



NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Poetry at Balfour

'Poetry is thoughts that breathe and words that burn.'

-Thomas Gray

At Balfour we recognise the value and importance of teaching poetry. We ensure that the poems which we teach through our writing lessons are excellent examples of poetic form, aimed to inspire our children to engage with poetry independently.



Simon Davies,
Head teacher

For most children, poetry isn't their first choice of independent reading material. However, it is something which many children love to explore and enjoy learning about and is also linked to key opportunities for speaking and listening skill development.

We aim for our teachers to be excellent role models with all aspects of reading and writing. There is a school expectation that teachers hold time to share, discuss and explore a variety of poetic forms outside of writing lessons. We believe in the value of this time within the school day and try to interweave poems into other school experiences such as assemblies.

Why are poems important?

From a very early age, children engage in nursery rhymes and rhyming narrative texts. They begin to discover that how texts are structured, and the vocabulary included has been done so for impact and purpose. This knowledge of writing and poetry grows as children are given opportunities to look at poems of different forms. They explore unknown words and phrases, syllables and key writing skills such as similes and onomatopoeias.

There are so many different poetic forms. Children love to explore them all and really enjoy the challenge of preparing a different form of writing that often isn't full, complete, punctuated sentences. For example, Haikus! Children love to learn about the art and style of trying to write to match a

particular poetic style. In doing so, they are unravelling many aspects of the English language and structure. In addition to this, it provides children with another form of writing to express themselves. When writing a poem, they often have to make links on a topic/theme and build upon these with their own experiences and those which they may have read about.

Poetry provides an excellent opportunity to develop key speaking and listening skills. By performing poetry or simply reciting a poem children are given opportunities to speak audibly and fluently, participate in performances and develop their spoken intonation. The opportunities to perform poems often help to bring them alive and support children in hearing patterns and language choices made by a poet.

Our core poetry at Balfour Primary

At Balfour we have identified core taught poetry for each year group. This is to ensure that we have coverage of the range of poetic forms and can therefore teach poetic devices alongside them. In addition to this, we have ensured that the poems chosen by each year group are high quality examples of poetry and aim to inspire our children.



**Calling all budding
writers and poets!**

As part of our pledge at Balfour to be at the forefront of acting against climate change, it would be fantastic if you could encourage your child to write a poem to highlight the climate crisis and raise awareness. Poems will be celebrated across the school and displayed for all to read. There will be a winner's prize from each year group! Please hand or send in entries to me before the Christmas holidays.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

➔ [Can be found on our website.](#)

TERM DATES FOR 2021/2022

Autumn Term 2: 2/11/21 – 17/12/21

➤ 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

➤ Half term: 30 May – 03 Jun

Summer Term 2: 7/6/22 – 22/7/22

➤ Summer Holidays: 25 Jul – TBC

Bank Holiday: 2 May

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

GOVERNORS

Dear Balfour Families,

Governors are very much looking forward to coming in to school over the next few weeks as part of our termly monitoring programme. It will be incredibly valuable to come in and see the school at work, particular as some governors joined the governing body during the Covid-19 pandemic and have yet to see a 'typical' Balfour classroom. Our focus will be on particular areas of the development plan, but also a more holistic view of teaching and learning, and the experience that the children have in our school.

We will of course share some of the things that we learn during our visits with parents over the course of the next few newsletters.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact governors 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

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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



Reception - Reception are learning about Diwali this week! We have been reading 'The Best Diwali Ever', discussing how Diwali can be celebrated and looking at wonderful photos and presentations kindly provided by our amazing families.

Year 1 - In Autumn term two our English focus is on poetry. We will be including poems from the collection Tiger Tiger Burning Bright, which is an anthology of poems from around the world about different animals.

Year 2 - We have focused on sharing a variety of diversity texts in assembly for Diversity week and Black History Month.

Year 3 - In Year Three, we will be studying the history of Brighton and how it developed into a seaside town. During the sessions, we will look at Sake Dean Mahamed who was known as the "Shampoo Surgeon" of Brighton. He played in a key part in the development of Brighton as a health resort after Richard Russell had advertised the seawater cures. He is well known as a famous non- European immigrant into the United Kingdom during the 1700s.



Year 4 - This term we will be reading 'Fierce, Fearless and Free' by Lari Don which is a book that contains a selection of myths and legends from around the world with female lead characters from a diverse range of backgrounds. We will be discussing stereotypes, making links and comparing the stories that we read. In RE we are discussing secondary sources of information and how images are presented to an audience. We are using this to challenge stereotypes and discuss how people of different faiths are represented.

Year 5 - We have poetry week in Year 5, where amongst others, we are looking at the poetry of Valerie Bloom, a Jamaican poet. We will enjoy watching her perform poems such as, 'Sandwich' and 'When Granny'. The children will use her inspiring (and funny) poetry to explore the ABCB rhyming pattern before writing and performing poems of their own.

Year 6 – During this month, Year 6 has been learning about famous Christians in RE. We have been looking at Harriet Tubman and took part in a Now Press Play experience to discover more about her life. For Black history month the children having been looking at poetry associated with The Windrush. They also performed a poem called the British by Benjamin Zephaniah. In geography, the children having been learning about Fairtrade. They have understood its importance and the impact it has around the world.

PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE

I hope you all had a wonderful half term and are now looking forward to the term filled with rain and Christmassy things!

We have had a great start to the year with teacher meetings to discuss our Pupil Premium children's targets. We have also met with several families to discuss their needs and any support we can offer. You will also have had the opportunity to discuss your child's targets and extra-curricular needs at Parent's Evening. If you are in receipt of Free School Meals and you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss your child's needs, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk.



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



We had a visit in September from our School Partnership Advisor who spent the morning with Mrs Clark to review our Special Educational Needs support and provision.

It was a very positive review and we wanted to share, and celebrate, the main findings with you!

Balfour's strong vision for inclusion is shared and owned by Senior Leaders, teaching staff, support staff and Governors.

A central part of this vision is underpinned by a shared understanding that a child will not be able to access learning until their social and emotional needs are met first; to this end, the school works hard *through quality first teaching* and targeted intervention, to maximise 'learner readiness'.



FAB UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We are halfway through the term already and the nights are drawing in, but that doesn't mean there aren't some exciting events coming up!

For the first time in what feels like an age, we're hosting the famous FAB Quiz Night. It's always a lot of fun, but numbers are limited, so get your tickets ordered quick ! More details below.



With Christmas fast approaching, we're also hoping to run a Christmas Jumper Swap, and of course the annual Christmas Fair. More to follow on these in the coming weeks.

As always, we are on the lookout for new enthusiastic parents to join and help with events so if you are interested in finding out more then feel free to contact us. There is **no** pressure and there are **no** expectations. For example, we are looking for a handful of volunteers for the Quiz so put your hand up if you fancy it.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

The Balfour Quiz Night is back!

We're hosting our first Quiz Night for two years on **19th November** – with a new Quizmaster team!

As usual, there will be a full bar, and Olly's Fish Shack will be cooking up sustainable fish and gourmet vegan sausages, all with triple-cooked chips.

Tickets are now available at: www.ticketor.com/friendsatbalfour. They cost £13 per person with food, and £6 per person without.

We're looking for a handful of volunteers to help out at the event, so please shout if you can lend an hour or two.

Quiz night

FAB's Fabulous Quiz Night!

Friday 19th November

KS1 Hall - Doors 7.30pm Quiz starts 8pm

**Cash bar with
wine, fizz, beer, soft drinks &
snacks**

Dinner is provided by the fantastic



With either Sustainable Fish &
Chips or
Gourmet Vegan Jumbo Sausage!



Numbers are limited and tickets sell out fast so book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets with Fish & Chips or Vegan Jumbo Sausage £13

Tickets without food £6.00

Tickets available at www.ticketor.com/friendsatbalfour



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



SCAN ME

B.A. ACADEMY

B.A. PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

Get ready to sing, dance and act!

**EVERY THURSDAY FROM
11 NOVEMBER, 2021 | 5-
7PM | BALFOUR PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Is your child in **Reception to Year 6?**

We're now giving children the opportunity to progress their performance skills at our evening club where sessions will be longer and more advanced. Our teachers will have even more fun and exciting things planned for these sessions, with the end goal being a show where parents/carers will be invited to come and watch.

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DRAMA



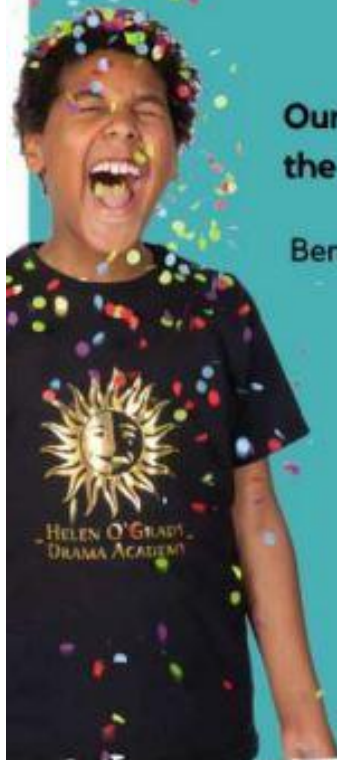
*"If you could bottle
happiness- you'd fill it with
HOGDA SUSSEX classes"
Charley's mum- Brighton*

Our structured curriculum and trained teachers guarantee
the highest standard of interactive drama classes.

Benefits of Our Classes for Students Include:

- Increased SELF ESTEEM and CONFIDENCE
- SOCIAL INTERACTION and COMMUNICATION with others
- FUN activities to engage CREATIVITY and IMAGINATION
- SPEECH and LANGUAGE development

JOIN US FOR A TRIAL LESSON TODAY!



CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Email: sussex@helenogrady.co.uk



Covid Secure Studios

Contact number: 07980 607139



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HELEN O'GRADY
DRAMA ACADEMY



Christmas Camp

Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd December

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to let you know that we are **open for Holiday Camp this Christmas:**



Book now to secure your spaces



Timings, prices, and venues

- We will be operating our standard camp hours of **8:15am – 5pm**
- The cost is **£31** per day (with sibling and multi-day discounts available)
- At 3 primary school locations:
 - [Stanford Junior School, Brighton](#)
 - [Harlands Primary Academy, Haywards Heath](#)
 - [Manor Field Primary School, Burgess Hill](#)

We have lots of festive fun in store for the children and we'd love to see them, so if you need us, **we strongly advise you to book early.**

We hope to see you there.

Kind regards,

The Team at Pioneer Childcare

Please contact our office with any queries: **01444 411388**
www.pioneerchildcare.co.uk | enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk

Pioneer Childcare Limited

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Fred Perry Community Tennis programme to start at Hollingbury Sports Hub!

23rd October, 2021



Sign up for our first FREE weekly session!

If you've been to the Hollingbury Sports Hub lately, you have probably already noticed our new 'Fred Perry' branded courts. Thanks to their support, we have been able to breathe new life into our facilities with a number of new playing and coaching opportunities for the local community. As part of this support, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting a new weekly Fred Perry Community Tennis session, which will be hosted **every Saturday for players ages 5-12 years old starting on 23rd October.**

These weekly sessions are open to all and will operate on a weekly sign-up, with additional interactive at home challenges, as we look to grow our tennis playing community. Secure your spot now for our first session and feel free to share with friends and family in the local area!

Who can participate?

We welcome players of all levels for an hour of fun, game-based tennis drills. We run sessions for two age groups every Saturday morning. Equipment can be provided if need be, so sign-up, turn up and get ready to have some fun!

October 2021

23

9 - 10am: Ages 5-8

10 - 11am: Ages 9-12

Hollingbury Community Sports Hub
Hollingbury Park Tennis Club
Ditchling Road (opposite Varndean College)
Brighton
BN1 6JU

[Register here!](#)