



Wind
Balcombe
Church of England
Primary School

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



OCTOBER

Dear Parents

Thank you so much for supporting us with our new charity project and enabling your children to GIVE UP TO REACH OUT.

You may well have heard by now that we have raised an amazing **£709.08**. Huge congratulations to all of the children and parents who gave something up last week. We have raised enough to buy 2 cows, a few goats and a handful of chickens! That really is a terrific result and it has been lovely to hear about what the children gave up to raise the money – we really do have a bunch of very caring individuals!

Steve Fishpool is coming into school on the 6th November to receive the cheque and I'm sure will be delighted, as the amount raised has far surpassed the amount he hoped for. Our pupils have also written letters and drawn pictures for him to take to

the children in Uganda, when he next visits,

sometime in December. I am sure that they will be excited with both the prospect of getting some animals and the fact that our pupils have taken time to write to them.

If you have not yet returned money that you intended to donate, don't worry, you can still send it in. It is our intention to do further fundraising later in the academic year, so we will just keep any late money and add it to that.

If you are interested in supporting the charity further – i.e. by sponsoring a child, or volunteering to help in some other way, there are information sheets in the entrance foyer, or you can look at their [website](#).

Once again, a massive thank you for your support.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

We know that our pupils and staff work very hard and as a result, over time, achievement at the school is steadily rising. Last academic year in particular, showed good improvement in maths and reading. There was a huge improvement in writing; with the percentage of children attaining the expected standard at the end of year 2 and year 6 in all three areas, also showing a great increase.

EYFS outcomes have remained constant, in line with, or above the national average, depending on the number of children in each cohort with additional needs.

In May, our year 6 children took SATs tests, resulting in the following attainment:

- Reading was 76%, writing and maths were 79%, all above national average (71% , 76% and 75% respectively). The combined percentage for children attaining all three was also well above national average, school being 69%, whereas national average was 61%.
- Those children achieving a higher standard in maths and writing was

in line with national average. For reading we were 13% higher than the national average, with 38% of our children achieving greater depth.

You may remember that we had an apparent dip in writing attainment last year, due to dramatically increased expectations and a lack of clarity about assessment, so we are particularly pleased with the improvement in writing.

This cohort included seven children with SEND. Eleven of the children joined during the junior years, 2 of whom, only at the beginning of year 6.

In year 2, our children also undertook tests. Of course these were carried out in a much more low key way and the children told me they were fun! Test results fed into the following teacher assessment judgements:

- Reading - 78% (above national average 76%)
- Writing - 67% (national average 68%)
- Maths - 78% (above national average 75%)

- RWM - 67% (above national average 64%)

This cohort includes 3 pupils with SEND (17%)

In the year 1 phonics test and the outcomes at the end of year R, we were in line with national percentages, with 100% of our children having made good progress through year R.

During the last 16 months, our teacher assessment judgements for year R, 2 and 6, have been moderated by the local authority. In each case, all of our judgements were upheld, with the quality of evidence and standard of preparation being complimented. We are very proud of our children's achievements!

OPEN THE BOOK ASSEMBLIES

OTB assemblies take place in school every other Tuesday. We have a small (but perfectly formed) group of local residents who lead a dramatic presentation of a story from the Bible, involving children with the acting and bringing the stories to life in an incredibly engaging way. The children love these assemblies and really look forward to them. If you have some

time to spare on a Tuesday and would be willing to join in with some storytelling, (or even help to make a few props) please either speak to Helen Butcher, Wendy Millbanks, Jenny Smith (Alex and Ella's Mum) or a member of office staff.

Grandparents, neighbours and friends are also very welcome to get involved.

COOMBE CLASS – Washbrooks Farm Visit

View the [Gallery](#)

QUOTES FROM THE CHILDREN

We learnt lots of new things. I found out tortoises live to 100 years old. It was an amazing day. Seb

I learnt that pigs are the cleanest animals on the farm. Daphne

I learnt donkeys don't like getting wet. James

I had a really exciting day. Ralf

It was an amazing trip. Skyla

It was a brilliant day. Sal

I learnt that some ducks can lay blue eggs. Ben

FOREST CLASS – FISHBOURNE PALACE VISIT

View the [Gallery](#)

QUOTES FROM THE CHILDREN

Oscar - I enjoyed meeting a Roman legionary and seeing all his armour and weapons in real life. It was fun asking him questions. He pretended to run at us with his pilum.

Ollie - I loved the activities we did in the workshop especially building an arch. I learnt that the keystone needed to be in the right place for the arch to be stable.

Freda - I learnt that the Romans invented underfloor heating and saw part of a hypocaust at the palace. The best bit was looking at the amazing mosaics.

Lilly - I loved all of the trip it was so much fun! One of the best bits was dressing up as a slave and working in the Roman kitchen.

Returning to school after sickness

We've reached the sickness season again. Please remember the **48 HOUR RULE** – children may not return to school until 48 hours after the last sickness episode. If children return beforehand we will ask for them to be collected from school.

Reporting absence to school



If your child is unwell and will not be attending school at any

time please ensure the school is advised first-thing in the morning (**by 9am**) by any of the following methods:

- Ring school 01444 811403 – *option 1*
- Email school – parents@balcombeschool.co.uk
- Text school - 01444300021

IMPORTANT – PE LESSONS

Any child with pierced ears must either bring tape to



tape them or remove the earrings during PE lessons. Tape is not provided in the school office.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DATE

We will be having our Christmas lunch on **Friday 8 December**.



Instructions for ordering:

Juniors (1) – If you normally order school meals please continue to do so in the usual way. However, if your child requires a vegetarian meal you will need to let the school office know.

Juniors (2) - If you do not normally order lunch for your child but would like to do so for the Christmas Menu day, please complete our order form using the link and send in £2.30 per child to the school office by Friday 24 November.

Infants – As it is likely that more children than usual will want to have school lunch on the day of the Christmas Menu would you please complete the very quick order to ensure that we request enough meals and children are not disappointed. There is no charge for Infant meals.

- [ORDER FORMS](#) – Infant
- [ORDER FORM](#) - Juniors

If you have any queries about this please ring the school office.

No orders can be taken after Friday 24 November.

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

DIARY DATES

See all dates on website [calendar](#)

OCTOBER

Week 23-27	HALF TERM
Monday 30	INSET DAY
Tuesday 31	DEADLINE: Christmas Card Project

NOVEMBER

Friday 10	Film Night – details to follow
Thursday 23	Art Exhibition, school hall
Friday 24	DEADLINE: for ordering Christmas Lunch through school

DECEMBER

Friday 1	Flu Immunisation – Years R-4
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Thursday 7	Parent Consultations 4-7pm
Monday 11	Parent Consultations 3.30-5.30pm *NOTE DAY CHANGE*
Thursday 14	Infant Nativity
Friday 15	Infant Nativity

School finishes at 1.30 on Wednesday 20 December

COMMUNITY INTEREST

Victory Hall Production – [The Railway Children](#)

Victory Hall Films – [Victoria & Abdul](#)

HALF TERM

Fishbourne Palace – [Museums](#) at night

Borde Hill [Halloween](#) and [Pumpkin Glow](#)

Borde Hill Gardens - [Info](#)

[Pro Direct Soccer](#)

[Applying for a Reception place 2018](#)

Local Offer – [Information for families with children with additional or special education needs or disability \(SEND\)](#)



BUSTA'S GREAT BANANA BAKE OFF

Did you know that every year almost 160 million bananas are thrown away in the U.K. Following on from the Wastebuster recycling challenge we took part in earlier in the year, Busta has set a new challenge to encourage us to help prevent food waste. [Busta's Great Banana Bake Off](#) has just been launched to mark UN World Food Day, earlier this week. We have discussed this campaign in assembly and it would be great if we could show our support for all it stands for, by taking part in this event to save over-ripe bananas from the bin and help reduce food waste. Please see the above link for all details. Happy banana baking!