



Balcombe

Church of England
Primary School

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



FEBRUUARY NEWSLETTER

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

From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

Comic Relief. This year, Red Nose Day is on the 15th March. We have decided to keep it simple and ask the children to help us raise money in two ways.

1. Wear red to school. This can be normal clothes which are red, a full on fancy dress outfit which is red, or school uniform with a red scarf or even socks – the choice is theirs. We do ask though that for the privilege of being able to wear red, **each child brings in a donation of at least £1.**
2. Children bring in their loose change (and yours) to place on our giant red nose in the playground at the start of the school day. Our aim is to cover as much of the nose as possible with money.

Thank you very much for helping us support Comic Relief.

Parent help This academic year, I think that we have more volunteers in school than ever before and it's making such a difference to the children and our ability to continually strive to offer more, better and bigger learning opportunities.

Thank you to those volunteers who regularly or periodically come in to help with a whole range

of things, from reading to Forest School, transport to pond clearing and being an additional pair of hands in a classroom. Your help is very much appreciated.

This plea for help is aimed at anyone who is creative or has an eye for colour and presentation. Our children produce such a wealth of wonderful work but we don't always have the time (and energy after a full day of teaching) to display it in the best way to do it justice. We would like to find a parent for each class who is willing to commit to producing one display per term using a selection of children's work. This will normally be a board in a corridor around the school and need to take place at the very end of term or half term (or beginning of September). We always try to make our displays eye catching, interactive, celebratory (and robust) but would really welcome some new ideas. We have lots of resources in school but just need someone with the time to use them! If you are interested in helping, or know someone who might be, please let us know.

Year 6 responsibilities. You may be aware that we have organised our year 6 children slightly differently this year in terms of the way that they hold additional leadership responsibilities. Some of our children are now running lunchtime clubs, focusing on reading, number and art skills, or sometimes organising play or

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role play opportunities for our younger pupils. I have been very impressed with the quality of activities on offer, the thought and preparation that our year 6 children have given to the clubs and the maturity and reliability shown. They really are doing a great job and the fact that the clubs are well attended demonstrates this. Please see the Year 6 Champions report below by Lena, Hope and Molly.



One of the first donated subscriptions!

Magazine Subscriptions. As mentioned in a recent email, we were recently given some copies of three children's magazines - National Geographic Kids, The Week Junior and Storytime. The children have loved looking at them and as well as the obvious social benefits from chatting about the content and pictures with friends, have enjoyed learning new facts, reading stories and deepening their understanding of current issues. We are so impressed with the content of these magazines that we would really love to take out subscriptions so that the children can continue to enjoy them each week/month and then build up a collection for our library. Unfortunately this year our budget doesn't stretch to allow this, so we wondered if anyone

reading this may be in a position to support Balcombe Primary School by gifting us a subscription of a year, or even a quarter? The subscriptions cost:

- National Geographic Kids - £48 per year (12 issues)
- The Week Junior - £85 per year (51 issues)
£44 per half year (26 issues)
£21.50 per quarter (13 issues)
- Storytime - £39.99 per year (12 issues)

We are sometimes asked for ideas for gifts (when children leave, or parents want to contribute), well this really is the gift that keeps on giving.

Three subscriptions have already been donated: very many thanks to those families for supporting this initiative.

If you are keen to help fund the magazines, we would love to hear from you.

Good news!

Congratulations to past pupil Anna Record for becoming Head Girl at Warden Park! We are all very pleased for Anna and send her our best wishes for an excellent year ahead. We are proud of the part we played in helping Anna to become the young person she is today and know that with her hardworking, motivated, reliable, reflective approach to life she will do very well.

"From little acorns, do mighty oaks grow."

Year 6 Champions

The new Year 6 Champions have taken on the responsibilities of running clubs for the other children. They have organised a Number, Words, Book and Play Club. The children who have attended the activities have thoroughly enjoyed them.

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Maya says, "I love Book Club because we get a story and then we get to draw and colour pictures."

Wilf says, "Play Club is so much fun!"

Eloise and Daisy say, "We like these clubs because it gives us something to do at lunchtime and it is really fun."

Bonnie and Daphne say, "We like the clubs because we find the people who run them are friendly and nice."

Alice says, "When running the clubs, I enjoy working with the younger children because I like helping them with acting."

Lena, Hope and Molly.

Enrichment Days

A wide range of enrichment activities for children at Balcombe School is running throughout the year, with one-off events such as the Maths Challenge at Christ's Hospital, a Theatre Trip to see *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and a Glider Competition (see below for details), plus a varied programme of sporting competitions and a series of workshops organised by the NEARS group. As part of this, Balcombe hosted a Gymnastics Workshop earlier this month, run by Mrs Smith.

'A total of 18 Year 5 and 6 girls and boys from our local schools attended a hugely successful morning of gymnastics.

The children enjoyed exploring and creating counter balances with a partner and then developed ideas to work in groups of three and four. Working together in larger groups required the children to collaborate with their new friends. To the music from The Greatest Showman, *This is Me*, (as chosen by the children) the gymnasts incorporated their balances into a wonderful display, showcasing their individual skills and group dance

movements. The children performed brilliantly and their attitude and effort was amazing. I felt privileged to work with such a great group of children.'

Mrs Sally Smith

India and Charlotte recently took part in a NEARS Dance Workshop. "We learned a dance to a song from the musical *Matilda* called *Revoltin' Children*." India's favourite part was, "Singing great songs - and when we got to shout out, 'Never again will we be ignored!'" Charlotte loved creating a dance to show parents at the end. "It was good to be in groups with children from other schools so we got to know them. We'd recommend these sessions because there are lots of nice people to work and learn with."

Pupils are also taking part in Animation, Writing, Music, Computing, Poetry and Science workshops this term and next.

Theatre Trip

As a reward for taking part in the 'Book Battle' presentation, everyone who had participated was invited to watch *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. This was the dress rehearsal performed by the children of Ardingly College.

Before the curtains went up, we met some of our past pupils who were also in the audience. It was a fantastic performance with stunning costumes and it was a treat for all the hard work we had done.

We all enjoyed both the play and the ice-cream during the interval.

Thank you to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Dinneen for accompanying us. All in all, it was a great afternoon.

Zara and Eoin.

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Glider Competition

Our 'Fly To The Line' Glider Competition Experience

On Wednesday 6th February 2019, three teams of children travelled to Gatwick Aviation Museum and took part in the 'Fly To The Line' Glider Competition run by the RAF. Previously, the children had taken part in the school competition and had won the top three places. In the regional competition, Emily and Abigail (2nd place holders in the previous competition) came 1st with their simple plane, *Cornair*. They were awarded medals and a place in the national finals.

However, the other teams from Balcombe School got through too. O Jet, (Averil and Grace) came 4th and JJ (Joshua and Jos) came 2nd. They will go to the finals in Hendon on Friday 5th April and will fly their inventive gliders once more.

Emily and Abigail.

PTA News

A reminder that your class reps are:

Mill – Stephanie Damski

Spring –Cate Cartmell

Forest – Jules Harding

Coombe – Libby Taylor

Lake – Carolyn Rolph

Please support these upcoming PTA events!

17 March - Bull Run

18 March - Possible Cake Sale After Bull Run

17 May - Quiz Night

28 June - Summer Fair

If you would like to become involved with the PTA please speak to Lucy or Vicky.

Many thanks

Lucy

Donate with
JustGiving

Fundraising for School

Remember 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>

Parents please be aware

It has come to our notice that some children have reported interruption to certain games and YouTube videos. Apparently, a voice and/or picture of a character called 'Momo' pops up in the middle of a game or video and makes threats to the children.

We do not have any further information at present, but thought you should be aware of these reports!

Please monitor your child's internet use carefully. Online safety advice from the NSPCC may be found [HERE](#).

Easter Sports Courses at Warden Park

Please find below details and booking forms for holiday sports clubs run by Warden Park.

[Football Course - EASTER 2019](#)

[Cricket Course - EASTER 2019](#)

[Rugby Course - EASTER 2019](#)

[Netball Course - EASTER 2019](#)

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Recognition of achievement from local MP



School Diary

Parents' Evening

Thu 28th Feb, 4.00 to 7.00 p.m.

Tue 5th Mar, 3.30 – 5.30 p.m.

Balcombe Bull Run and Cake Sale

17th March 10.30

End of Term

Fri 5th April

Inset Day

Tues 23rd April

Summer Term begins

Weds 24th April

NSPCC Online Safety Training

Thurs 25th April, 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.

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

INSET DAYS - 23 APR 2019 - 3 JUN 2019