



NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As you will be aware, we had an Ofsted section 8 monitoring visit on 15th June. A section 8 inspection does not change the grading of a school but evaluates whether leaders are taking effective action to address the areas of improvement from the previous section 5 inspection, which for Balfour was in February 2020.



Simon Davies,
Head teacher

The lead inspector commented that they are aware that leaders and all staff are working in highly unusual and challenging times and despite this, they can see very clear evidence of the work the leaders have undertaken to address the area for improvement and the progress that is subsequently being made.

The lead inspector stated they make a single judgement as to whether leaders are taking effective action in order to become a 'good' school. Although I cannot share too much information prior to the report being published, it was a positive day.

In the feedback meeting at the end of the day on Tuesday, the lead inspector discussed what they had seen during the inspection in relation to each of the areas of improvement from the previous inspection. I have summarised these below.

Curriculum:

There is a clear curriculum for each subject and the sequencing of these had been carefully considered. The curriculum provided a solid base to build pupil knowledge over time and careful consideration had been made as to how the impact of the curriculum is monitored. Due to the lockdowns and the length of time that pupils have spent in school during this time, it is not yet possible to evaluate how well the intended curriculum for each subject is implemented in the classroom.

SEND:

There has been a culture shift seen in terms of how staff view and teach pupils with SEND, and there have been significant improvements in teachers understanding how to best meet the needs of SEND pupils in the classroom. This continues to be a focus to ensure that this is consistent in all aspects of school life.

Reading and phonics curriculum:

The reading curriculum has been significantly strengthened. There was a clear focus on the love of reading and book selection was ambitious and across a range of different genres, incorporating diversity. Consideration had been given as to how pupils were being supported with the reading.

The impact of our phonics curriculum can be seen through the excellent results in our KS1 phonics screening assessments. With a new statutory requirement for schools to implement one of the Department for Education's validated systematic synthetic phonics programmes from 2022, in collaboration with other schools in the local authority, the school will be looking at the most suitable scheme for its pupils.

Culture:

Coaching approaches have been developed to help build teacher expertise and there is a culture of professional growth.

We are not complacent and recognise there will always be areas to improve further, but we can be confident that we are moving very quickly in the right direction. Parents/carers are an integral part of this improvement and I will be looking at more ways to involve and collaborate with you on our improvement journey. I always welcome feedback and urge you to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss or feel that I have not yet considered within the school.

Thank you for all of your continued support and I very much look forward to seeing more of you in person as we progress along the final stages of the government's roadmap to recovery.

Simon Davies, Head Teacher.

FORMER PUPIL SELECTED TO REPRESENT GREAT BRITAIN AT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS!

This week is National School Sports Week and we are proud to announce some exciting news about one of our former pupils, Emily Austin. Last week, Emily represented Great Britain in the senior rhythmic gymnastics team at the European Championships in Bulgaria! This was the team's first major international competition as a senior team and the biggest rhythmic competition British Gymnastics have sent a team to since the London 2012 Olympics. Next step will be qualifying for the World Championships in Japan!



We were hoping the girls would be able to come into school and chat with the children but sadly, due to Covid, this will not be possible. Instead, the girls have filmed an online P.E. lesson for all our pupils. There will also be an opportunity for one lucky child, picked at random from one of the primary schools who are supporting the team, to win a GBR raincoat like the ones worn by the GBR team!

The team is almost entirely self-funded so we would like to show our support by encouraging the pupils to take part in the P.E. lesson during school time and, if you would like to, bring cash to put in the bucket on the day or donate at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/istar-gb-group

You can also leave messages of support; remember to include our school's name in your comments so the girls can see your support and thank you.

We are hugely proud to have a personal connection with the GBR team and wish them all the best as they prepare for the World Championships in Japan.

BALFOUR STUDENTS TO REPRESENT BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCHOOLS DISTRICT U11'S

Mr Evans has put forward girls from Balfour to represent Brighton & Hove Schools District U11's. Isla Guilford, Ruby Woodham and Isla Brenchley have been chosen to play and attend training each week. They played teams across Kent & Sussex. A special mention to Isla Guilford who was picked for every match, showing that she is one of the top players across B&H!



The girls all attend Galaxy and play for Hollingbury Hawks U11's.

A special thank you to Mr Evans, without whom the girls most definitely would not be playing football!

All the girls joined Galaxy when Mr Evans set up Galaxy Girls.

ROAD SAFETY

We've had a member of the community ask that we remind our families to not park on the zigzag lines, double yellow lines, on the pavement or across neighbours' driveways. They're all there for a good reason – predominately to ensure line of sight to keep the children safe. We'd love to see more of our families getting to school via people-power (walk, scoot, ride bikes) but barring that please leave a couple minute earlier so you have time to park up safely and legally. And huge thanks to the vast majority of families who already do this!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

➔ [Can be found on our website.](#)

TERM DATES FOR 2021/2022

Summer Term 2: 08/06/21 – 23/07/2021

➤ Summer Holidays 26 Jul – 1 Sept

Autumn Term 1: 06/9/21 – 22/10/21 **Autumn Term 2:** 2/11/21 – 17/12/21

➤ Half term: 25 Oct – 29 Oct

➤ Winter Holidays: 20 Dec – 3 Jan

INSET days 21/22: 2 Sept, 3 Sept, 1 Nov, 4 Jan, 6 June

GOVERNORS

Dear Balfour Families,

Balfour Governors are looking forward to visiting school next week, for a week of monitoring. Governors will be meeting with staff and looking at the development of areas that are a focus on the School Development Plan. As a team, we are very excited to see all the hard work Simon and the staff have been working on since we were last in school. Although our monitoring has been virtual, we have seen how diligently everyone at Balfour has continued to drive forward changes and we are eager to see these in action.



Warm regards,

Claire Cornthwaite
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

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



During the diversity parent form, parents raised that they don't always know what we're doing in school to diversify and decolonise our curriculum. So we'll now feature in our newsletter what each year group has been up to!

Reception - We have been enjoying our new topic of 'Around the World'. So far, we have learned about England and USA, and this week, we are learning about Kenya. We have been learning about similarities and differences between these countries in terms of food, clothing, housing and buildings.

Year 1 - We have been learning about different types of trees (deciduous and evergreen) and the children have learnt about the first American female botanist, Jane Colden. She was a botanist in the 1700s and is most famous for her untitled manuscript, housed in the British Museum, in which she describes the flora of the New York state including ink drawings of 340 different species.

Year 2 - We have been reading and performing poetry by Caribbean authors such as Grace Nichols and John Agard. We learned that Grace Nicholls lives nearby in Lewes. We have also been learning about the Windrush generation and had an assembly to mark Windrush Day. We have begun thinking about why so many Jamaican nurses came here to work in the UK in our history unit, Nurturing Nurses.

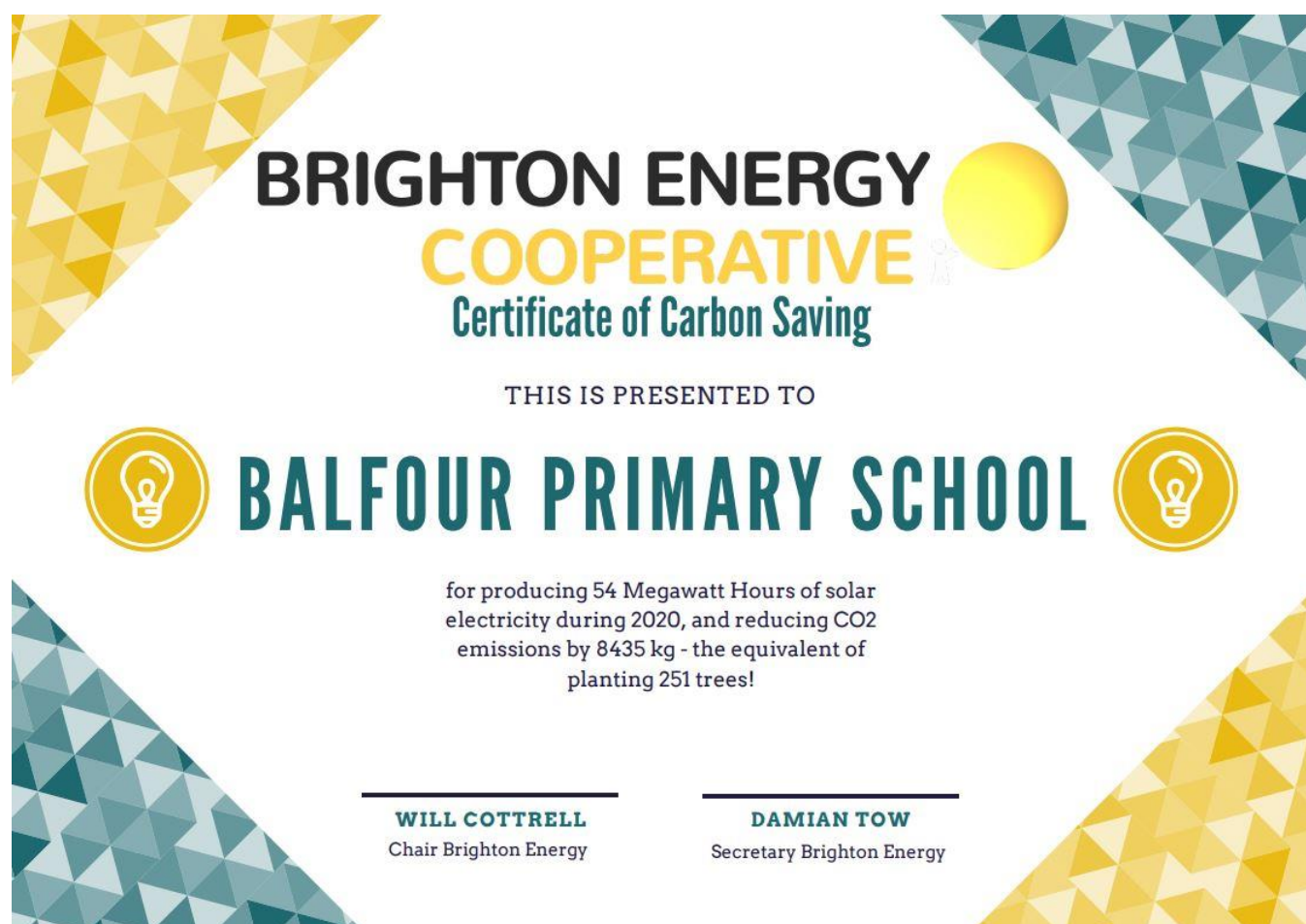
Year 3 - We are currently studying a unit of non-chronological reports. We have based this unit of famous Brighton residents from the Georgian period. At the start of the unit, the children looked at a range of non-chronological reports from the book, "Fantastically Great Women who changed the World." A copy of the book is available in each class for the children to read.

Year 4 - Our reading text (Secrets of the Sun King) is linked to the topic of Egyptians and addresses the issue of racism/discrimination towards a character and her family and the actions that can be taken. There is a clear message around antiracism in the story that supports other work we have done across the curriculum.

Year 5 - During Global week, we challenged the ideas of children's perceptions around poverty by looking at children living below the poverty line all around the world. We used a variety of different images to challenge the stereotypes that poorer people live only in certain areas of the world. We used the story of Maddi's fridge for our week of English, looking at food banks and discussed and heard real life stories of different people in different circumstances in different parts of the world to reinforce this even further.

Year 6 - This term topic has been Electricity and Light. We have been looking at famous scientists and this has enabled us to raise the issue that the most famous scientists in these areas are all white males. We then challenged the children to research about modern scientists of different race and gender. In English we have been reading the text "The Explorer" which is set in the Amazon Rainforest about four children from different parts of the world who come together to survive after a terrible plane crash.

MORE GREEN CREDENTIALS



PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE

As part of the Ofsted visit this month, we were able to share the great work we've been doing to support our families to ensure 'Equity in Education' across our school. Please do get in touch if there is anything we can help you with regarding funding for learning resources or extra-curricular activities.

This term, we have been able to revisit our strategy to check that the funding has been spent in a way that is most beneficial to our families who are most in need.

I had the pleasure of visiting the classrooms of those children in KS2 and it was wonderful to see the learning that is taking place and the pride the children are taking in their work.

Our [Pupil Premium Strategy](#) has been updated and you can see this [on our website](#).

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions about Pupil Premium.

Sandra Mulholland, Deputy Headteacher

sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk



FREE SUMMER PROGRAMME FOR FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHILDREN

Press Play Films <https://www.pressplayfilms.co.uk> is hosting 2-day programmes of activities for children in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals this summer. Children can learn how to use animation clay & operate cameras, the fundamentals of composition and framing and how to use animation software to create their very own films. The Eat Fresh and Feel Good team (<https://www.eatfreshandfeelgood.com/>) will focus 20 minutes each day on nutrition education before children enjoy a healthy vegetarian lunch, cooked onsite.

If you are in receipt of means tested free school meals we will contact you directly to give you more information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q I lost my job. How do we go about checking if we are entitled to this funding?

A We know that several families are going through a very difficult time at the moment. If you meet any of the criteria below, you could be entitled to funding for trips and clubs.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after the 1st April 2018 your household income must be less than £7400 per year

Q I am eligible for one of those! How do I apply to get the funding?

A It's super quick and easy. Just visit:
<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/free-school-meals>

If you need any help or support with the application, please speak to the school office who will be happy to help. If you have any questions about how our pupil premium money is used, or how to spend your allocation, please speak to Sandra Mulholland.



INCLUSION



Supporting transition and change

Times of transition and change can be exciting, however they can also be stressful and worrying for some children (and maybe for you as parents/carers also!) The children are coming near to the end of the academic school year so here are some top tips that could help prepare them.



- ✓ Transition is a process and 'little and often' preparation can help
- ✓ Give children the opportunity to be able to familiarise themselves with the change e.g. keep their new teacher letter out over the summer break
- ✓ Give advance warning and talk about what is going to happen
- ✓ Talk about what is the same as well as what is going to be different
- ✓ Maintain hobbies and other routines, a visual schedule/writing things on the calendar can help
- ✓ Try to answer their questions, and if you are not sure of something to do with class changes etc. then please ask us!
- ✓ Feelings matter so be reassuring as we accept that children may struggle and be anxious. Our role is to be here to help them learn how to cope with big and small changes in life

Here is a link to a poster that provides 10 ways for parents/carers help children cope with change. [Top Ten Tips A3.indd \(youngminds.org.uk\)](http://youngminds.org.uk)

FAB UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As everyone now knows, the planned lifting of restrictions on the 21st June has been put back by a few weeks and this has meant that the Summer Fair has been cancelled. The Summer Fair is normally the highlight of the FAB calendar and is a great fun day out for all the family in the summer sun, however we do still have the Circus (see below).

It has been a challenge this year to find ways to raise funds in the absence of planned events but there has been a fantastic response to the other initiatives, such as the Christmas Cards and Tea Towels from you guys.

For anyone who would like the opportunity to donate to FAB then they can do so using the following link: <https://chuffed.org/project/summer-fair-cancelled>

For all your continued generosity and support we say Thank You.

Looking ahead to Autumn we have fingers crossed that we will be able to start hosting events again and hope to bring news of a new event in September...

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

SUMMER RAFFLE

Whilst the Summer Fair has had to be cancelled the raffle hasn't! Tickets will be appearing soon in book bags for a live televised draw later in July.

SUMMER FAIR VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

**THANK YOU
FOR VOLUNTEERING**

**"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE
THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART."
- ELIZABETH ANDREW**

FAB would like to thank everyone who volunteered for the Summer Fair, these events cannot run without your help. Seriously - they can't. As the fair has been cancelled you can have your afternoons back but watch this space as you may get the chance to help out again in September...

HAPPY'S CIRCUS AT BALFOUR

Response to the Circus has been phenomenal and tickets sold out for the 5pm show within a couple of days! Gates open at 4pm and we encourage you to bring a picnic and take advantage of the FAB Bar.



RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP

There are two REALLY easy ways to raise money for the school while doing your 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>

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.

Results of the May 100 Club draw:

1st Stockton £68

2nd Cockle £40

3rd Wise £27

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

SMARTER UNIFORMS



DON'T WASTE IT - DONATE IT!



Why donate your clothes?

To those of you leaving school this summer, why not drop off your uniform to one of our collection boxes to help reduce textile waste in our city?

Your uniform will either be given to families in financial need, sold for a low cost (which raises funds for local schools), or recycled if damaged.

We need as many donations as we can get, so please spread the word and get everyone to donate to keep our community uniform bank alive!

How to donate uniforms:

1. In-store: We have a donation box located in the Open Market which is accessible every Wednesday 12-5 pm.

2. In schools: If you attend a partner school, you can donate uniforms directly to us through your school. Ask at your school reception where the collection boxes will be located.

3. Through Zedify/ online: You can now donate uniforms to Zedify drivers if you have ordered online with us! Find out more below.

In libraries (coming soon!) We will soon be joining libraries to place more donation spots around the city! Due to social distancing regulations, we hope that this service will be available from June 21st. We will send out a newsletter as soon as our collection boxes have been distributed.

After such a challenging year, all kids deserve a...

BIG SUMMER OF FUN!

Maximum fun,
maximum friendship,
maximum care &
attention from our
great staff team.

Let us help your kids
forget about the pandemic
for a summer packed full of
fun and fantastic memories.



Camps available at the following schools:

Balfour, Brighton • Harlands, Haywards Heath

Manor Field, Burgess Hill • Stanford Juniors, Brighton

Book with confidence, as we offer:

A full refund if we have to close due to COVID-19

A full refund if your child doesn't enjoy it



Secure your spaces today:

www.pioneerchildcare.co.uk

01444 411388

enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk



The cat asked everyone
to tea...
except ME!



Mike Reinstein and the PURRFECT Whiskers Band

Mr R's latest album for children is called 'The Cat Asked
Everyone To Tea...Except Me'.
There are 13 brand new songs performed by Mr R and The
Purrfect Whiskas Band.

The album's released on July 12th 2021 and will only be
available as a download from Bandcamp -
www.mikereinstein.bandcamp.com

You can download single tracks for £1.00 each or buy the whole
album for £7.00. Mr R says it's his best one yet!

www.mikereinstein.co.uk