



# Balcombe

Church of England  
Primary School

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



## MAY NEWSLETTER

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

### From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

I expect like me, you've seen some of the recent documentaries on TV about the crisis that is facing our planet. I have been talking to the children in assembly about what is happening to certain animals and ecosystems, showing them various clips (mainly David Attenborough) and asking them to consider what will happen if nothing changes and what they can do to make a difference.

At the moment, we are talking about plastics in the oceans and I think that already, some of your children may have come home urging you to re-use plastic carrier bags and think twice about using single use plastic bottles. I imagine, as the term progresses, some children will be talking to you a lot. I hope that you don't find this annoying, but are able to take the time to discuss the issues with them and help them develop feelings of responsibility for the safeguarding of our natural world.

For those of you who have not watched the "Blue Planet" programmes (BBC I player), or "Our Planet" (Netflix), I can recommend them,

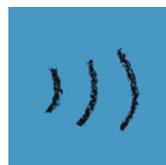
although probably not in their entirety for younger children – they are pretty shocking and upsetting.

If any of you have experience of taking part in any environmentally friendly projects, either at home or away, I'd be really pleased to talk to you about sharing your experiences with the children.

### NSPCC

Last week, we were joined by two members of the NSPCC team, who led assemblies for our Infants and Juniors on the theme of staying safe.

During the information session for parents, we were told about a new App, '**Net Aware**', which can be downloaded and used to investigate apps that our children are using. You simply type the name of the App you are investigating and it will tell you the content, usage, recommended age group and other information. It looked like a useful tool.



Click [HERE](#) to access the latest NSPCC document regarding e safety for children – Share Aware!

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## Glider Challenge

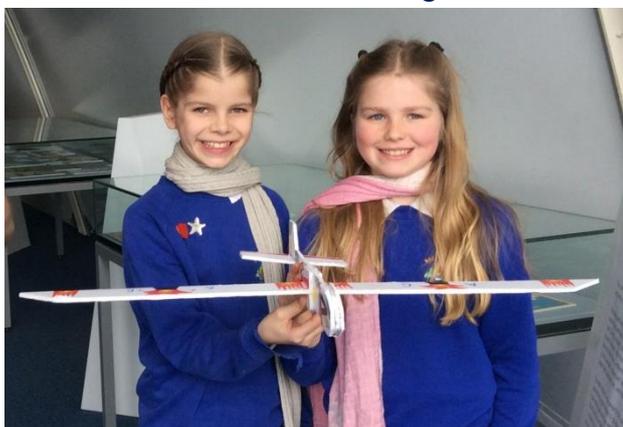
Following success in earlier stages of the competition, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 6 children from Balcombe School went up to the RAF Museum in London for the *Fly to the Line* National Final.

### *The Balcombe School Team*



“When we arrived we were really excited and nervous, especially when we saw the other teams’ planes,” Abigail remembers, but the children were soon busy designing and constructing their own gliders. Adults were allowed to assist, but at a cost. “Mrs Kirby could help us 3 times, but after that a metre would be taken off our glider’s distance, so we didn’t want that!”

Once all the gliders had been flown the results were announced and Balcombe School were awarded first place, not only for the greatest distance but also for best design!



*National Design Champions*

The event ended with a tour of the museum, which proved inspirational. “It was massive - really cool! I found out so much about planes I never know before,” Grace says, while Abigail discovered a new ambition. “Now I want to be an engineer and work with planes!”



*National Distance Champions*

## Uniform

As you know, we recently changed our uniform provider and now use Sussex Uniforms. A couple of parents have made comments about the uniform and I am interested to know your thoughts. Please let me know if you have any strong feelings, good or bad.

A few of you have made comment on the Navy PE shorts – we are looking into that, to see if there are other options. Don’t forget that for girls, the royal blue cycling shorts are an option. Royal blue shorts can also be bought from sports shops.

## Staffing Matters

As you know, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Cornwell very shortly; her last working day will be Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Cornwell has been connected to the school for a very long time and performed a great range of duties here, from cook to teaching assistant, office

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administrator to Forest School Leader. We are all very sad that she is leaving our school; she has been such an important member of our team and given so generously of her time. Her commitment to the school has been genuine and far reaching and we will all miss her kindness, calm manner and great command of English grammar! Thank you Sarah, for all that you have done for us!

We wish Mrs Cornwell all the very best in her new adventure and hope that she will visit us when she's in the area...and hopefully bring cake!

I am very pleased to tell you that we have successfully recruited a new member of staff to take on the role of office administrator

Mrs Lucy Chettleburgh will be starting with us after half term. Lucy will be in the office only sporadically until then, so please bear with us for the next couple of weeks while the office is managing on reduced staffing levels.

## Fundraising for School

Remember to join [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/balcombeprimary) 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/balcombeprimary>

## School Diary

Friday 17 May – 7 p.m. PTA Quiz Night  
Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Class photographs  
24<sup>th</sup> TO 31<sup>st</sup> MAY - HALF TERM HOLIDAY  
Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June – INSET Day  
W/C Mon 10<sup>th</sup> June – Cycling Proficiency  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

3.30 – 6 p.m. PTA SUMMER FAIR

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> July – 7 p.m. Junior Production

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> July

10.45 a.m. Leavers' Service at Worth Abbey

7 p.m. Junior Production

Weds 17<sup>th</sup> July – SPORTS DAY

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> July

1.45 p.m. Leavers' Service at St. Mary's

3.15 – 5.15 p.m. Leavers' Party

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> July – END OF SCHOOL YEAR

## 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

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