



Balcombe Church of England Primary School

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



MARCH NEWSLETTER

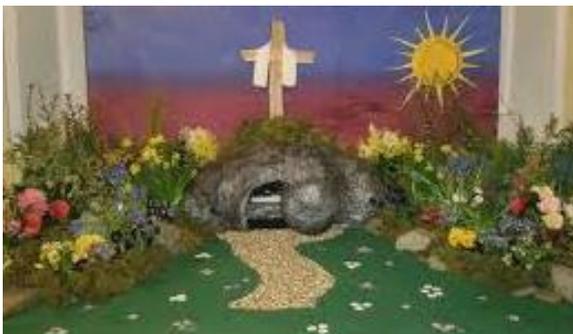
We do have learners with allergies, so please remember - no nuts in school.

From Mrs Millbanks

Dear Parents,

Easter Service

Our school's Easter Service will be held in St. Mary's church on Monday 1st April at 1.45 p.m. Families and friends of Balcombe School children are very welcome to join our Easter celebrations.



As part of our School Improvement Plan this year we have been focussing on improving our children's vocabulary. This is done in a number of ways: playing games; explicitly teaching new words; spelling activities, reading activities and by promoting a wider range of reading material. We encourage all of our children to read every day at home and the expectation is that you will support us in this, knowing that the skill of reading is key.

One of our parents shared these facts with me recently and I thought I would share them with you:

If your child reads for...

1 minute per day, they will read for a total of 6 hrs and 5 mins per year and 42 hrs by the end of yr 6
8,000 words



This child will hear/read 8,000 words per year and is likely to achieve better in standardised tests than 10% of their peers.

5 mins per day, they will read for a total of 30 hrs and 25 mins per year and 212 hrs by the end of y 6

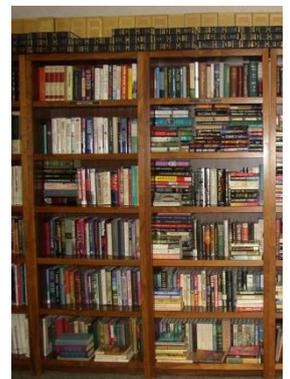
282,000 words



This child will hear/read 282,000 words per year and is likely to score higher than 50% of their peers.

20 minutes per day, they will read for a total of 121 hours and 40 mins per year and 851 hours by the end of year 6.

1,800,000 words



However the child that reads for 20 minutes per day will hear/read 1,800,000 words per year and is likely to score higher than 90% of their peers.

Fire Drill

Last week, we did a fire drill with the children and I'm pleased to say that we managed to get everyone evacuated from the building and accounted for in our fastest ever time of 1 min

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36 secs. All of the children were amazingly quiet, calm and sensible. Well done Balcombe pupils!

Book Exchange

Does your child have a pile of books at home that they have already read?

Do you wish you had the opportunity to exchange them for other titles for free?

How it works

On Monday and Thursday mornings at 8.40 am, a book exchange suitcase will appear on the playground: there will be one full of "quick reads" and another with more challenging texts. The idea is that your child brings a book from home they no longer want and places it in the suitcase. This allows them to choose another book from the suitcase to take away and read. They can keep the book if they like or return it when they have finished with it - it's their choice.

Book criteria

- Children must select the same type of book they donated - this ensures everyone is exchanging fairly. For example, if your child brings a picture book, they must take a picture book away.
- Books must be in new or gently worn condition.
- We are particularly looking for new authors or lesser known books.

Please note: colouring books, sticker books and activity/puzzle books will not be accepted.

The first book exchange morning will be on Monday 1st April (not an April Fool!).

Please start searching for those books that your children no longer read or want and get them ready to swap. Of course they may bring in more than one book if they wish.

Happy book swapping!

Mr Evans

Enrichment Days

The wide range of enrichment activities for children at Balcombe School is continuing, with two pupils recently attending a **Young Writers' Workshop** at Twineham School as part of the NEARS schedule of events.



Both gave an enthusiastic account of the day. "It was really fun! We had to write our own version of a book called *The Pencil*," Anna reported. "At the start of the book the pencil came alive and started to draw, so in my story I wrote that it drew a giant called Thanos," Arlo continued. "The day has helped our imaginations, and at the end we were given the book and some pens to take home." Anna found the day inspiring. "We learned how to be an author in the future."

Children who took part in the Gymnastics Event here at Balcombe have also rated the day.

"I enjoyed the dance routine Mrs Smith taught us, and the balances we chose to do in pairs and groups," Leni said. Evie remembered, "My favourite part was when we all stood in a circle and took turns doing movements like front-walkovers," and Leni finished by saying, "It was a very entertaining and enjoyable morning."

Watch this space for details of future events.



Students

Some of you will be aware that since September we have been hosting two students

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from University of Sussex. Lauren Whedbee has been working in Spring and Rachel Packham has been based in Lake. Both ladies are nearing the end of their teacher training and as such will be leaving us at the end of this term. I would like to thank them for the significant contribution they have made to our school whilst here, and wish them both the very best of luck in what I hope will be a long and happy career in teaching. We will miss them!

Red Nose Day

Congratulations to our children, who didn't just wear red noses on Red Nose Day, but wore red everything! The children paid a pound for the privilege of wearing a red outfit to school and filled giant red noses with loose change. They raised a total of £230.81



PTA News

Over the last few years, the number of PTA members has sadly diminished. Vikki Cripps and Lucy Chettleburgh have co-chaired the committee for two years with a very small number of members. Despite this, the PTA has managed to raise an enormous amount of money for the school. Due to the current lack of appropriate funding from the government, the

PTA funds are no longer used solely for nice-to-have extras for the children, but are often needed to support the provision of key curriculum resources. We have recently purchased new laptops for the children to use and the full £7000 came from the PTA. This purchase simply would not have been possible without their fundraising. Much of the money they raise isn't spent on major projects, but on equally important small things to enable us to continue to provide the high quality of teaching and learning that we are so proud of. Without the PTA, we would not have the POD resourced for learning, the shade sails to provide sun safety, or even the paint to produce the backdrop for our productions – the PTA is not an additional luxury, it's a fundamental part of the school.

From the end of the summer term, neither Vikki nor Lucy are able to continue in their PTA roles (and as you know we are already without a treasurer) and it is unlikely that many of the remaining members will stay on as their children will no longer be at the school. This leaves us with the very definite possibility of not having a PTA at all.

PLEASE consider whether you think you might be able to commit to helping raise such valuable funds to support the children's education. If you think you might have some time to give and would be prepared to help organise even one fundraising event, please speak to any member of the PTA, myself or a member of office staff. Thank you in advance. **BALCOMBE SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!**

Donate with
JustGiving

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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>

Birthday Gifts - reminder

As a healthy school we do not encourage children to bring cake or sweets into school to celebrate their birthdays, although, if you wish to give your child the opportunity to celebrate and mark the occasion with their classmates, a book chosen by the birthday girl or boy and donated to the class or school library would be very much appreciated. Don't forget to write a message in the front to commemorate the occasion.

Spring Show

The Spring Show is at 2 p.m. this Saturday, 30th March, with lots of classes for children. Why not enter one of these?
Under 5s Potato Print Picture
5 – 7 years and 8 – 11 years Edible Birds' Nests with Eggs, or a sock puppet Easter Bunny.



Entry forms are available in the Village Stores, or just bring your handiwork to the Victory Hal between 9.00 and 10.45 a.m. on the day.

Every entry wins a prize!

Easter Courses and Clubs

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](#)

...and SCS



Our school holiday Camps will be running again over the Easter break.

Our programme includes Fencing, Football, Goalkeeper Training and Tag Rugby.

Fencing

Venue: The Tythe Barn, Horsham, RH125JF

Days: Monday 15th April

Time: 10am - 3pm

Price: £20 (LAC and sibling discount available)

Ages: 7-12 years

Contact: steve@southcoastsports.org.uk

Football

Venue: The Tythe Barn, Horsham, RH12 5JF

Days- Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th April and

Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th April

Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Ages: 5-12

Price: £16 per day, £28 for 2 days and £40 for 3 days (LAC and sibling discount available)

Contact: steve@southcoastsports.org.uk

Goalkeeper Training

Venue: The Tythe Barn, Horsham, RH12 5JF

Days: Wednesday 10th April

Time: 9.00am-3.00pm

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Ages: 7-12

Price: £20 (LAC and sibling discount available)

Contact: steve@southcoastsports.org.uk

Tag Rugby

Venue: The Tythe Barn, Horsham, RH125JF

Days: Friday 12th April

Time: 10am - 3pm

Price: £20 (LAC and Sibling discount available)

Ages: 5-12 years

Contact: steve@southcoastsports.org.uk

All South Coast Sports Coaches have completed Child Protection Workshops and hold current Emergency First Aid qualifications, as well as their sports coaching badges and DBS Checks.

Check out our website

www.southcoastsports.org.uk or find us on

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more info!

INSET days next year

INSET days have been scheduled for the following dates next year:

Monday 2nd September, 2019

Monday 11th November, 2019

Monday 6th January, 2020

School Diary

Mon 1st April – 1.45 Easter Service at St Mary's

Fri 5th April - 1.30 PTA Easter Egg Hunt and End of Term

Tues 23rd April - INSET Day

Weds 24th April - Summer Term begins

Thurs 25th April

2.00 – 3.00 p.m. NSPCC Online Safety

Friday 17 May – 7 p.m. PTA Quiz Night

Thurs 23rd May - Class photographs

24th TO 31st MAY - HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Mon 3rd June – INSET Day

W/C Mon 10th June – Cycling Proficiency

Friday 21st June

3.30 – 6 p.m. PTA SUMMER FAIR

Tues 9th July – 7 p.m. Junior Production

Thurs 11th July

10.45 a.m. Leavers' Service at Worth Abbey

7 p.m. Junior Production

Weds 17th July – SPORTS DAY

Mon 22nd July

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

3.15 – 5.15 p.m. Leavers' Party

Tues 23rd 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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