



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018



Dear Parents,

I would like to invite you all to visit us on Tuesday 6th February to view our junior exhibition of learning. As you may know all of the classes are studying different areas around the world this term and the Juniors are arranging an exhibition to showcase their work. You will have a chance to interact with the children and ask them about their work and learning in general. The infant classes will also be open house – a chance to pop in and see what the children are doing and how they are learning.

As this is to be a general look at learning across the school, we felt it would be nice to invite any family members, friends or neighbours who would be interested in taking a closer look at Balcombe School. Please spread the word about this opportunity.

The school will be open from 2:15 – 3pm.

We look forward to welcoming you - we are very proud of what we do!

Wendy Millbanks

BEE BOY – TONY DE SAULLES

The juniors were thrilled to have a visit from Tony De Saulles on Tuesday. He is best known for illustrating the Horrible Science series of books and has previously visited Balcombe School for a couple of PTA events.

He has now become an author as well and visited to tell us about his new book, Bee Boy (published on 1st February). This was the first time he has spoken about his book, so we were treated to a world exclusive!

After teaching us some interesting facts about bees, Tony explained the inspiration for his book and then taught us how to draw some of the illustrations. It was a great afternoon and the artwork produced by the children was brilliant.



GIFTED & TALENTED CHILDREN

As you may be aware, we have some children in school that we have identified as having a particular ability in one or more areas. Some of these children are thought to have a “natural” talent, whilst others have become exceptionally good at something through sheer hard work and determination.

Wherever possible we try to provide additional opportunities for these children to use and extend their skills. Sometimes this is within a classroom setting, participation in a small group event, either in school or hosted by another school or by signposting parents to local groups and organisations that might be of interest.

Within the classroom, our most able pupils are given activities to challenge their thinking, requiring application of skills previously learnt and often a deeper understanding of links between areas of learning. They are encouraged to be independent of thought, make decisions about what and how they are going to learn and as we all know, one of the best ways to consolidate and deepen understanding is to teach others, so sometimes are given opportunities to do this.

Over the last 12 months or so we have taken many of our talented sports people to competitions, with a great deal of success and these are reported in the sport newsletter that Mrs Dunsby writes.

We have also sent representatives to

- Y5 Choral Day at Christ's Hospital (8 pupils)
- Creative Writing and Arts Day
- Big Sing at Ardingly College
- Animation at Bolney (2 pupils)
- Y5 Maths challenge at Christ's Hospital (4 pupils)
- Y5 History Mystery Day at Christ's Hospital (4 pupils)

And coming up:

- Y4 Maths challenge at Christ's Hospital
- Y5 Choral Day at Christ's Hospital
- Other events this year, as yet undecided, at the other NEARS schools and Balcombe.

If you have ideas for other opportunities for our G and T children, please do let us know.

SATS INFO SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

We will be holding information sessions for parents with children in

year 2 and 6, taking SATS tests this year. We have taken on board your comments about holding information sessions at different times of the day so that parents who work can attend and plan to run these sessions on Thursday 1st March at 6:30pm in the hope of accommodating more parents.

We really hope that you will be able to join Miss Bendall (yr2) and Mr Evans (yr6), so that you can gain a better understanding of what will happen during the testing and also are well informed and able to support your child.

As the session will involve video clips and group discussion, it will not be possible to repeat the content on an individual basis. Please join us if you are able.

HELP!!

We are very short of helpers for both Forest School and Year 2

Swimming:

FOREST SCHOOL is run each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. If you are interested please speak to Perri Jobbins or

Sarah Cornwell, or let the school office know.

SWIMMING – Year 2 swim each Thursday (leaving school at 9.10) until the end of this term. We desperately need help on February 8 & 22 and March 1, 15 & 22. This call goes out to any parents in the school, not just Y2.

PARKING IN VILLAGE

We have received a couple of complaints from motorists saying that they are regularly blocked and held up by parents parking on the hill to the village. More worryingly where cars are parked facing against the traffic children are exiting doors onto the road.



Please be mindful of the need to keep the traffic flowing in the mornings.

MEDICINES

Prescribed Medicines:

A reminder not to send medicines in to school please. Unless an anti-biotic is required four times a day it is possible to administer at home,

before and after school and at bedtime. Parents may of course come to school to personally administer medicines to their child.

Paracetamol & Antihistamine

As recently advised to parents by email we are now authorised by WSCC to administer



paracetamol and antihistamine to children when required. Before doing so however we do need parental consent. If you have not yet completed the consent form (even if you do not wish to give consent) please do so asap.

[Consent Form](#)

SCHOOL MILK

School milk is available for ALL children

If your child is currently under 5, they can receive free milk at school, funded by the UK Government's Nursery Milk Scheme.



When your child turns 5 or if they are already over 5, you have the option to pay for their milk. We have made

arrangements with the UK's leading school milk supplier, Cool Milk, to supply milk at a small subsidised daily cost.

What you need to do:

Visit www.coolmilk.com as soon as possible and select "Register your child for milk", then follow the on-screen instructions to register and pay

A portion of fresh, chilled milk at mid-morning break provides protein, calcium and other vital nutrients, important for your child's growth and development. It's also a great way to bridge the gap between breakfast and lunch, re-hydrating your child and helping them to concentrate in class.

Please ignore this letter if your child is already registered for over 5's milk.

Should you have any queries regarding your child's registration or

milk supply in general, please do not hesitate to contact Cool Milk directly on customerservices@coolmilk.com or call 0844 854 2913.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Balcombe Fete Committee who have recently donated £500 to school to enable us to buy some new tables for lunchtime.

Hopefully they will be here soon!

PTA

If you have not yet completed the PTA survey sent out by email on 23 January we would be grateful if you would take the time to do so, see below.

[PTA SURVEY](#)

Pru Harding would like to say thank you to children and parents for the Christmas gifts she received.

DATES – SEE WEBSITE CALENDAR – [LINK](#)

Tue 6 Feb	Open Exhibition 2.15-3.00 – <i>all welcome, parents and the wider community</i>
Fri 9 Feb	INSET DAY – School Closed
w/c 12 Feb	HALF TERM – School Closed
Mon 19 Feb	Skipping Workshop
Wed 28 Feb	Book Fair 3.15-4.15
Thu 1 March	Booking site open for parent consultations @ 7am SATS meeting for parents @ 6.30pm (parents of pupils Y2&6)
Fri 2 March	World Book Day – <i>dress as book character</i>
Sun 18 March	Bull Run (PTA)
Thu 22 March	Parent Consultations 3.30-5.30
Tue 27 March	Parent Consultations 4-7
Thu 29 March	END OF SPRING TERM – School closes @ 3.15
Mon 16 April	NEW TERM (Summer)

CLUBS – SEE WEBSITE - [LINK](#)

NOTE: Stem Club is currently undersubscribed – year groups 3-6. Please sign up if you want this club to continue.

Parent Information

VICTORY HALL FILMS

- [February Film](#) – Paddington

2

RECRUITMENT FAIR - [February](#)

NHS – [who to contact?](#)

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

[Family Fun](#)

[Brighton Science Festival](#)

EASTER HOLIDAYS

- [Netball](#)
- [Football](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Cricket](#)

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