

NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Climate change – a community approach to saving our planet



Simon Davies,
Head teacher

What are the facts:

- The worst impacts of climate change could be irreversible by 2030.
- The 20 warmest years on record have been in the past 22 years.
- More than 1 million species are at risk of extinction by climate change.

In April 2021, Headteachers came together to discuss how the City's schools can help address the climate and biodiversity emergency agenda. Brighton and Hove declared a climate and biodiversity emergency in 2018 and has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030.

A recent study showed 89% of young people aged 7-11 in the City are worried about the impact climate change will have on their future, while a similar number feel it's important to learn about the climate and ecological crisis.

To ensure we are able to meet the City's carbon neutral target, listen to and address young people's concerns about their future and educate pupils in climate issues to help them become part of the solution, climate change is a top priority at Balfour School.

What we are doing already as a school:

- Solar panels have been installed on our KS2 building.
- Recycling is a daily activity for all classes.
- We have achieved the Eco schools award.
- We use sustainable business practices.
- We have close links with the Sussex Wildlife trust.
- We have an Eco club that takes place at KS2.
- Pupils have taken part in tree planting across the school grounds.
- As part of our Pupil Parliament, we have elected Eco MPs from each class.
- We are continuing to develop our Balfour nature reserve. We already have butterfly sanctuary, wild flower and young woodland area and bug houses.
- Our travel survey shows that most children either walk, cycle, or use public transport to get to school.
- There is 'Global week' each year as part of our curriculum.
- Our unique social responsibility curriculum is woven and embedded throughout each subject area. It ensures children learn about ethical trading, ecosystems, climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity and our finite planet www.balfourprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Social+Responsibility&pid=41
- We have a resident Eco expert, Mrs Witt.
- Our school vision and values encapsulate climate change and pupils developing into responsible global citizens - www.balfourprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Vision&pid=100
- Climate change is part of our school development plan - www.balfourprimary.co.uk/page/?title=School+Development&pid=16

During the autumn term, our key focus will be Biodiversity. At our INSET day at the start of this term, staff made climate change pledges related to biodiversity. Some examples of staff pledges were:

- "Plant a variety of different flowers in my garden"
- "Purchase seafood items that have been certified"
- "Buy local, organic food and drink"

- “Walk more and use my car less!”
- “Build bee boxes for my garden”



Family pledges

Why not make a biodiversity climate change pledge this autumn term with your family?

Competition time!

Each half term I will be running a competition for the children - ‘Climate Action Super Hero’.

All the children need to do, in whatever medium they choose (e.g. poster, PowerPoint, picture, etc...), is to showcase what they have been doing within the community to combat climate change. They can either give it to their teacher or drop it up to my office. Watch this space to see what amazing work our children have been doing!



Some great websites are:



www.theharmonyproject.org.uk



www.thoughtboxeducation.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

➔ [Can be found on our website.](#)

TERM DATES FOR 2021/2022

Autumn Term 1: 6/9/21 – 22/10/21 **Autumn Term 2:** 2/11/21 – 17/12/21

➤ Half term: 25 Oct – 29 Oct

➤ Winter Holidays: 20 Dec – 3 Jan

Spring Term 1: 5/1/22 – 11/2/22

➤ Half term: 14 Feb – 18 Feb

Spring Term 2: 21/2/22 – 8/4/22

➤ Easter Holidays: 11 Apr – 22 Apr

Summer Term 1: 25/4/22 – 27/5/22 **Summer Term 2:** 7/6/22 – 22/7/22

➤ Half term: 30 May – 03 Jun

➤ Summer Holidays: 25 Jul – TBC

Bank Holiday: 2 May

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

GOVERNORS

Dear Balfour Families,

We are writing to let you know about some changes to the governing body. Claire Cornthwaite has stepped down and we thank her warmly for all of her hard work as a governor over a number of years and for taking on the Chair role at short notice when Shelley Baker was appointed as Headteacher at Varndean School last term. Following the most recent governing body meeting, we are pleased to be stepping into the role of co-chair on a permanent basis, with Carolyn Bristow taking on the vice-chair role.

We both have children at the school and we're very much looking forward to working closely with Mr Davies and the staff team, and supporting Balfour on the next step of the journey to outstanding.

Should you wish to contact us, please do so via the school office who will be happy to forward any correspondence, or to the clerk of governors, Kristina McCulloch: kristinamcculloch@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Very Best Wishes,
Katie Wood and Kirstin Baker

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

CO OPTED GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Balfour School is currently looking for Co-opted governors to join our governing body and would love to attract individuals from our local community who have the skills and experience to contribute to the success of our school.



As a community school we are keen to make the governing body more reflective of the diversity of our pupils. You do not need to be a parent to become a co-opted governor.

This is a challenging but hugely rewarding role where you can make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment

We would especially like to hear from you if you have:

- A desire to contribute to and represent our diverse community
- An open and enquiring mind
- The ability to look at issues objectively
- The confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- The ability to work well with others
- Willingness to dedicate your time

As a large and growing school, we're keen to appoint individuals with experience in HR, risk management, data analysis, safeguarding, SEND and Health & Safety to add to the existing range of skills on the board.

The full governing body meets at least twice a term, with separate working parties who meet when required. Most of our current governors work full time and manage to fit in their role around their other commitments, but we welcome retirees, part time workers or anyone with the skills and passion for the job.

You don't need to have prior experience of being a governor, there is plenty of excellent training and mentoring available to you. Plus, the support of a talented and supportive team to work with who are passionate about helping Balfour school deliver the best education possible for every pupil.

If you would like to know more about the vacancy, please email balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk



Please find the application form at -

www.balfourprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Vacancy&pid=179

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

What have we been up to in school this month to diversify and decolonise our curriculum?

Reception - Reception's first topic is 'Marvellous Me!' We have been learning about each other's families and cultures whilst celebrating our similarities and differences. We are enjoying learning about what different families look like.

Year 1 - In year one our English focus has been on traditional tales and alternative versions. In recognition of the wealth of traditional tales from around the world, we have planned in to read a story from a different country each week during this topic.



Year 2 - In year 2 we have been learning about the scientist, Ernest Everett Just. Ernest was not like other scientists. He saw the whole, where others saw only parts. And he noticed details others failed to see. Ernest Everett Just was an African American biologist who made important discoveries about the cell in the 1930s.

Through his careful observations and hard work, Ernest opened up the wonder of the universe to all of us, through a tiny egg cell.



Year 3 -During the first couple of weeks in Year 3, we have been talking about what we're good at and why! Our 'Proud Peacocks' showed that no matter your religion, race, gender, height, hair colour...you can be great at so many things. We are proud of who we are, and we are looking forward to sharing more about our cultures in the future.



Year 4 - This half term at the start of each science lesson we will be finding out about a diverse range of scientists and how they had an impact on the world of science, and our everyday lives. We are starting with Lewis Latimer who was instrumental in the invention of the electric light bulb. As part of our gymnastics topic in PE, we are also showing children videos and examples of famous gymnasts from a range of backgrounds and ethnicities.

Year 5 - The children in Year 5 have enjoyed their introduction to Hinduism in RE. We start off the topic by challenging assumptions around Hindu appearance and traditions. Our first lesson began by looking at the Divali and Holi festivals and how they are celebrated all around the world and here in the UK.

Year 6 - In year 6, our topic is Birds, Beaks and Bones. The children have been learning about evolution, adaptation and inheritance. We have been able to look at and classify a wide variety of living things. We have also learnt about how our genes come from our biological parents as well as looking at the differences and similarities between siblings and family members, including those with different ethnicities.

PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE

Welcome back to the new academic year of 2021-22!

It has been a great start to the year so far - teachers have been getting to know the children in their class who are in receipt of Pupil Premium and we will be discussing and setting targets for those children over the next couple of weeks.



If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium, please remember that you can claim £30 per term for extra-curricular activities.

When you attend your Parent's Evening appointment in November, you will have the opportunity to discuss with your child's class teacher what support is being provided in class for your child and what is available to you as a family.

If you think you could be eligible, please use this link to fill in your details.
<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/free-school-meals>

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

If you have any questions regarding Pupil Premium, please do not hesitate to contact me at sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Sandra Mulholland, Deputy Headteacher



INCLUSION

Welcome back everyone!



Would you like to find out more about the procedures for supporting pupils with identified Special Educational Needs at Balfour?

If you are interested Mrs Clark (previously Ms Tuck!) is hosting a Virtual Information sharing session for parents/carers on Thursday 21st October at 5.15pm.

Topic: SEND information sharing session

Time: Oct 21, 2021 17:15 PM

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 983 5993 6059

Passcode: t74Lhc

Look forward to seeing you there!



Mindsets: the way we see the world around us

Mindsets- what are they?

A Growth Mindset is a mindset that loves problems and new opportunities to learn, whereas a Fixed Mindset is a mindset that avoids new opportunities to learn and is fearful of new learning.

No one is in a Growth Mindset 100% of the time, this would be unrealistic, but we can recognise when we are in a Fixed Mindset and try to move out of it. At Balfour Primary, Growth Mindset is a major component of the teaching and learning ethos. We try to develop a Growth Mindset in children by encouraging them to:

- use multiple strategies to solve a problem, listen to feedback, share their thinking, take on new challenges, to ask questions

In addition is the 'Power of Yet!'. For example, 'this doesn't work, yet!', 'I can't do this, yet!', 'I'm not good at this, yet!' or 'I don't understand this, yet!'.

Growth Mindset Misconceptions

A major misconception about having a Growth Mindset is that it is all about the effort you put into something and simply giving something a go. This is important. However, a Growth Mindset is more than effort and simply being positive. If we don't learn from our mistakes, we will just make them again and again, thinking that the effort will be enough to achieve more.

Developing a Growth Mindset attitude at home

It is easy, very natural and incredibly hard to resist offering praise to our children with supportive, esteem-boosting messages about their intelligence. For example, 'You've learned that so quickly! You're so clever!'. However, praising achievements only (academic, sporting or otherwise) can make children doubt themselves as soon as anything is hard or something goes wrong. They can interpret the message as 'if I don't learn something quickly, I'm not clever'.

Teach children at home to:

*enjoy effort, love challenges, be interested in mistakes, seek out new strategies (to resolve problems), keep on learning, praising effort AND learning together

Shouldn't I praise my child at all?

Of course! No need to restrain your enthusiasm at all. However, try not to only praise them for their intelligence or for having 'talent'. Doing this won't help them in the long-run, when they have to tackle a new challenge, or they experience failure.

What if a child puts in lots of effort but doesn't do well?

In this situation, where a child has made lots of effort with something, but did not 'achieve', or 'failed', a positive and helpful response could be 'I liked the effort you put in, but let's work together some more and figure out what it is you don't understand' or 'everyone learns in a different way, let's keep trying to find the way that works for you'.

Mr. Huxley, September 2021

SOURCES OF ADVICE AROUND FUEL BILLS

Notes from Integrated Team for Families at Brighton & Hove City Council

We thought it might be a good time to let families know about organisations who can give advice around fuel bills – for now, and in the run up to winter.



National Energy Action (NEA) – National Energy Action is the national charity working to end fuel poverty in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

<https://www.nea.org.uk/member-of-the-public/>

0800 304 7159

Brighton & Hove Energy Services Co-operative (BHESCO) – Fighting cold homes and saving money on energy bills in Brighton & Hove

<https://bhescoco.uk/fuel-poverty-energy-bills-brighton-hove>

01273 284470/0800 999 6671



Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) – LEAP is a free service that is helping people keep warm and reduce their energy bills without costing them any money: <https://applyforleap.org.uk/>

0800 060 7567

FAB UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I was delighted to see so many of you at our Autumn fair event recently.

It was great to be able to get the school community together so early in the new school year - especially on such a warm and sunny afternoon! I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers who gave up their time to make it happen.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Covid restrictions permitting, we're hoping to put on a full calendar of FAB events this term.

We should see the return of both the Quiz Night sometime in October, and of course the Christmas Fair.



Watch this space for more



details on these events and more.

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.

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



Runner Beanz

Monday

3.15pm – 4.30pm

Years R, 1 & 2

Runner Beanz ... lots of 'running around'; active, pulse raising activities; focus on different sports each week, the pirate game, space invaders, free play & large wall apparatus!!



Full Of Beanz

Wednesday

3.15pm – 4.30pm

Years R, 1 & 2

Full Of Beanz ... full of a range of fun, exciting and pulse raising activities; team games, space invaders, sports skills, music, large wall apparatus, free play & much more!!



Jumping Beanz

Thursday

3.15pm – 4.30pm

Years R, 1 & 2

Jumping Beanz ... theme based, fun physical activities; using a range of equipment, music and activities, themes include Circus, Jungle, Dinosaurs & Space!!

Physical activity clubs that boost confidence and self-esteem, help to develop physical, social and language skills and encourage co-operation and consideration!

£7.50 per session (inc. snack) payable half termly/termly

Balfour Primary School Key Stage 1 Hall

Sessions led by an experienced, qualified teacher (B.Ed Hons)
DBS checked Public Liability Insurance First Aid qualification

For more details contact ... Debbie May
01273 232525 www.jumpingbeanz.biz debbie@jumpingbeanz.biz



YOUTUBE CREATORS CLUB

Learn to make videos like the professionals



WRITE



SHOOT



EDIT



REPEAT

Phoenix Community Center, Brighton
Saturdays, 2 hour sessions
Ages 8+



For more information or to book visit
www.silverboxmm.co.uk

Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Balfour Infant School** if they sign up by Saturday 9th May. Parents should quote BALI090520 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to Balfour Infant School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Hove (Drama for 4-7s)
(1.9 miles)
Saturdays at 9.30am

Cornerstone Community Centre
Church Road,
BN3 2FL

Perform Hove (Drama for 7-12s)
(1.9 miles)
Saturdays at 11.15am

Cornerstone Community Centre
Church Road,
BN3 2FL

Perform Rottingdean (Drama for 4-7s)
(4.6 miles)
Thursdays at 4pm

Rottingdean Public Hall
Park Road,
BN2 7HL

Perform Rottingdean (Drama for 7-12s)
(4.6 miles)
Thursdays at 5.05pm

Rottingdean Public Hall
Park Road,
BN2 7HL

Perform Haywards Heath (Drama for 4-7s)
(10.5 miles)
Saturdays at 9.30am

St Wilfrids Centenary Hall
St Wilfrids Way,
RH16 3QH

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest [here](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).



HELEN O'GRADY
"DRAMA ACADEMY"
SUSSEX

WE'RE BACK! WEEKLY:



DRAMA CLASSES

approved activity provider



HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY, SUSSEX

BOOK via: Email - sussex@helenogrady.co.uk

OR via: www.helenogradysussex.co.uk

*build confidence, make friends
& have fun!*



AFTER SCHOOL & WEEKEND CLUBS
BRIGHTON-HOVE-SHOREHAM-WORTHING-HASSOCKS
AGES 4-7 / 8-10 / 11+ YEARS



We run classes for all ages - accross Brighton & Hove and West Sussex



SCAN ME

Level 1 & Level 2 CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park
and Hove Park



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.

**Monday 25 – Thursday 27
October**

10am – 12.30pm each day

Ages 9 –15

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

Levels 1 & 2 together is £35 per person.

To book your place, please visit

<https://sports.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Events/StandardTicketBookingProcess>



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Level 3

CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park and Hove Park



**Monday 25 to Wednesday
27 October**

**1.15pm – 3.15pm each
day**

Ages 11 – 15

**STUDENTS MUST HAVE
ATTENDED LEVEL 2**

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 £40 per person.

To book your place, please visit

<https://sports.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Events/StandardTicketBookingProcess>



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**