

Balfour Primary News

Respectful • Courageous • Friendly • Ambitious • Caring • Enthusiastic

30th March 2021



NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been fantastic to have all the children returning to school and teachers are currently working hard to establish where every child is with their learning. To ensure that no one is left behind and any knowledge gaps are filled we are assessing every child in Maths and English prior to the Easter break, and subsequently adapting the learning moving forward as necessary. We have been working closely with the Local Authority and other partnership schools to establish the essential knowledge and skills children require in preparation for their next academic year. We recognise that transition this year will be even more important.



Simon Davies,
Head teacher

We do not underestimate the huge strain this year has had on families and we continue to focus on mental health and wellbeing in lessons, utilising our excellent pastoral team of learning mentors and teaching assistants to provide any additional individualised support where required.

We continue to take big strides forward with our school improvement plan and I am immensely proud of the resilience and dedication staff have shown throughout the ever-changing education landscape.

Last week we received the final report from the most recent Ofsted monitoring visit. This can be found on our website using the following link, and below is a letter from our Chair of Governors, Shelley Baker.

[Balfour Primary School - Ofsted Reports](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

TERM DATES FOR 2020/21

Spring Term 2: 22/02/21 – 01/04/21 **Summer Term 1:** 19/04/21 – 28/05/21

➤ Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May

➤ Half term: 31 May – 4 Jun

INSET days 20/21: 7 June

GOVERNORS

Dear Balfour Families

The Governors would like to formally thank and congratulate Simon and his team for the recent Ofsted report which is now on the Ofsted website to view. We are delighted that Ofsted have recognised the strengthened leadership in the school and the rapid improvements taking place. Governors continue to support and challenge the school in all areas of the school improvement plan so that all children receive the best experiences in school and this report is part of the evidence we will use to signal that we are clearly heading quickly in the right direction.

However, we are not complacent, and we highlighted to Ofsted the areas in which we are continuing to focus on. Now all children and staff are back in school we can continue to support Simon as he forges ahead. Despite the challenging times we are in, the school, under Simon's leadership, has demonstrated it has the capacity to be the outstanding school we strive to be, and we thank him for his tireless commitment and drive for improvement. We await the next Ofsted inspection, which will be a Section 5 inspection where we would expect our current rating of 'requiring improvement' to change.

Thank you to all families and the community who have continued to support the school through remote learning and closures and to families who responded to the questions posed by Ofsted. We recognise the importance of your voice and we will continue to work with you over the coming years on this exciting journey of improvement.

Warm regards, Shelley Baker, Chair of Governors

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is Pupil Premium?

We are often asked what Pupil Premium is and how we use our funding to help specific children.

Pupil Premium is extra money we get from the Government to support specific children:

- currently in receipt of [means-tested Free School Meals](#)
- previously on means-tested Free School Meals but no longer eligible
- adopted or currently in care
- parents in the military

What support do we provide these children?



It depends on each child's needs! Sometimes it's money for extra-curricular activities or school uniform. We also support children with a range of interventions, counselling, and check-ins with our Learning Mentors. You can see how our funding is spent by reading our [Pupil Premium Strategy on our website](#).

If a family is in need, they can contact me to ask for funding/support.

Anything else?

YES! For children currently in receipt of Pupil Premium Free School Meals, they also get **£30** to use for trips, activities, etc. each term.



I think my child may be eligible for Free School Meals. How do I apply?



It's super quick and easy. Just visit:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/free-school-meals>

Who can I talk to in the school about this?

Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like to find out more.

Sandra Mulholland

Deputy Headteacher

sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk



BALFOUR RECYCLES!



Since starting the textile recycling, we have collected 1,268 kilos of textiles - both diverting from landfill and helping the school earn extra funds (£140)! Amazing!

FAB UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome back to you all!

The start of 2021 has brought some optimism to our lives, and the return to school for the majority of the children is a huge step towards normality.

Despite the constraints of the last 12 months, we've managed to raise a considerable amount of money with your generosity and support. Thank you very much to everyone who's donated and helped out.

As a result, I'm delighted to say that work should begin on the KS1 new playground equipment in the coming weeks. Raising money to help make this happen has been an ambition for FAB for some time, so we're excited to see it come to fruition.



Looking forward, we hope to be able to hold some great fundraising activities during the summer term as lockdown measures ease (see dates below).

In the meantime, may I wish everyone a Happy Easter. Stay safe until we see each other after the break.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

TENTATIVE SUMMER TERM DATES

Restrictions permitting, our main summer term events will be:

- Easter Balloon Race - Sunday, 4th April
- Summer Fair - Saturday 3rd July (TBC)
- Circus - Tuesday 20th July (TBC)

We'll provide more details as plans firm up after the Easter break.

VIRTUAL BALLOON RACES



The Virtual Balloon Races we've entered have raised almost £500 for the school – a massive 'thank you' to everyone who's taken part!

So we're joining another one – this time on **Easter Sunday (April 4th)**.

To buy a balloon, please go to: <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/1370>. Or see the Balloon Races page on our website: <http://friendsatbalfour.org/balloonraces/>

Each balloon costs £3, with £2.34 going directly to FAB. There's a £10 Wigwam voucher for the Balfour winner of the race.

RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP

There are two REALLY easy ways to raise money for the school while doing your Christmas shopping:

1. Easyfundraising

Join for free at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsatbalfour/

Then when you shop online, go to easyfundraising.org.uk, find the retailer you want, click through and shop in the normal way. The retailer will automatically make a donation to your cause when you check out.

There's a Donation Reminder you can download so you don't forget. That's all there is to it. There are no catches or hidden charges to you or the school. Just more money to help enhance the children's education.

2. AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. But Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of all eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice.

Just make AmazonSmile your default for your Amazon purchases – go to: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

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>.

We are still looking to raise funds to help replace some of the much loved playground equipment that has been lost to wear and tear over time. For more information, or to make a donation please go to;

<https://chuffed.org/project/outdoor-playgroup-equipment-for-balfour-primary-school>.

HELPING TO FUND SCIENCE WEEK



Huge thanks to IBM for generously donating £500 to the Science Week Workshops! We were also able to contribute the profits made from the Quiz Night – our thanks to all of those involved.

100 CLUB

Our 100 Club winners for March were:

- 1st prize (£65) Louise P
- 2nd prize (£39) Beth R
- 3rd prize (26) Heidi B



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 fab100club@gmail.com.

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: [@FABatBalfour](#)

We also have private Facebook Group pages for each year group

Level 1 & Level 2

CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park
and Hove Park



Week 1

Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 April
10am – 12.30pm each day
1.15pm – 3.45pm each day

Week 2

Monday 12 to Thursday 15
April
10am – 12.30pm each day
1.15pm – 3.45pm each day

Level 1 is where you
will learn to control
your bike.

Level 2 is where you
start with real traffic, but
sticking to quiet roads.

Places are limited and on a
first-come first-served basis.

Levels 1 & 2 together is £30
per person.

To book your place, please
visit www.sports.brighton-hove.gov.uk/events

Ages 9 – 14



Level 3

CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park
and Hove Park



Week 1

**Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8
April**

1.15pm – 3.15pm each day

Week 2

**Monday 12 to Wednesday
14 April**

1.15pm – 3.15pm each day

Ages 11 – 14

Level 3 is where you learn to cycle safely on busy roads within the city.

Training includes roundabouts, traffic lights and filtering. You must have completed Levels 1 and 2.

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.

Level 3 training costs £25 per person.

To book your place, please visit www.sports.brighton-hove.gov.uk/events



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**



Balfour Primary After-School Cricket



Balfour After-School Cricket Club. YRS 4-6.
Summer Term, Tuesdays from April 20th.
End of school- 4.45pm

A brand new cricket club centred around games-based learning with the emphasis on FUN! We take an ecological approach to coaching that encourages children to be creative, expressive and to problem-solve. ECB qualified Level2 coach and All-Stars Activator with vast experience of coaching at Primary level. Enhanced DBS. First-Aid Qualified.

Please text message Dom Ashton for info
07894 332 867



Easter Holiday Camp

Tuesday 6th April – Friday 16th April

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce that we will be open for Holiday Camp this Easter:

Book now to secure your spaces

Parents can book with confidence, with our full refund guarantee:

- The latest DfE guidance states that we are permitted to operate for Easter Camp.
- However, should this situation change (and the DfE subsequently tells us that we are not allowed to operate) **full refunds will be provided for all bookings made.**
- If we are able to open as usual, any cancellations made by customers will be subject normal terms and conditions.

At Easter we will continue to operate with children looked after safely in bubbles, which limits the number of spaces available. We are also expecting high demand, given that we ran our busiest ever set of Summer Camps immediately following the previous lockdown.

If you think you may need childcare this Easter, we strongly encourage you to secure spaces as soon as you can at one of the 5 venues we will be running:

- [Balfour Primary School, Brighton](#)
- [Glebe Primary School, Southwick](#)
- [Harlands Primary Academy, Haywards Heath](#)
- [Manor Field Primary School, Burgess Hill](#)
- [Stanford Junior School, Hove](#)

We hope to see you there.

Kind regards,

The Team at Pioneer Childcare

Please contact our office with any queries:

Haywards Heath: 01444 411388 | Hove: 01273 733 337

www.pioneerchildcare.co.uk | enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk

Pioneer Childcare Limited

2 Delaware Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3UX. Registered in England & Wales, Company Number: 8139506

B.A. BALLET ACADEMY

KS2 (YEAR 3-6)

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS IN • dance • movement • creativity • rhythm • technique • stamina • co-ordination • strength • fitness • flexibility • confidence •

DATES

Friday 23rd April — 28th May
3:30pm-4:30pm

* Child care will be covered by B.A. Academy between 3:00 – 3:30pm to account for staggered class release times

PRICE

ONLY £45 FOR 6 SESSIONS

WHAT TO BRING

P.E. kit, water bottle, snacks

LIMITED SPACES

Don't miss out! Book ASAP online at our website to secure your child's place:

<https://bookings.bh-academy.co.uk/events/balfour-ballet-friday-ks2/>

QUESTIONS?

Don't hesitate to get in touch at enquiries@bh-academy.co.uk.



BALLET TEACHER

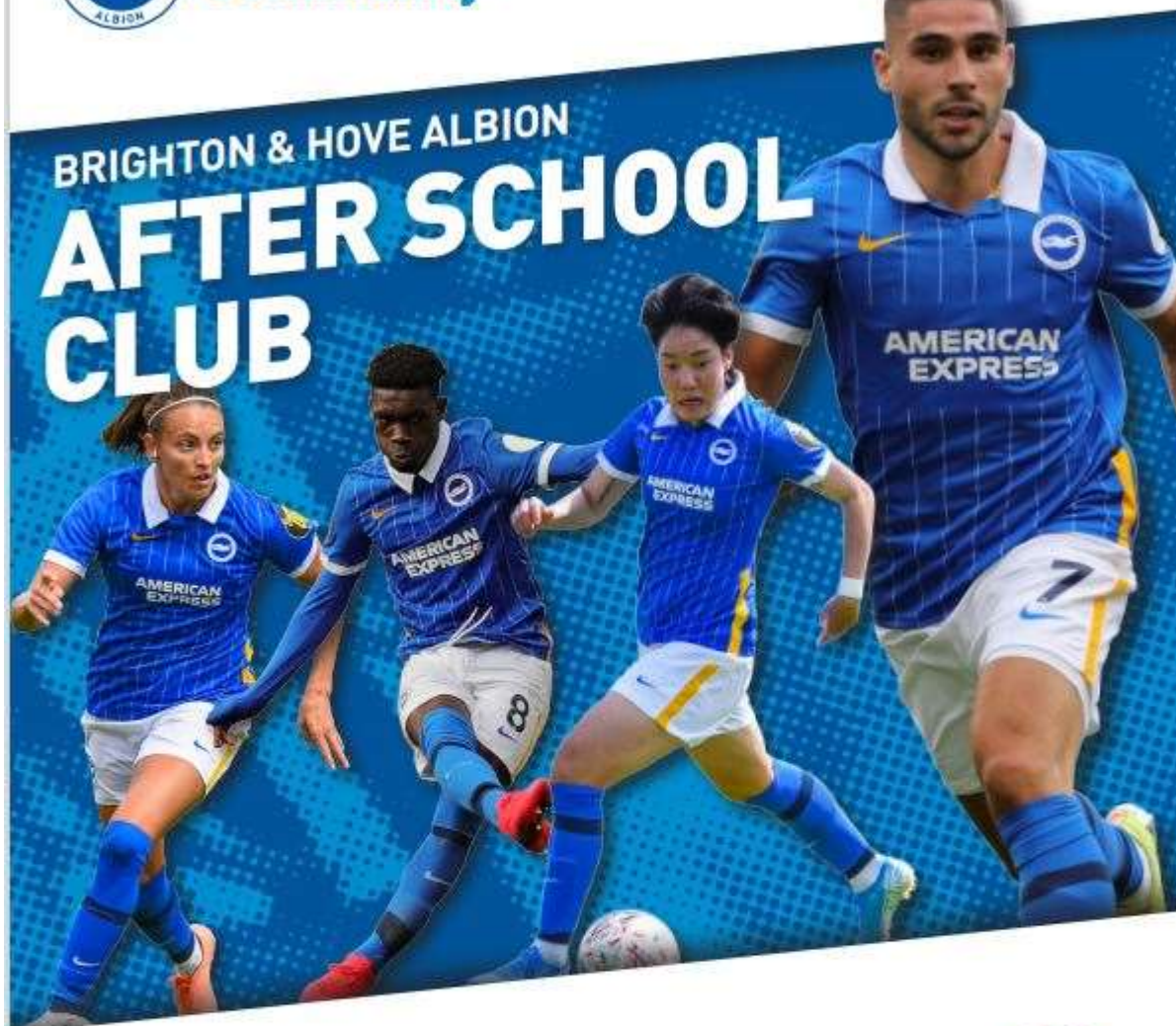
Growing up in Brighton, Maria began training in Cecchetti classical ballet at the Beacon Arts. She competed and participated in many Contemporary dance youth groups including Penny and Jules youth. After college she went on to further her training at NSCD in Leeds for a foundation year before completing her degree in Contemporary Dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. Whilst studying she worked with choreographers including Alison Curtis - Jones and Zoi Dimitriou. Maria bases her classes on the fundamentals of Ballet and Contemporary whilst giving the space for her students to be expressive and explorative.

OUR TEACHERS PROVIDE HIGH ENERGY, FUN CLASSES AND ARE ALL:

- **DBS checked**
- **Safeguarding trained**
- **First aid trained**



**Albion in the
Community**



Balfour Primary School

Wednesdays from 21 April - 21 July (excluding 2 June)
3.15- 4.15pm, £65 for 13 weeks

**Year
1**

BOOK ONLINE NOW
albioninthecommunity.org.uk

Email: soccerschools@albioninthecommunity.org.uk for more information.

Brighton & Hove Albion After School Clubs delivered by Albion in the Community.
American Express Community Stadium, Village Way, Brighton BN1 19L, Tel: 01273 816245
Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No. 5122343). Registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1110978).

To book Year 1

<https://bookings.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&clientCode=ASC-BPS-11>



**Albion in the
Community**



Balfour Primary School

Wednesdays from 21 April - 21 July (excluding 2 June)
3.25- 4.25pm, £65 for 13 weeks

**Year
2**

BOOK ONLINE NOW
albioninthecommunity.org.uk

Email: soccerschools@albioninthecommunity.org.uk for more information.

Brighton & Hove Albion After School Clubs delivered by Albion in the Community.
American Express Community Stadium, Village Way, Brighton BN1 196, Tel: 01273 896665
Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No. 5132363). Registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1110978).

To book Year 2

<https://bookings.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&clientCode=ASC-BPS-12>



Balfour Eco Club The Wild Things



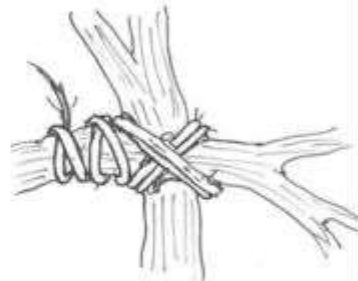
What

The Wild Things is a school club designed to encourage and excite children in all things related to the environment. Activities will include:

- sowing, planting, growing and nurturing wildflowers, vegetables and fruit for us and the local wildlife to share.
- designing and building new wildlife habitats around our school
- learning woodland and bushcraft skills including whittling, making charcoal pencils and lighting fires.

When

Wednesday 3:30-4:45, starting Wednesday 21st April
£5:00 per session



Who

Year 5 and 6

[Due to Covid restrictions, the club will open to only two year groups with limited numbers and with children staying in their own year group bubbles initially. As the situation eases it is hoped that we will be able to increase numbers and have all year groups involved]

Where

Outside in KS2 gardens (but we will be active in all the outside areas around the school in both KS 1 & 2).

Contact

Please contact Alex at Alexandrawitt@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Led by an experienced and qualified member of the Balfour staff with current DBS and First Aid status. Additional qualifications include HCC Landscape design, RHS Level 3 Horticulture, Permaculture Design, Woodland Craft, Horticultural Therapy, 'Teaching horticulture to SEND children' THRIVE, 'Delivering Learning in Landscapes' LTOL.

Alexandra Witt, Eco Co-ordinator, Balfour Primary School



A big thank you to Clarks for donating a voucher for our Summer Fair!

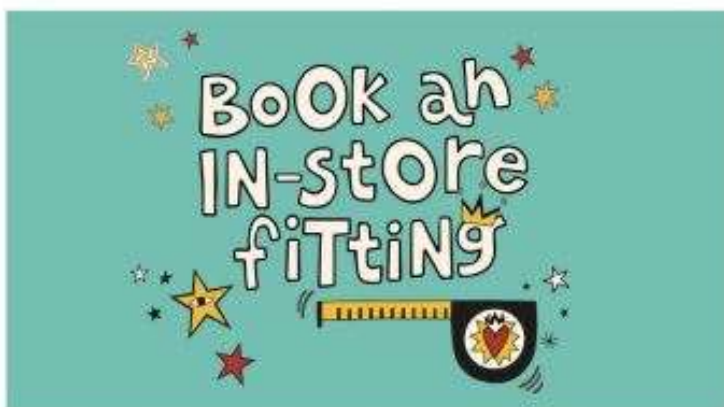


WHY NOT BOOK A SLOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERT FITTING ADVICE?



From their very first crawling shoes to robust and stylish school shoes or shoes for those big weekend adventures, our kids in-store fitting experts will help you find the perfect fit for their growing feet. Plus, we have a personal shopping and fitting service for adults, too.

With hundreds of Clarks stores to choose from, skip the queues and book a 15-minute measure and fit appointment at a time that suits you.



Clarks combine almost 200 years of expert shoemaking with everything they know about caring for growing feet to provide unbeatable all-day comfort. Their shoes pass up to 60 tough tests, from flexing leather 500,000 times to pulling laces to destruction. The result?

The best shoes ever, keeping little feet happy all day long.

To book your in-store fitting appointment visit www.clarks.co.uk or contact your local store

IN-STORE FITTING

Avoid the queues and book your in-store measure and fit appointment online now at www.clarks.co.uk

Choose Clarks Derby Intu and a time slot that suits you.

Plus, take along your child's most recent pair of Clarks shoes, and they'll check if they're still a good fit.

QUIET IN STORE FITTING?

Shoe shopping can be overwhelming for some children. If you think a shopping experience without crowds, noise and bright lights would be better, then book a Quiet Time appointment.

To do this, contact Brighton on 01273 328938

Or call the Customer Care team on 01458 899053

Opening hours, Monday to Saturday 9.00am-6.00pm, Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm

Clarks

