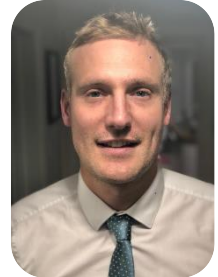




NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

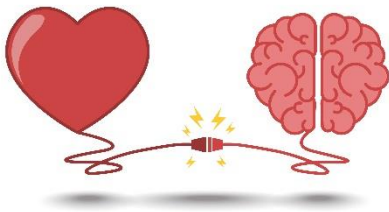
The two factors that have played a key role in establishing our approach to homework are what research tells us about homework and the pupil voice within the school. Research has allowed us to establish what the evidence suggests is the most effective and impactful approach, and we have given the children ownership of what they feel would be the most valuable homework experience.



Simon Davies,
Head teacher

A review of the existing literature on homework in Primary Schools reveals that it is largely ineffective in enhancing children's learning, unless homework is specific to the child and their learning in school. It should also promote choice, creativity and challenge.

Through our Pupil Learning MPs (a committee from our Pupil Parliament) and regular pupil voice carried out across the school, the children have been engaged and having their say in their learning experience. Fundamentally we don't want homework to be a chore but a valuable learning experience. We aim to develop a love of learning and for children to value the tasks set for homework.



There is no doubt that there is a place for the consolidation of the knowledge and skills learnt in lessons. Teachers will be providing this through activities and challenges on some of the websites that we have bought into, for example Spelling Shed, Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars and White Rose Maths.

Alongside the consolidation of key skills and knowledge, we want homework to enhance the children's learning skills, to develop research and interpretation skills, to promote higher level thinking tasks and independence, to provide an experience for them to achieve and to allow for creativity.

There may be a slight difference in homework depending on the year group, but children will generally have a choice board of learning tasks, challenges

and experiences to undertake, with the expectation that they complete one of these a week. The choice board will be primarily literacy focused, encouraging children to be creative in their writing, utilising the key skills and knowledge learnt in lessons.

If I had to pick one assignment that everyone carried out each week it would be reading – and as much reading as possible, with texts that challenge and promote discussion. Class teachers will also provide or signpost you to targeted reading books to aid with reading as part of the weekly homework.

On our new website you will also find information on year group pages that show the topic web for the half term in addition to what year groups are learning each week. Under 'Curriculum' you will be able to view the knowledge and skills journey for each of the subject areas.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



[Can be found on our website.](#)

TERM DATES FOR 2020/21

Autumn Term 1: 4/9/20 – 23/10/20 **Autumn Term 2:** 2/11/20 – 18/12/20

➤ Half term: 26 Oct – 30 Oct

➤ Winter Holidays: 21 Dec – 1 Jan

INSET days 20/21: ~~3 Sep, 4 Sep~~, 2 Nov, 4 Jan, 7 June

GOVERNORS

If you wish to contact the school governors for any reason, their email address is: balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk



FAB UPDATE

NEW CHAIR

Welcome back! It's been a while... We hope everyone has enjoyed the return to school. It really is good to be back.

As we enter a new school year, the main news from FAB is that our Chair, Amanda Flint, and Vice-Chair, Ben Goode, stepped down from their roles at this week's AGM.

We would like to welcome Dirk Fairclough as our new Chair and wish him all the best. The position of Vice-Chair is still vacant – so if you would be interested in easing yourself into FAB then this may be a role to consider!?

Now would be an ideal time to get involved, as many of our usual events may not be possible this year and so getting to grips with the roles should be pretty straightforward. Amanda and Ben will be around for the whole school year to help you learn the ropes.

If you're interested in the Vice-Chair position, please drop us a line at info@friendsatbalfour.org.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Given the Covid restrictions, our fundraising activity is likely to be limited this term and all events are cancelled unless they can be held virtually.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Children's Christmas card designs should have been received via bookbags this week and all orders need to be placed by Friday 16th October.

VIRTUAL QUIZ

We're also hoping to run a Virtual Quiz Night after half term – watch this space!

TREASURE HUNT...

... and we have ideas for a Half term Treasure Hunt – watch this space!!

Please keep an eye on www.friendsatbalfour.org for more information about what we plan to do, and when.

DONATIONS

In the absence of the usual fundraising events, you can still donate money to help us enhance the educational experience of every child at the school. Please go to <https://chuffed.org/project/fab-fundraiser>.

Also, we're still raising money for the play structure we were hoping to buy during the summer. If you'd like to contribute to this fund, please go to <https://chuffed.org/project/outdoor-playgroup-equipment-for-balfour-primary-school>.

And lastly, if you'd like to contribute towards the school's Black Lives Matter resources, you can do so at <https://chuffed.org/project/black-lives-matter-resources>.

100 CLUB

The Balfour 100 Club is open to all Balfour parents, carers and staff and costs just £5 per number per month. You need to sign up for at least a year.

Half the monthly takings are given out in prize money; the other half is used for the benefit of the children at school.

Join anytime to help the school raise much-needed funds. To sign up, or for more information, please email mfab100club@gmail.com.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 16th October – Christmas Card order deadline
- Tuesday 10th November – Committee Meeting

GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to be added to our committee email list, drop us a line at info@friendsatbalfour.org. You'll be kept informed of committee meetings, and contacted if we need a little help from time to time.

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us for the latest information on our events and meetings:

 Website: <http://friendsatbalfour.org/>

 Facebook: [Friends at Balfour](#)

 Twitter: [@FABatBwalfour](#)

We also have private Facebook Group pages for each year group.

Here you'll find information from external organisations, including afterschool clubs who hire our premises. Please note for any of these organisations we are **not** affiliated **nor** are we endorsing them – we are simply passing on information you may or may not find useful.



October Half-Term Camps

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Bookings are now available for our upcoming [Half-Term Camps](#).

- **Half-Term Camps** run from Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020 and are located at schools across Brighton, Burgess Hill & Haywards Heath.

Much like schools, our childcare is safely operating in bubbles, but consequently, this limits the number of spaces available. This means we are no longer able to guarantee spaces. So, if you think you may need to use childcare in the holidays, we urge you to think about this sooner rather than later.

[Bookings are now open, all you need do is click here to book and guarantee your sessions.](#)

Thank you and kind regards,

The Team at Class Of Their Own

01444 411 388

www.pioneerchildcare.co.uk