



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of the Autumn Term already and Christmas is almost upon us. It's been an incredibly busy term, with lots going on and I'm really proud of how much our children have achieved. There have been sporting successes, learning successes and, for some, settling into their new school successes. All in all, a great term.

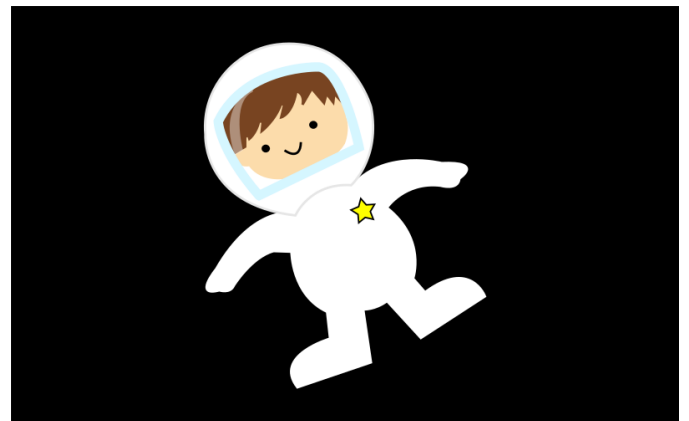
Thank you to the children for being such good company and motivated learners, thank you to the staff for working in increasingly demanding times with consistent good humour and thank you to the parents who have supported us in any way. I can't name you all, but would like to thank members of the PTA for a flying start to our fundraising this academic year and also to Beth Sanderson, Abigail Lines and the silent partner butterfly-makers who have helped transform our entrance area.

Sussex Learning Trust Admissions Consultation

It's not too late – don't forget to respond.
[Consultation survey link here.](#)

Next Term's Topic

In January, the whole school will be following a SPACE topic. Children will be encouraged to dress up as a space related character. This could be an astronaut, alien, scientist, star or other spacey creation. Date tbc next week.



Parents Joining us for Worship

It is lovely to see so many of you joining us on a Friday for celebration assemblies. Please may I ask that once the children start coming in to the hall you end your conversations? We work hard to get the children to see that assembly time is a special time and would like them to come in and wait without talking. Obviously this is harder for them to do if there is chatter noise around them.

I would also ask that parents bringing younger children to church consider ways to keep them

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entertained during the service and sit on the ends of rows in case the need arises to take the younger siblings out. We welcome the whole family joining us, but in fairness to those children leading the service (some of whom lack confidence and/or volume) having to compete with little voices can be incredibly distracting and challenging.

PTA News

We are delighted to announce that money raised last year by the PTA has been used to buy some wonderful new resources for learners to use.



The school's IT equipment is being updated with new laptops, plus all the necessary licenses, which will be installed in February, and the library has been stocked with some newly published titles specially chosen to promote depth of reading.

The fundraising success continues this year with the Christmas Fair making a fabulous £1,500.00! Money raised this year will go towards new play equipment for the bank by the tyres.



If you are inspired to join the great work of the PTA please do consider joining them as a committee member, occasional helper or simply by attending events or making a donation. Your efforts really will benefit children in school.

Donate with
JustGiving

Spotlight on Staff

In order to encourage our children to write with purpose some of our older pupils were set the challenge to interview a member of staff to find their innermost secrets! The children have used their own style to share their findings. Here is the next in the series.

Interview with Miss Bendall by Catherine.

Miss Bendall is the Coombe Class teacher, joint assistant head and the leader of maths.

The first thing Miss Bendall does when she gets to school is put her bags down, and she turns on the computer. What Miss Bendall likes most about her job is being and working with the children. The one thing she dislikes about her job is all the paperwork. Her favourite subjects are PE and maths. She goes home at about six o'clock.

The first thing she does when she gets home is have a snack. Her favourite food is homemade lasagne, strawberries and cream and chocolate, but not all at the same time. Her favourite colour is pink. She loves playing netball matches. At home, she likes to relax by reading or listening to the radio.

As a teenager she worked in a restaurant, a book shop and a pub. If she wasn't a teacher, she would want to be an Olympic athlete. She would love to go to Africa on a safari.



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Christmas Tree Society

A huge thank you goes to the Christmas Tree Society who, once again, have contributed generously to the school. Please see below details of their next event.



**Carols round the Christmas Tree
The Half Moon Pub
Saturday 15th December**

Join us for our annual Christmas fundraising event:

- 5.30 Santa's grotto opens at the pub**
- 5.45 Torch-lit procession from St Mary's Church**
- 6.00 Carols & BBQ outside the pub**
- Refreshments from the Half Moon**

See you there!

Fundraising for School

Remember with Christmas just around the corner to join easyfundraising 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>

Drama Workshops Offer

Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform
Popular children's drama and dance school is offering a Free Trial Session and a special introductory discount of £40 for members of Balcombe CofE Controlled Primary School if they sign up by Saturday 19th January. Parents should quote WSBA190119 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120. You can find out more

about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#) and [here](#). The nearest classes to Balcombe C of E Controlled Primary School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Haywards Heath
(Drama for 7-12s)
(4.1 miles)
Saturdays at 11.15am

Clair Hall
Perrymount Rd,
RH16 3DN

Perform Horsham (Drama
for 4-7s)
(8 miles)
Saturdays at 9.30am

Holbrook Tythe Barn
Pondtail Road,
RH12 5JF

Perform Horsham (Drama
for 7-12s)
(8 miles)
Saturdays at 11.15am

Holbrook Tythe Barn
Pondtail Road,
RH12 5JF

Perform Horsham (Drama
for 4-7s)
(8.1 miles)
Tuesdays at 4pm

Brighton Road Baptist
Church
Brighton Road,
RH13 5BD

Perform Horsham (Drama
for 7-12s)
(8.1 miles)
Tuesdays at 5pm

Brighton Road Baptist
Church
Brighton Road,
RH13 5BD

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest [here](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).

LEGO

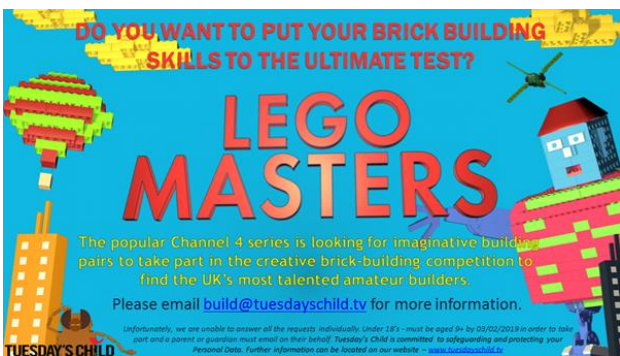
Dear Parents/Staff,

Do you or does someone in your house eat, sleep and breathe the little plastic bricks? Is the LEGO MASTERS build room with over 1 million bricks your idea of heaven?

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The producers of the popular Channel 4 series **LEGO MASTERS** are looking for a new bunch of imaginative building pairs to take part in a third series of the bold brick-building competition. If you think you, a family member or a friend have the creativity, skill and imagination to be crowned Britain's best amateur building team then please email build@tuesdayschild.tv

Applicants must be aged 9+ by 03/02/2019 in order to take part.



Unfortunately, we won't be able to answer all the requests individually. Your application will be received by a member of Tuesday's Child production company and they will contact you directly. Tuesday's Child will process your personal data in accordance with their privacy policy.

School Diary

Carol Service

Mon 17th December – 1.45 – 2.45 p.m.

Last day of term

Wednesday 19th Dec

Christmas Assembly and roundup of the term at 9.30 a.m. All welcome.

Home time at 1.30p.m.

Spring Term Begins

Thursday 3rd January



**Merry
Christmas**

to all of our school community: parents, governors and members of St. Mary's church, from all of the staff.



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