

Baldwins Hill Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Jenny Dabell

Date 31st March 2025

Respect, Compassion, Courage, Responsibility



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Log on to our
school website

www.baldwinhillprimaryschool.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our March newsletter,

This newsletter is chock full of information so do take some time to make a cuppa and have a good read through! Please note the important dates at the end of the newsletter keeping you informed of key events coming up in the summer term.

Thank you

We had some visitors from the Trust Education Team last Monday and they were speaking to parents on the playground to find out what life was like for our pupils as part of a wider Trust feedback opportunity. Your comments were so overwhelmingly positive - and I have shared this with my team. We are not foolish enough to think that it will all be positive all the time (!) but the comments on the day were so encouraging. Thank you for your supportive feedback, as always.

Midday Meals Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that some of our Midday Meals team have been recruited to opportunities in other schools as we love to 'grow' our own people - but sadly that means we lose them! Miss Dimond moved to pastures-new recently and Miss Medlam will be leaving us at the end of term. We wish them both huge congratulations in their new roles and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mrs Preston - (already a member of the Baldwins Hill family as a parent!) started this term in the Midday Meals team and there will be 2 more new recruits when we return from the Easter holidays. I will properly introduce them when they officially start.

Breakfast Club Update- not quite ready yet!

Following my recent communications, we have continued to find it a huge challenge to get the club up and running, not least due to having no staff to run it - but also without any funds available to us yet. I have been in conversations with the Department for Education as I am not willing to admit defeat just yet!

I have requested that we defer until after the May half term rather than pulling out of the scheme completely. I am awaiting confirmation from them that this has been agreed. I am looking into some staffing options I believe may be a possibility - so I will be in touch again after the Easter holiday.

All that leaves me to say right now is - enjoy the sunshine whilst we have it and have a great week!

Jenny Dabell & Team Baldwins

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Saplings

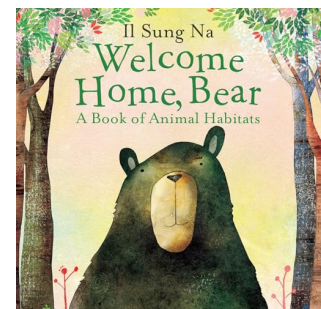
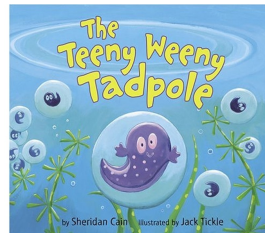
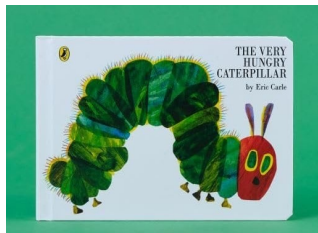
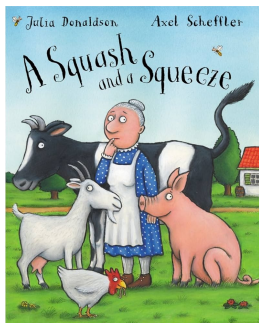
Understanding the world- We have thoroughly enjoyed our all about animals' topic. We have learnt about all different animals great and small, from our tiny caterpillars to tall giraffes. We have learnt about habitats, life cycles and how to look after farm animals and pets. Intertwined in this the children have had some lovely experiences such as watching our class caterpillars grow, meeting a farmer and her chickens, making habitat boxes and seeing some more critters at our critter encounter.

Literacy- We have linked our topic with some wonderful animal themed texts to inspire children to write and draw in drawing club. We have been reading a squash and a squeeze, the very hungry caterpillar, the teeny-weeny tadpole, welcome home bear and many more! In phonics we have continues to recap our phase three sounds and HRS words. We have been singing the ABC song and we have learnt that single sounds all have a letter name as well as a sound.

Maths- This half term we have learnt about odd and even numbers, we have looked for patterns and similarities and differences in these numbers and unpicked their composition by breaking a number into two parts and subiting groups within a number. We have also learnt about doubles and the children have been singing the doubles song non stop since!

Next term- Next term in Early Years the children will be focussing on growing. We will be planting up our outside area and looking at stories related to growing. If any parents have any seeds, soil and planting essentials they are not going to use please think about donating to us for our garden.

We will be teaching some new phonics sounds and HRS words so that we can continue to develop our reading and writing skills. Please keep hearing your children read and practising the phonics and HRS words. In Maths, we will be working on counting and partitioning (looking at the smaller parts that make up the bigger whole number). We will also be looking at 3D shapes and patterns. The children will have the opportunity to explore their own interests and work on their next steps during our 'learning time'!



Willow

Year 1 have been working really hard in Drawing Club this term. We have been looking at texts linked to our topic, Starry Night, and we are currently doing poetry 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'.

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Willow (continued)

In maths, we have been learning about mass and measurement. We learnt how to measure using rulers, what 'cm' stands for, and experimenting with water play and capacity/volume!

In phonics, we have been continuing learning our alternative graphemes, for example: 'g' for giraffe and 'n' for gnome. Please continue to support your children with their reading and phonics at home.

In art, we started our fabulous finish for the term, recreating our own version of Van Gogh's starry night, using pastels, chalk and crayons.



Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying our outdoor learning with Mrs Foster. We have made bug hotels, bookmarks, sensory walks, and more to come!

Finally, in science we have been looking at the seasons and signs of spring. We went on a spring seasonal walk and spotted 'signs of spring' in action.

Sycamore

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about Paul Klee and recreating his artwork. We have used lots of different ways to understand the colours and techniques he used, including watercolours, oil pastels and colouring pencils. The children have worked very hard to create thoughtful and colourful work inspired by his art style. In music we have been learning about beat and tempo and then applying our learning using body percussion and our voices to sing and perform songs. Cats Protection kindly visited the school and delivered an engaging informative talk which the children really enjoyed. Maths - We are focussing on Money in maths, which is extending our knowledge of multiplication which the children worked very hard in. We will be progressing to telling the time and then division after the half term break.



English – We wrote some very funny nonsense poems inspired by the Ning Nang Nong. We have now researched and written about how to take care of an animal, and now we are finishing the term with a short kenning poem about a cat. We have enjoyed exploring different types of poetry this term, particularly listening to how the authors deliver their poems.

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Maple

In Year 3 we have thoroughly enjoyed being artists and musicians this term! We have explored a range of different artists and replicated their work as well as learning the ukulele!

Maths: We have now finished our topic on the 2-, 4- and 8-times tables. The children have explored the different rules to work out if a number is divisible by 2, 4 or 8. We have now moved onto learning column subtraction and exchanging the tens and ones. Please ask your child when we must exchange when we use column subtraction!

English: We finished our WRITERS sequence on our story Jumanji and the children have produced some fantastic stories. Their imagination has shone through in their writing and I have seen improvement across all of their writing! We are now exploring 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and the children are loving the book so far.

Music: The children have loved learning the ukulele every week and singing lots of different songs to the chords that we have learnt.



Art: As a class we have explored different artists and replicated some of their work. They have completed some fantastic cubism portraits which will be displayed in the school. Please check that you have signed the google form for swimming that starts after half term and please let me know if you are able to help with walking to the Kings Centre! We hope that you have a lovely Easter break!

Cedar

In Year 4, the children have been exploring the intriguing topic, What is the view like from a carriage window? In art, they were introduced to two famous Impressionist artists, Augustus Leopold Egg and Camille Pissarro. Using their unique styles and techniques as inspiration, the children worked on creating a one-point perspective sketch of what they imagine the view from a carriage window might look like.



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In music, the children have been busy composing a tune that could be played at a train station, using the xylophone. They are currently in the process of writing their pieces, preparing to perform them for the class. This has been an exciting and creative term, blending visual art and music to bring their imaginative ideas to life!

In English, we have started planning our newspaper article about the railway carriage event. The children began by identifying the key features of a newspaper article and analysing the event to summarise it using the 5 W's (Who, What, Where, When, Why). They are now working on drafting,

The children have been focusing on describing translations of polygons drawn on a square grid and drawing polygons based on specified translations. They have been learning how to explain how shapes move on the grid, including the direction and distance of the translation, as well as how to accurately draw polygons after being given translation instructions.

The children are excited about the upcoming Viaduct trip to wrap up the term.

Oak

As usual we've been super busy in Year 5 growing our skills and knowledge.

In maths we have been investigating decimal numbers and how these relate to fractions and percentages. We have been converting between the different written forms as well as learning common equivalent percentages and decimals such as 50% being 0.5 and 25% being 0.25. We then moved on to look at perimeter and area and how to calculate these for regular and compound shapes. This week we will finish off the term looking at statistics by interpreting and drawing line graphs as well as learning to read information from a range of timetables and data tables.

In English after learning how to perform sections of The Highwayman (along with sound effects and actions!) we have used our writing skills to report on the events of the poem in the form of a newspaper. We are busy drafting them this week and I look forward to seeing the finished published pieces next week.



As it is a music and arts focus this half term we have been listening to and appreciating a piece of music each day, these have been from a range of genre from rock to classic, from electronica to britpop. It has been great to experience such a wide range of music and hear the children's thoughts on the songs.

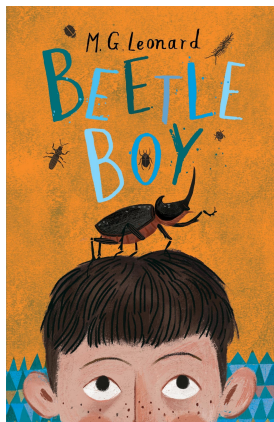
In art we have experimented with line and drawn winter trees in pencil and chalk. We then used a tree outline to fill the background using watercolours but focussing on warm and cool colours to show the contrast. We are moving on to look at tints, shades and tones this week in order to create a class piece as an end of unit outcome.

Redwood

Year 6 have enjoyed reading 'Beetle Boy' and have completed a daily reading comprehension we are now starting to focus on writing using speech marks which includes dialogue to move the action on. The children enjoyed writing a fight scene between two main characters. Our focus this half term has been Art and Music and we have developed our painting skills with Aboriginal Art and we are now focussing on drawing insects and painting them. We have been using African drums to create our own class composition. The children have really enjoyed the Art and Music focus this half term.

Maths: We have investigated ratio and proportion and used these skills to solve word problems. We are also carrying out regular arithmetic to keep our maths skills sharp!

Science: We have researched the evolution of some animals in the wild and looked at how they have adapted to their habitats. We have also looked at plant adaptation before moving onto learning about Darwin's Finches.



SATS Boosters have been really successful with excellent participation by all children who have attended. The discussions have been useful and the children's application of reading, grammar and mathematical skills has certainly continued into their class work.

As you know, SATS tests take place when we return from our Easter break - the dates are Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May. When we return from the Easter break, we will be immersed in revision. Plenty of previous SATS papers can be found online together with the mark sheets. A great book to support is all SATS like a ninja- key facts and revision tips.

The timetable for the week is as follows:

Monday 12th May - Grammar and spelling paper

Tuesday 13th May - Reading Comprehension

Wednesday 14th May - Arithmetic 1 and Reasoning 2

Thursday 15th May - Reasoning 3

The children will have revision homework to complete over Easter which is given in short 10 minutes bursts a day.

Have a lovely relaxing break!

On Wednesday afternoon, 7 schools went to a dance festival at Sackville Secondary School. We had been practising for 10 weeks and our friends and family were invited to support us on the big stage after lots of rehearsing! We are so pleased that we were given this amazing opportunity and we would do it again in a heartbeat!

Dance Group: Maia, Cleo, Sophie, Essie, Lisa, Alice, Henry, Lottie, Erin, Leah & Mrs Osborne!



Early Years and Year 6 had the opportunity to meet a number of critters today. Thank you to the PTA for their funding this for Year 6.



Mid Sussex Play Days

Play Days



Please register below to receive information about our free events.

Play Days @ Easter - Spring into Action

Thursday 10th April 1 - 3 pm @ St John's Park, Burgess Hill RH15 9AA ▾

Tuesday 15th April 1 - 3 pm @ Victoria Park, Haywards Heath RH16 4LR ▾

Wednesday 16th April 1 - 3 pm @ East Court, East Grinstead RH19 3LT ▾

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/leisure-sport/whats-on-in-mid-sussex/mid-sussex-play-days/>

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Registered office: Hatchlands Primary School, Hatchlands Road, Redhill, RH1 6AT

Dates for your Diary

School Trips	
3 rd April	Year 4 Viaduct Trip
28 th April	Year 3 Swimming 1 st session
30 th April	Year 1 Wakehurst Place
1 st May	Early Years British Wildlife Centre Trip
7 th May	Year 3 Ashdown Forest Trip
8 th May	Year 5 Deersleap
8 th May	VE Day – more info to follow
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	
4 th April	Last day of term
21 st April	Easter Monday
22 nd April	First day of Summer Term
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>

NEW



FREE

PARENTING MENTAL HEALTH COURSE

A 5 WEEK COURSE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AROUND SUPPORTING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH, OFFERING A SAFE SPACE TO REFLECT AND FIND PEER SUPPORT.

TOPICS INCLUDE SELF-ESTEEM, ANXIETY & EMOTIONS, COMMUNICATION AND MORE!

WORTHING - 24TH APRIL - 5TH JUNE (WEEKLY)

10AM-12NOON
8 -10 DURRINGTON LN, WORTHING BN13 2QG

CRAWLEY - 19TH JUNE - 17TH JULY (WEEKLY)

12:30-14:30
BEWBUSH CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTRE, DORSTEN SQUARE, CRAWLEY RH11 8XW

BOGNOR REGIS - 18TH SEP - 16TH OCT (WEEKLY)

10AM-12NOON
ARUN WEST FAMILY HUB,
LABURNUM GROVE, BOGNOR REGIS PO22 9HT

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!



TO SECURE YOUR PLACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL:
PARENTINGSUPPORT@WESTSUSSEXMIND.ORG

PIONEER CHILDCARE
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Easter Holiday 2025
Halsford Park Holiday Camp
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FREE HAF Places Available
Book online at <https://bit.ly/free-haf-pioneer>
Free for children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals

AFRICAN SAFARI
EUROPEAN EXPEDITION
POLAR EXPRESS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ADVENTURE CLUB AT BLACKLAND FARM OUTDOOR CENTRE

SPRING
TUES 18TH FEB - THURS 20TH FEB
INCLUDES CLIMBING, ABSEILING, ARCHERY



TUES 8TH APRIL - FRI 11TH APRIL
INCLUDES ZIP WIRES, HIGH ROPES, BUSHCRAFT
EASTER

MORE INFO: WWW.BLACKLANDFARM.ORG/ADVENTURE-CLUB



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