



Balcombe Church of England Primary School

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



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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

From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, league tables have recently been published comparing last summer's year 6 SATs results across primary schools. With our combined result for children reaching expected levels or higher in Reading, Writing and Maths (88%) we are ranked 4th in the county. With our results in reading attainment (100% reaching the expected standard and 56% reaching the higher standard) we are placed in the top 1% of schools in the country!

Well done to last year's year 6 pupils and congratulations to the teachers and support staff who work hard to ensure that our children leave school being confident, competent and enthusiastic readers.

Our success has not gone unnoticed!

Wendy Millbanks



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards
Secretary of State, 28 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
t: 020 922 2288 www.gov.uk/parliament

Mrs Wendy Millbanks
Balcombe C of E Primary School
Linden Road
Haywards Heath
RH17 6HS

24 January 2020

Dear Mrs Millbanks,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high standard of achievement demonstrated in the reading Key Stage 2 assessments last year.

Your school's results, as published on 19 December, show that 100 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading at the end of Key Stage 2. This means that for achievement in reading, Balcombe C of E Primary School is in the top 1 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The Government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in reading necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sponsored Events

Following the last meeting of the school council, our pupils have agreed that they would like to enhance their playtimes with the addition of some new resources. Ideas suggested included a slide (this is an idea that we have been thinking about for a while), new football goals, more covered seating, an all-weather track around the field, possibly with a trim trail and a Jacuzzi!!!! As we believe that the children will appreciate and respect it more if they have to work hard for it, we are proposing to organise a series of sponsored events after half term. Each class will take part in a different sponsored event during the week beginning 9th March. From the money raised, we will agree with the children an amount to donate to Sport Relief (which takes place during that week) and the remaining money will be match funded by money already raised by the PTA. The

JEREMY QUIN MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Wendy Millbanks
Headteacher
Balcombe C of E Primary School
Linden Road
Balcombe
Haywards Heath
RH17 6HS

24 January 2020

Dear Mrs Millbanks,

Congratulations to you, all your staff and pupils on your KS2 results.

The Department for Education has informed me that Balcombe Primary School has seen an increased proportion of students achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics from 75% in 2018 to 88% in 2019.

I am also very impressed that the school is achieving above the national average of 65%.

This is an excellent achievement and you should all be incredibly proud.

Congratulations once again.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Quin

So delighted to see the excellent results.

Harsham Constituency: 01403 210000 Westminster Office: 020 7219 6341
www.jeremyquin.com jeremy.quin.mp@parliament.uk

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children will then be asked to decide how we spend the money.

The sponsored events chosen will be as follows:

Mill - silence
Spring - static bike ride
Forest - skip
Coombe - circuits
Lake - mini marathon

Your child will shortly be bringing home a sponsor form that we hope they will fill with sponsors in order to raise money towards the new resources. The form will have on it more details of what the events will entail and are on the school website under "classes" should you need spare copies.

There will be a prize for the person who collects the most sponsorship and the class that collectively collects the most will have the honour of being the first ones to use the new resources.

We will let you know how many points / distance each child achieves so that you know how much sponsorship money to collect.

Please send in your forms along with money as soon as possible but by the end of term at the latest.

Thank you for your participation and support.

Book Battle – Year 6

On Thursday 6 January, four children from Mill class (Ben, Catherine, James D and Daniel) went to St Marks' School in Staplefield for the finals of the Book Battle.

Each child had to present a persuasive speech – in front of the top class in St Marks – about a book of their choice (The Land of Roar, Malamander, Anna at War, Heroes or A Wolf Called Wander). Those were the choices of books to read.

James – who chose Anna at War – was first, and the audience loved his connection with his relative's and humour.

Daniel – who chose Malamander – was told his presentation was exciting and engaging, made the book mysterious, as well as making a prop.

Catherine – who chose The Land of Roar – was very engaging, and she captured the audience's attention with moves and props.

And finally, Ben – who chose Heroes – spoke about the different animal heroes that saved lives encouraged others to read his chosen book

It was very close, but in the end Catherine came out on top, with Ben only one point behind.

Catherine, Yr 6

Celebration Assembly

I understand that there is some disappointment about the changes that we have recently made to Celebration assembly but as a Headteacher I can assure you that the decision was taken with the best interests of the whole school in mind. I must say though, that since changing the format, the assembly has become reinvigorated, more akin to when it first began.

We all felt that the format was becoming a bit "old hat" for the children – don't forget, as a parent, you only sit in on it once every now and again, but the children have it every week. Without the parent audience, it has been easier to tweak the format, the main change being the surprise element, which I must say has been lovely to see. The children look genuinely delighted when their name is announced and this feeling is shared by their peers as their class teacher talks about the reason that they have been chosen. The focus is back to being much more about celebrating achievement, rather than performance. For those children who find the thought of celebrating incredibly stressful and have thus far opted out, the change has already enabled one of them to celebrate with confidence as they had no time to worry about it. We are also now able to hold the assembly just before playtime, rather than first thing, which means that the children are able to run around before the next class session, rather than going back to class and trying to sit still straight after assembly (not easy for most). With so much learning to squeeze in, this extra hour of learning time that has been freed up, is incredibly valuable.

There will still be other opportunities for children to perform for parents or share their work, not least in the open mornings, church

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services, Productions and Class assemblies. I will continue to be open to new ideas and am certainly planning to find other opportunities in the future, so that parents can be involved in their child's learning, share in celebration of achievement and feel part of the school as a whole.

Jan Meek Explorer Visit

On Monday Lake and Coombe enjoyed hearing stories about Jan Meek's race to the North Pole. They learnt about the freezing temperatures, the clothes she wore to keep warm, the food she ate and the equipment she took, all of which was stored safely in her large sledge

Jan shared pictures of the animals she encountered and talked about how she stayed safe from the polar bears. The children asked lots of questions and were even given the answer to "How did you go to the toilet?"

It was a very interesting morning.



World Book Day - 5 March

Once again we will be giving children the opportunity to dress up to celebrate World Book Day on 5 March. If your child wishes to dress up please help them to come dressed as their

favourite character from a book. If they do not wish to participate, they may come 'ready for bed' bringing their favourite book or simply wear school uniform as normal.

We are very lucky to have author, Peter Kenny visiting Mill and Spring to talk about his latest book. He will be selling copies of his book after school for anyone to purchase - the books are suitable for upper Juniors.

To tie in with World Book Day, we have Usborne Books coming on Friday 6 March at 3.15pm with a selection of books for you to purchase - don't forget to bring money at pick up.

Trip to RAF Hendon Museum

On Tuesday 11 February, Mill Class went on a school trip to RAF Hendon to learn about our topic, the Battle of Britain. When we got there, we saw an abundance of rare planes. Everyone enjoyed studying the planes but we had some favourites: Messerschmitts Bf109/110; Hurricanes, Spitfires, Heinkel 111 but above all, the Stuka/Junkers 87, one of only two in the world!

After lunch, we went to a workshop about the people who helped win the Battle of Britain. Every group had a specific story to tell about a worker in the RAF. I was Ray Holmes in our interview and the story about him was that he saw a German bomber heading for Buckingham Palace, he tried to shoot it but his guns jammed so he rammed it and both planes crashed but Ray parachuted out to safety.

Harry and Reuben - Yr 5



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Coombe Class Assembly

Coombe Parents / Carers – don't forget class assembly on Friday 14 February at 9am. Please remember that the children in Coombe are still very young to be performing in front of an audience so we would ask you to ensure any pre-school children are kept quiet and entertained to avoid any distractions.

Pencil Cases - Juniors

Please can you check and restock pencil cases over the half-term break. A lot of the children have items that need replacing in particular, glue sticks, pencils and whiteboard markers please. We don't have spares in school anymore so providing them for your child enables them to learn effectively.

Coronavirus: Public Information



CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours. To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue and, to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

If you have arrived back from China or specified countries within the last 14 days, follow the returning traveller advice.

Check the list of countries and find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

10 Tips to Help Your Child Stay Safe Online

PARENT FACTSHEET – JANUARY 2020

10 tips to stay safe online

Not sure what advice to give your child? Our pointers have got you covered.

1. You should only talk to people you know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online
2. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – like what street you live on or where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them
3. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see
4. Be 'share aware' – think carefully about what you share and with who. Once it's out there, you've got no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's illegal to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop
5. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university
6. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust
7. Be aware that people will try to make their lives look more exciting online. There's a lot people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So don't assume everything you see is a true to life representation
8. Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password
9. Take any content that glamorises gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – it's not as glamorous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, they're almost definitely criminal activity
10. Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them



Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

Further information

This factsheet was produced by [thekeyssupport.com/safeguarding](https://www.thekeyssupport.com/safeguarding)

- > [Take kids from loot box gambling in games - BBC News, 12 September 2019](https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-49918702)
- > [Rescue and Response county lines project: strategic assessment 2019, Greater London Authority](https://www.london.gov.uk/mopac-publications/rescue-and-response-par-london-county-lines-service)
- > [Home - Money Mules](https://moneymules.co.uk/)
- > [Share Aware resources for schools and learners, NSPCC Learning \(scroll down to the parent's leaflet in the grey box\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/resources/schools/share-aware-leaflet/)
- > [Setting in schools and colleges, UK Council for Internal Safety](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-in-schools-and-colleges)

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PTA Events

The PTA are running two events this term for which they need your help either by volunteering your time or by baking

Bull Run – 15 March

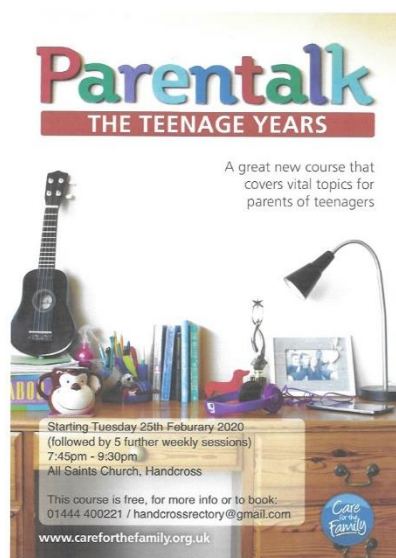
Donations of home-baked cakes and goodies to sell to the hungry runners and their supporters as well as helpers on the day to run the café.

Mother's Day gifts – 18 March @ 1.15pm
Helpers needed in school.

Please contact the PTA directly to offer your support: pta.balcombe@gmail.com

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Parentalk Course



Fundraising for School

Remember to join **easyfundraising** and 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/balc_ombprimary

School Diary

Fri 14 Feb – Coombe Class Assembly, 9am
Mon 17 Feb – Fri 21 Feb – Half Term
Tues 25 Feb – Open Morning 9.15 – 10am
Wed 26 Feb – Parents Evening 4 – 7pm
Thurs 27 Feb – Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm
Thurs 5 Mar – World Book Day
Fri 6 Mar – Usborne Book Fair @ 3.15pm
Tues 31 Mar – Easter Service at St Marys @ 1.45pm
Fri 3 Apr – End of term
Mon 20 Apr – Start of Summer Term

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

Donate with
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INSET DAYS - 1st JUNE 2020 – 20th JULY 2020