



Dear Parents

It is time for me to update you on our sporting term. We are currently enjoying a wonderful sunny spell, which takes me to the very first report on the girls' football competition on a great warm afternoon back at the beginning of the term.

NEARS Girls' Football Tournament

This is always one of my favourite afternoons. Whilst girls can compete in the NEARS football league, there are often only one or two girls who play regularly across the whole league. This is not to say that girls do not want to play football! Far from it. My most often asked question is, "When is the girls' football competition?" Places are at a premium and this year's squad were desperate to do well. After their first game, we soon worked out our best formation and everyone was happy to work hard to play together as a team. We were fortunate to have some strong tacklers and quick footed players. Our games were strongly competed and soon most of the squad had scored during the afternoon. We played really well, developing our skills as the afternoon progressed and came second by a single point. Special mentions go to Scarlet and Molly who worked so hard and never gave up on a single loose ball. Well done everyone!



Friendly netball match against Handcross

Both Balcombe and Handcross have popular after school netball clubs. As some of the regular members had not had an opportunity to break into their successful school teams, we decided to play a friendly match to allow everyone to participate in a competitive match. Our squad of players were outstanding on the day and across the many rotations we played they proved that their hard

work over the winter had paid off. We won comfortably which bodes well for next year. Thanks to Annabel for stepping in at the last minute as we were short of players due to illness.



Mid Sussex Active Netball Competition

After our success in the NEARS Netball League a squad of eight players went to East Grinstead to play other winning teams from local leagues. This was a real challenge, not made any easier by the size of some of the other teams. At some point we will have to find out what these tall players are being fed! We had a tough afternoon but managed to improve our game plan when playing against tall teams. Whilst we didn't win a match, it was great to test ourselves against different players and as you can see we enjoyed the afternoon playing together for the last time before the Year 6 players move onto secondary school.



Skipping Challenge

After our successful skipping workshops in February the School Council decided to build on our enthusiasm by holding a sponsored skipping challenge to raise money for sports equipment for our Ugandan appeal. Each class were given a target number of skips to reach in half an hour.

The day went extremely well. Each and every class not only hit their target but smashed them to smithereens! Spring and Mill were fantastic - helping and encouraging the younger classes to do their best. Lake really impressed Spring with their ability and their stamina. Skipping really is for everyone.

	Total skips
Lake	8,235
Coombe	30,638
Forest	27,094
Spring	27,763
Mill	26,215
School total	119,945

Well done Coombe for managing the highest total number of skips. Due to their small class size Mill managed the highest number of skips per person – average of 1,456 skips.

We were proud of every class for their drive and enthusiasm during the event.



Sports Day

We were blessed with fantastic weather for our Sports Day this year. Our morning activities were hotly contested, with all four teams battling to win as many points as possible in a range of activities before the races in the afternoon. Well done Bees for winning this year.





NEARS KS2 Athletics Competition

This event takes a number of children from all Junior year groups to compete in running, skipping and throwing events. We had worked hard practising our events and this paid off during the morning. We had lots of great placings as well as some winners.

This event is divided into large and small schools. Balcombe have traditionally been seen as a large school. At the moment this is particularly difficult as we are competing against schools that are considerably larger than us. However, as ever, the Balcombe spirit was strong and we came second by a single point to Handcross. Well done to all our competitors for their exceptional effort.

Special thanks to the parents who helped on the day either organising the children or with the running of the event.

NEARS Y2 Athletics Competition

This is a smaller but very friendly event held at St Augustine's School in Scaynes Hill. The competition is for Y2 children only with three girls and three boys from each school competing in a single field and track event before a final relay race. Our team were extremely excited to be participating and put on a fantastic show of running, throwing, jumping and skipping. Every member was placed in at least two events. This led to us being crowned champions on the afternoon which only raised our excitement levels further! Things look good for future years with the Year 2s showing their great sporting skills. Well done.



Sports after school clubs

Our sports after school clubs on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday provide a great chance for children in Y4 – 6 to hone their skills and take part in game situations. They are designed to tie in with NEARS competitions and often regular participants will be chosen to represent the school. Please look at the upcoming clubs for the Autumn Term and discuss with your children which activities they might be keen to develop further.



I hope that you all have an active and happy Summer Holiday. Good luck to all the children that are leaving Balcombe – keep enjoying your sport. I look forward to starting a new sporting year in September.

Best wishes

Lucy Dunsby