



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

Well the Autumn Term is truly underway and the children are deeply immersed in their learning. I want to give special congratulations to all of our new children (those in Lake and across the school) for settling into life at Balcombe Primary with such confidence and enthusiasm. I look forward to getting to know them better over the next few weeks, but can already see the good things that they will bring to our school community.

Welcome too, to our new parents and families. I hope that you already feel part of the school and remind you that if you are unsure, anxious or just generally befuddled by anything school related, please ask any member of staff for help.

There will be lots of opportunities over the coming months for you to come into school, so please make a point of reading the monthly newsletters that come out for one off events and refer to the calendar on our website for regular clubs etc.

Our website also contains a host of general and specific information about the curriculum, policies, routines and events, however if you can't find what you are looking for, the office staff will be able to point you in the right direction.

Parent homework this month

We are setting two pieces of homework for parents this month –

- Sign up to Edmodo to get updates on what your child is up to in their class. This is a handy way for teachers to communicate with you quickly about learning activities, trips or help needed in each class.
- Ensure that you are registered with Squid (registration information coming out to new parents very soon) as this term we are working towards becoming a cash free school. It is hoped that from later in the school year, all payments will be made through squid, or at least the vast majority. This is to enable easier tracking of payments made, reduce time spent counting and handling money and generally improving the efficiency of office systems. If you are having any problems with squid, please speak to Lara in the office.



sQuid

Information for our new parents
(and a reminder for everyone else)

- **Celebration assembly** – Most Fridays we hold a celebration assembly with the children at 9am.



This is an opportunity for our

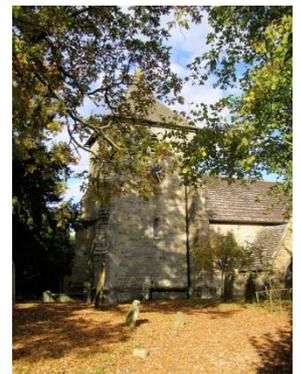
pupils to see what other children have been learning and celebrate individual or group achievements. Parents of the children celebrating are notified slightly in advance in the hope that they will be able to join us in assembly that day. Any parent is welcome to join us on any Friday, you don't have to wait until your child is celebrating, but if you wish to do this, please check with the office first to ensure assembly is happening that day.

- **Open class sessions** – Once a term, we invite parents into school to spend time looking at their child's work. The children love to sit and go through their books, explaining what they have been learning. We strongly encourage parents to join us if at all possible, but understand that sometimes work/life commitments do not allow this. If you are unable to join us please let us know (especially with young children) and we will make sure that your child is actively engaged elsewhere in the school whilst the open session is

taking place, thus minimising disappointment.

- **Parent's evening** - We hold parents evenings twice a year to give parents the opportunity to have a focussed discussion with the class teacher about their child's learning and general school experience. Each appointment lasts 10 minutes. If you think that you need more than 10 minutes to discuss a particular issue, we ask that you make a separate appointment when needed, as teachers have many appointments to fit in each evening and overrunning causes inconvenience for other parents. The first parent's evenings will be in early November (see dates section) and we will write to you nearer the time with details of how to book appointments.

- **Church services** – At key times in the Church calendar, we hold services in church, generally run by and for the children. **Parents**



are always welcome to join us. We will be holding our HARVEST service later this term (see below for details) As has happened for the last few years, we ask children to bring in gifts of food for Family Support Network who work with local

families in need of some help. Please send children in with your food gifts – especially tinned veg, soup and dried ingredients - on the morning of either Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th. Thank you.

- **Productions** – each year our children get an opportunity to take to the stage. In December our infants will be delighting you with our version of the Nativity and in July it will be the turn of our Junior pupils. You will receive more information nearer the time about costumes needed, lines to be learnt and tickets to be purchased, but please put the very important dates in your diary as soon as you receive them.

Harvest Service

Our Harvest Service will take place at St Mary's Church on 9th Oct at 1:45 pm. We do hope that some of you will be able to join us and share in the Harvest celebration with the children.



Thinking Garden

This year, amongst other things, we will be encouraging our children to become more reflective thinkers and learners.

Last week some of the children helped begin the creation of our new Thinking Garden. This is designed to give children a place to be quiet and have time to think, individually or with friends, about things that are bothering them, recent events or those “bigger” questions. We are hoping to offer changing prompts to facilitate reflection and a variety of focal points, some of which will be created by the children.



We would love to add some permanent



features such as a statue or stone/wooden bench seats, so if you have anything at home that you no longer need and think it might be suitable, please let us know.

Minton Badminton Club

MINTON BADMINTON CLUB

Minton meets in the Victory Hall, Balcombe, from 8.00 pm on Monday evenings. The new season commences on

Monday 3rd September and will

go through to the end of April 2019. We are a small friendly club, but at the moment we are particularly short of male players. New people would be welcome to come along for a “taster” evening without any obligation to join. For further information please call the Club Secretary on 01444 400054.





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School Diary – also, see website

- Harvest Service at St Mary's: 9th October 1:45pm (food gifts in on 8th or 9th please)
- Half Term: 22nd – 26th October
- INSET 29th October
- Open Morning: Fri 2nd Nov, 9:15 – 10:00 a.m.
- Flu Immunization Programme: Monday 5th November.
- Parents' Evening: Tues 6th Nov 4 – 7, Thursday 15th Nov 3:30 – 5:30
- Nativity Play: Thurs 13th and Fri 14th Dec – AM (exact times to follow)
- Carol Service: Mon 17th December - time to be confirmed but most likely p.m.
- Last day of term: Wednesday 19th Dec 1:30 finish.

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