



Wind  
**Balcombe**  
Church of England  
Primary School

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



NOVEMBER

Dear Parents,

Only 25 sleeps until Christmas! If the thought of that makes you shudder, then you definitely need to join us this Saturday for our Christmas Fair – it's guaranteed to fill you full of festive cheer! The school will be bedecked with tinsel, there is quality entertainment on offer and as you are aware, we need your financial support now more than ever. Please do try to join us, even if only for a quick mince pie.

## Ofsted Visit

If you haven't had an opportunity to see the latest OFSTED report, use the link below.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

## Open afternoon – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

This is an opportunity to join us from 2:15 until 3:05pm, to spend time with your children looking at their work. Teaching staff will be on hand to discuss any general issues or questions, but individual concerns are better discussed at parent's evening.

The children love this opportunity to tell you about their learning, but we understand that it is not possible for all parents to join us. If you let us know if you are not able to come, we can ensure that your child is otherwise occupied during this time to avoid disappointment.

## Class organisation

I have been asked to clarify how we organise our classes on a few occasions, so thought I would explain

again here for our new parents, or those who are unsure.

We have 5 classes and need to accommodate 7 year groups, so each class has two year groups, or part year groups. The exception to this is Mill. At the moment, our numbers allow us to run Mill class with only year 6 children, but this is subject to change in the future dependent on numbers across the school.

The other classes are made up of the whole of one year group and roughly half of another. Where year groups are split, this is generally done according to age; the older children moving in to the next class, whilst the younger ones remain in the previous class. This of course does not mean that those children repeat a year; on the contrary, they still have learning activities tailored to their needs and ability, but possibly in a different way. Our teachers are incredibly skilled at meeting the needs of two year groups in one class, even though some curriculum areas dictate different learning objectives are covered. Evidence shows that the journey a child takes through the school in terms of time spent in each class, has far less bearing on final

outcomes, than a great number of other factors.

On occasion, an older child may remain with the younger children in the year group, or a younger child move with the older half of the cohort, if this is felt to be beneficial for the child, but this will only be in exceptional circumstances and only then, if doing so does not have a detrimental impact on the class or rest of the peer group.

## Art Exhibition

I hope that you enjoyed our Art Exhibition last week. I know that the children were very proud of their efforts and rightly so. I thought that all of the art work was brilliant and some was simply stunning. Don't we have some talented artists?

As well as showcasing the artistic talent of our pupils, we managed to raise a significant amount for the school. Each exhibit sold raised £5 for the school fund; money that we will ensure is spent on enhancing learning activities for our children. Thank you for your support.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 15 December

[Save the Children](#)

We will again be supporting Save the Children by encouraging children to wear their Christmas jumpers to school on Friday 15 December and bring in £1 for the charity.

Staff and parents can join in too!



## Parent Consultations

Don't forget to sign-up online for a consultation with your child's teacher(s). Dates are Thursday 7 & Monday 11 December.

[LINK](#)

## Lunchtime Helpers

Although we're always happy to have new ad-hoc helpers at Balcombe School we are particularly in need at the current time to cover various staff absences. If you are interested please speak to Margaret/Andrea – if not please spread the word!

## Christmas Carol workshop & Performance

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, in addition to having their Christmas lunch, our children will be treated to a singing workshop run by Jeffrey Lloyd Roberts, who leads the choir (and so much more) at St Mary's Church. He will be in school during the day, teaching the children a carol that he has composed himself. We would like to invite you in to school a little early that day, **at 3pm**, to listen to the children perform the carol.

## Return to School Menu

**Back to School Menu 4 January -**

School lunch on Thursday 4 January will be jacket potatoes with various fillings as we are unable to accept a delivery into school on Wednesday.

Details on [Chartwells website](#).

## Deliveries to school

We try to ensure that regular deliveries by van/lorry are not made between 8.20 and 9.20am on a school morning. However, some deliveries are out of our control so if you do arrive early to school please be aware there could be vehicles in the school vicinity.

## Online safety

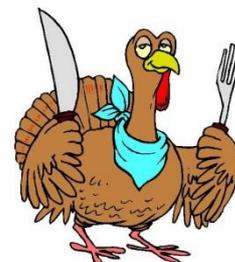
As you know, it is vital to protect your child from inappropriate material on the internet. Even things that at first

glance seem innocent enough, could be unsuitable for children to watch. If your child uses Youtube, please read the attached fact sheet for your added peace of mind.

[FACT SHEET](#)

## DIARY DATES

See all dates on website [calendar](#)



### SATURDAY 1 December – PTA FAIR

#### DECEMBER

Friday 1	Flu Immunisation – Years R-4
Monday 4	Open Afternoon – all welcome. 2.15-3.05pm
Wednesday 6	Drama Assembly @ 10am PTA Wreath Making Workshop @ 7.30pm
Thursday 7	Parent Consultations 4-7pm
Friday 8	Christmas Carol Performance @ 3pm – <i>parents welcome</i>
Monday 11	Parent Consultations 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 13	Infant Nativity Dress Rehearsal @ 9.30am
Thursday 14	Infant Nativity @ 9.30am Years 1 & 2 singing at Russetings @ 2pm
Friday 15	Infant Nativity @ 9.30am
Monday 18	Carol Service @ St Mary's – 1.45pm
Tuesday 19	Science Afternoon (whole school) 1.15-3.15pm
Wednesday 20	End of Term @ 1.30pm

#### JANUARY

Thursday 4	New Spring Term
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**School finishes at 1.30 on Wednesday 20 December**

**CLUBS – [SEE WEBSITE](#)**

## COMMUNITY INTEREST

Victory Hall Films – [Another Mother's Son](#) – 15 December

[Kate Aekbote Photography](#)

## 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**