

Baldwins Hill Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Jenny Dabell

Date: 2nd May 2025

Respect, Compassion, Courage, Responsibility



Baldwins Hill Primary
School, Lowdells Lane,
East Grinstead, RH19 2AP

Office:
01342 321572

E-mail:
officebh@partnersinlearning.co.uk



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www.baldwinhillprimaryschool.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to our end of April (early May!) newsletter, The Summer Term is certainly in full swing as the sun is shining, we are now enjoying the school field at playtimes and the Summer trips out have begun! It has been so wonderful to hear how your children have enjoyed their visits out of school, and the beautiful way they have behaved and taken our Core Values with them. We are always so proud of the children when they visit other places - they are an absolute credit to you.

Please read on to hear all about what your children have been up to and what is coming up for them in the next few weeks. In the meantime, have a wonderful bank holiday weekend and we will see you back in school on Tuesday 6th May.

Happy weekend from Miss Dabell and 'Team Baldwins.'

Staffing update:

I can now confirm that Miss Katie Bone and Miss Joanna Rozak have joined the Midday Meals team and are already feeling like they've always been here! Welcome Katie and Jo!

Breakfast Club - deferred until after May half term- staffing still a challenge:

We have received confirmation that we can to defer the Government Breakfast club pilot until after half term **BUT** we are still facing the challenge of finding enough staff to run it every day.

In order for us to have a clearer picture of what the need would be, I will be sending out another survey early next week which I will treat as a 'hypothetical' sign up to the club. This will allow me to assess the need on specific days whilst I continue to work towards staffing the club. **Please note, this is still not a guarantee that the club will definitely be running.** If I am able to secure appropriate staffing levels, I will confirm attendance to parents who have signed up as soon as I can. Similarly, if it becomes apparent that it will not be possible, I will inform parents as soon as possible as I appreciate that you need to make plans for your children. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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Saplings

This half term in Early Years the children will focus on growing. Following our trip, we will also be looking at British wildlife and minibeasts that we might find in a garden. We will be taking care of the plants in our outside area and looking at non-fiction books related to wildlife. This week we will be potting our own sunflower plants, we will be taking care of them and watching to see how they grow.

We will be teaching some new phonics and HRS words so that we can continue to develop our reading and writing skills. In drawing club, we have read some stories that relate to growing such as the "The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle. The children have been writing some amazing sentences!

In Maths, we will be working on patterns in the counting system and developing our understanding of numbers using this. We will also be looking at measures.

Please keep hearing your child read and practising the phonics and HRS words on the homework they bring home on Fridays.



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Willow

Year 1 have been working super hard so far! In phonics, we have looked at alternative graphemes for the 'sh' sound, for example: permission, illusion, mission. We will now begin reviewing and recapping previously taught sounds. Please continue to read as much as possible at home, as well as making use of Phonics Play!

We have now finished Drawing Club and have started Curious Quests. The children learnt about five new characters to join them in our writing lessons, and we found out that someone called Professor Klunk has been keeping all of our drawings from Drawing Club and watching us in Drawing Club! The children thoroughly enjoyed guessing what Professor Klunk looks like, and where he could be hiding in our classroom (lots of guesses for in the ceiling!)

In maths, we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We used our Numicon to support us, as well as counters and counting songs. In mastering number, we have been making "First, Then and Now" stories to support our addition and subtraction.

In PE, we are beginning to practice ahead of our Sports Day with lots of games.

We all had lots of fun at Wakehurst Place! We took part in den making for small creatures, minibeast hunting and a trail around Wakehurst Place. Thank you again to those who supported on the trip, as well as with car lifts. Take a look at some of our photos down below.



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Sycamore

Hope you had a lovely Easter Break! Year 2 have begun the term by exploring our question 'how are we the same as animals?' We have created some habitats for our displays and we are going to be thinking about how animals are adapted to their habitat and why they are suited. We will also be learning about how animals get food from food chains. This links with our exciting trip to Godstone farm at the end of this half term.

In Maths we have finished our learning unit about time, but we will continue to practise our telling the time skills throughout the term. We have progressed to learning about equal groups and division, which we are connecting to our learning about multiplication from earlier in the year. The children are able to make fantastic links and connections with what they have already learnt.

In English we are investigating adverbs and imperative verbs in order to write a set of instructions. We have enjoyed being 'bossy' and telling our reader what to do! We have also been reading lots of different books about animals, some fiction and some non-fiction, and using VIPERS questions to think deeper about the stories and facts.

Year 3 Art Work – displayed in the hall



Maple

In Year 3 we are excited to get stuck into our new topic 'It's a bug's life!' We have begun the term with our stunning start of watching 'A bug's life' which the children really enjoyed. We have also explored the question 'what is similar and different between plants and animals?' so ask your child a similarity or difference between them both!

In maths, we are continuing our topic of unit fractions and understanding the denominator and numerator. We have been looking at equal and unequal parts.

In English, we are starting our new WRITER sequence on bug fact files, we will begin by exploring descriptive language for different types of bugs before we research our chosen bug and then making the fact file using sub-headings. We have also been reading 'James and the giant peach' and the children have been loving this story.

In science, we will be exploring different habitats, life cycles and food chains. We are also looking forward to our trip to Ashdown forest on 7th May where we can explore these things in further detail.

Please remember that our swimming lessons are on a Monday morning and the children need to come to school in their swimming kit underneath their P.E kit.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cedar

To conclude last term's learning inspired by 'From a Railway Carriage', the children enjoyed a local walk to the CooksPond Viaduct. There, they had the opportunity to apply new artistic techniques through observational sketching of the impressive structure. Back at school, the learning continued with a technical drawing activity, giving pupils a deeper understanding of how architectural features like viaducts are carefully designed and constructed.



This term, Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating topic What Happens Inside Us? To kick-start our learning, the children took part in an exciting investigation to discover which exercises raised their heart rates the most. They will be presenting their findings using bar graphs and line graphs, linking science with data handling in maths. Alongside this, the children have been learning about the body's major organs and have enjoyed creating their own models to show where each one is located. Soon, we'll be moving on to explore the digestive system, as well as learning all about the skin, skeleton and muscles.

In reading, Year 4 have been using their VIPERS skills to explore a variety of explanation texts focused on different parts of the human body. The children have been learning how to retrieve key facts, infer meaning, and understand technical vocabulary linked to our topic What Happens Inside Us? We've also begun reading the exciting book *The Fastest Boy in the World*, which will inspire a narrative piece describing a child running to get help. As part of this, the children will be focusing on using a range of grammar features such as expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, and powerful verbs to enhance their writing.

In maths, Year 4 have been reviewing their prior knowledge of fractions, focusing on recognising equal and unequal parts of a whole. This solid foundation is helping them confidently tackle fractions greater than one. I would also like to extend a big thank you to parents and carers for your continued support during half term—particularly in helping children practice their times tables in preparation for the upcoming Multiplication Tables Check. The progress we've seen has been fantastic, and we're so proud of the children's hard work and determination!

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Oak

We've had a great start to the summer term in Year 5 launching into our new topic "Following in Charles Darwin's footsteps". We started the week by going on our own expedition around the school ground to collect specimens of a variety of plants then we discussed how these plants have adapted to survive in their environment just like Charles Darwin did on his famous journey on HMS Beagle.

In writing we have been learning how to write biographies, we have read a range of biographies to get an understanding of the features they include and the children have been researching their choice of inspirational character to write a biography. We have a real range from historical figures, to singers and sports stars. I'm looking forward to seeing the published biographies up on display in a few weeks.

In maths we have been investigating angles and calculating missing angles around a point or on a straight line. This has been a great way of using a range of maths skills in a practical way. Our homework for next week uses this skill so ask your child to show you how it's done.

In science we have been investigating flowering plants that use pollination to reproduce and nonflowering plants that reproduce asexually. We have been thinking about their lifecycles and the advantages and disadvantages of the two types. We are going to go on and think about seed dispersal and the various ways plants do this and then we will be inventing our own plants and writing about their lifecycle.

We have started back with great enthusiasm for learning and the children should be proud of how much they have already achieved. We look forward to showing you our learning after our celebration assembly on 16th May.

Redwood

This term Year 6 have come back into school with enthusiasm and in readiness to celebrate their final term at Baldwins Hill.

The first few weeks we are using as final revision for our SATS which take place soon.

Children may revise at home and rehearse key skills by recapping the homework CGP books. Please ensure children are getting a good night's sleep in the lead up to the SATs and throughout the week. We will also be starting our key text for the half term 'Kensuke's Kingdom.' In this book, a young boy called Michael and his family decide to sail around the world. We are looking forward to reading the rest of the book and the adventure that awaits them. The children have already shown a great interest about Michael's adventure and are learning new vocabulary from the text.

This story inspired us to create and build our own boats and then sail them to see if they would float. It was great fun and amusing watching how everyone's boats withstood the water.

Linked with this key text we are creating an end of term Geography Quiz for Year 5 along with sharing work we will have created about different countries.

We are also preparing the Year 6s for transition to secondary school.

Keep up the great work Year 6 - we are so proud of you all!

Congratulations!

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO ATTENDED OUR
TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR.**

Together we have raised..£444.02
for our school to spend on **FREE BOOKS**

 **TRAVELLING BOOKS**

Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair. We raised an amazing £444.02 which we can put towards lots of lovely new books.



Victory in Europe Day - 8th May 2025

On **Thursday 8th May 2025**, we will be marking a very significant occasion — the **80th anniversary of VE Day** (Victory in Europe Day). This historic day commemorates the end of World War II in Europe in 1945 and honours the bravery and sacrifice of those who served and supported the war effort. To celebrate, our school will be coming together for a day of remembrance, to reflect and show gratitude to all those who served and made sacrifices during World War II.

We would also like to invite the children to come in red, white and blue clothing.

We look forward to seeing the children and taking part in this day.

Dates for your Diary

School Trips	
1 st May	Early Years British Wildlife Centre Trip
7 th May	Year 3 Ashdown Forest Trip
8 th May	Year 5 Deersleap Trip
8 th May	VE Day – more info above
12 th May	SATS Week (see Yr 6 for timetable)
21 st May	Year 2 Godstone Farm Trip
21 st May	Martial Arts workshop day, more info to follow
Other Events	
6 th May	Bank Holiday
22 nd May	Last Day of half term
23 rd May	School INSET Day – School closed to children
2 nd June	First day back
3 rd June	Sports Day
12 th June	Class Photos ALL Years
17 th June	Reserve Sports Day
27 th June	Parents Forum
Class Assemblies	
9 th May	Maple Class Assembly (Year 3)
16 th May	Oak Class Assembly (Year 5)
6 th June	Cedar Class Assembly (Year 4)
13 th June	Redwood Assembly (Year 6)
20 th June	Sycamore Class Assembly (Year 2)
27 th June	Sapling Class Assembly (Early Years)
11 th July	Willow Class Assembly (Year 1)
22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Internet Safety

Protect your child:

www.getsafeonline.org

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Parents: Supporting Young People Online (Leaflets):

<http://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>



Please visit our website for the term dates for 2024/2025 & 2025/2026.

<https://baldwinhillprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Term-Dates-2024-2025.pdf>



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[thestemhub.org.uk /stem-in-the-park](http://thestemhub.org.uk/stem-in-the-park)

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