Following a serious but well-mannered battle and campaign, four extremely proficient and confident election speeches were delivered last week. The ballot took place and two winners were duly announced. Congratulations to our

winner, Scarlet Mackrill and Caitlín Dinneen, who will be stepping into my Headteacher shoes on Friday 23 June.



SAD NEWS

Some of you may already be aware that Joan Thomason passed away last weekend at the age of 93.

For those of you who have a long standing affiliation with the school, you may be aware that Joan worked here for many, many years as the school lollipop lady. Sadly when I arrived at the school, she had already retired, but I had the pleasure of meeting her on many occasions, as she returned as often as she could to attend open days or watch our Nativity plays and Junior productions. She always had a positive comment to make about the school and loved spending time with the children. I remember on one such occasion, I had just had a particularly unpleasant exchange with an unhappy parent (thankfully this doesn't happen

very often) and I bumped into Joan, still feeling quite upset by it. Without any prompting, she told me what a wonderful school this is, how lovely the children are and what a wonderful staff team we have. That was just what I needed!

I am sure that many of you will have your own lovely memories of Joan.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joan's family at this difficult time. For those of you who knew Joan, you will not be surprised that she had a hand in planning her own funeral. As a result of being so outraged at the current funding issue in schools, she requested that instead of sending flowers for her funeral, people donate to the school. What a lovely gesture and what an amazing woman – she will be very much missed.

REV BURTON

As I am sure you all know, Rev and Mrs Burton will be leaving the village in August, to enjoy a well-deserved retirement in Hellingly. Desmond has been a huge part of this school since 2010 taking assemblies and services, being an active member of the governing body, attending school events, such as open days, summer and Christmas fairs, exhibitions and tea parties, as well as being a regular

funny-story-teller in our staffroom! I have appreciated his help, positivity and enthusiasm on many occasions, when faced with a difficult choice or situation and I know that he has always made himself available to anyone in need of his help.

I would like to thank Desmond for his commitment to the school and wish him and Pennie a long, happy and fulfilling retirement together. They will both be greatly missed.

We are collecting contributions for a leaving gift, should you wish to contribute, please leave your donation at the office.

JUNIOR PRODCUTION

Monday 10 July & Tuesday 11 July

Tickets are now on sale for parents of Year 6 children – [LINK](#)

Parents of children in Years 3 to 5 can commence booking Monday 26 June.

Sports Day - Friday 7 July

Sports Day is due to take place on Friday 7 July, with a reserve date on the following Friday. As Sports Day is an event where the children compete for their school teams we would like them to wear a t-shirt/top

in their team colour. The team colours are:

Bears - orange

Bats - purple

Badgers - green

Bees - yellow

Any top or t-shirt in your child's team colour will be fine but if you are having difficulty there are cheap simple plain cotton t-shirts made by Fruit of the Loom available through Amazon in all four colours and with free delivery.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fruit-Loom-Childrens-Shirt-White/dp/B001Q9CFZM/ref=sr_1_2?s=clothing&ie=UTF8&qid=1462890769&sr=1-2

UNIFORM

I have been asked for clarification about our school policy regarding footwear. Children should either wear black, traditional style school shoes, or during the summer months, children are permitted to wear black or white sandals (not with open toes).

Whilst I appreciate parents' reluctance to buy new shoes at this time of year, I ask that when the time comes to purchase new footwear for the beginning of the new school

year, that all parents adhere to this policy.

Wearing trainers on a day to day basis is not, and never has been, acceptable. Exceptions will only be made on the basis of a medical issue.



Helpers Tea Party – Monday 17 July @ 1:45

This is an event organised and run by our year 6 children for all those people who have helped during the school year. Invitations will be sent in due course. If you volunteer in school



and we miss you please accept our apologies and just turn up anyway!

Reports

Your child's school report for this year will be sent home with your child on Monday 17 July, following the "shuffle up" afternoon when your child spends time with their new teacher/classmates.

PTA SUMMER FAIR

Thursday 29 June 3.15-6.00

[See Poster](#)

LOST PROPERTY

Once again the lost property box is brimming over with unnamed clothing, both uniform and other items. If you are missing any clothing please come and check. The box will be prominently in the foyer during the last days of term and all unnamed unclaimed items will then be disposed of.

PUPIL DATA SHEETS

You will shortly be sent home a Data Information Sheet for your child/children. Please ensure that

you check the information, update it where applicable and **return the sheet** to the school office as soon as possible. With 145 children it takes some time to update all the records each curriculum year.

CALENDAR – [see website](#)

Thurs 29 June – PTA Summer Fair

Mon 3 July – Juniors bring in costumes for play for checking

Friday 7 July **SPORTS DAY**

Last days of term

Mon 10 July – Junior Production @ 1900

Tues 11 July – Junior Production @ 1900

Thurs 13 July – Y6 Leavers' Service @ Worth Abbey

Sat 15 July – Balcombe Village Fair – PTA Stall

Monday 17 July – Helpers' tea party @ 1345

Wed 19 July – Disco KS1 @ 1315-1415, KS2 @ 1415-1500

Thurs 20 July – Y6, Leavers' Party @ 1530

Mon 24 July – Leavers Service @ St Mary's 0930

Tues 25 July – 0900 Final Celebration Assembly - ALL

Tues 25 July – **1330** School Closes, End of Summer Term

**PLEASE REMEMBER –
School finishes at 1:30pm
on 25 July.**

CLUBS

[Link to Website](#)

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

Victory Hall Films – [Viceroy's House](#)

Two Muddy Boots Summer Holiday Club [Website](#) / [Flyer](#)

Popsteps Summer Camp - [link](#)

SCS Summer Football Camps - [link](#)

Warden Park

football	basketball	cricket
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Drama Workshop – Beauty & The Beas

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