# Balfour Primary News Respectful · Courageous · Friendly · Ambitious Caring · Enthusiastic



25th May 2022

## NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The Science of Learning





Simon Davies, Head teacher

Most children are not born 'good' learners. Individual personality plays a part in a child's willingness to learn and their overall disposition when it comes to education, but most children who are now good learners at some point had to become good learners. Any child who possesses the basic aptitude and receives the right motivation can become a good learner.

While the classroom will likely be the primary source of instruction, intellectual, social, and academic growth, this should extend outside the walls of the classroom.

The following are proven tips and strategies that will help motivate your child to learn, and things that we promote in every classroom across the school.

#### 1. Develop an atmosphere of reading

Reading is a key to success in learning. Children who develop a love of reading, develop a love for learning. For this reason, we have put a huge emphasis on phonics, reading fluency and the love of reading at Balfour.

Reading not only helps children develop a much richer vocabulary, it helps their brain learn how to process concepts and formal communication. Pupils who read well experience an enhanced ability to learn in all subjects.

You can help your child develop reading skills and a love for reading by filling their world with reading. Read to your child frequently. Have your child read aloud. Create a family reading time where everyone focuses on reading for 20



minutes a day. Through your own example of reading and by filling your home with reading you will create an atmosphere that will demonstrate to your child just how important reading is.

#### 2. Put your child in the driver's seat as much as possible

When a child feels controlled, or out of control when it comes to their education, they often withdraw from learning. It is important to guide children through the learning process, but it is just as important to allow children to have control of their own learning experience. Provide children the ability to have direct input into their learning choices. An effective way to do this is to provide children with options.

We also recommend allowing children to choose their own extracurricular activities. The more control and input you can provide a child, with respect to their learning environment, activities, and style, the more engaged and motivated a child will become to learn.

#### 3. Encourage open and sincere communication

Encourage your child to express their opinion about what is going on with their education. Create an open atmosphere where they feel comfortable expressing their likes, dislikes, or concerns. When children feel like their opinion does not matter, or they are stuck, they are likely to disengage from the learning process. Good learners know their opinion matters and feel reassured that they can be open about their educational experience. A growth mindset is fundamental to learning and development.

#### 4. Focus on your child's interests

When learning engages children in areas and subjects of interest, learning becomes fun and children engage in learning. If you really want to help your child to become a good learner, encourage them to explore topics and subjects that fascinate them. If they like dinosaurs, help them find engaging and interesting books and stories about dinosaurs. Then challenge them to identify their five favourite dinosaurs and explain why they chose each one.

#### 5. Introduce and encourage several types of learning styles

Every child has learning preferences and styles that are best suited to their way of learning. Some children have a dominant learning style, while others



prefer to learn using a mix of learning styles. There isn't necessarily one right or wrong learning style, or mix of learning styles. However, by helping your child discover his preferred learning styles, you can use techniques that will improve their rate and quality of learning.

#### 6. Share your enthusiasm for learning

Enthusiasm rubs off, especially when it comes to learning new things. If your child sees that you are sincerely enthusiastic about learning, they are likely to become enthusiastic about learning. Whether it is history, science, reading, writing or maths, help them see that learning is a journey of exciting new discoveries. As your child sees the joy and excitement learning brings to your life, they will begin to share your enthusiasm for learning new things as well.

#### 7. Make learning fun through game-based learning

Game-based learning is not a new concept. It has been around for a long time. Using games as an education tool not only provides opportunities for deeper learning and development of non-cognitive skills, it helps motivate children to want to learn. When a child is actively engaged with a game, their mind experiences the pleasure of learning a new system.

Game-based learning is a fantastic way for parents to introduce new ideas, grammar, concepts, and knowledge in a way that motivates children to learn.

#### 8. Focus on what they are learning, not their performance

Instead of asking your child how they did on their maths test as soon as they get home from school, have them teach you what they learned in maths today. Focus on what your child is learning, as opposed to how they are performing. While performance is important, focusing on their learning experience will (1) communicate to your child that actual learning is more important than test grades, (2) results are not the most important thing, (3) you are more concerned about them than you are about their performance and (4) by focusing on their learning experience that day you will provide them with the opportunity to put into their own words their lesson and solidify what they have learned.



#### 9. Help your child stay organised

Helping your child organise their papers, books and homework will go a long way to helping them feel motivated to learn. Disorganisation is typical among young school-age children, but it can also lead to a feeling of being overwhelmed. Be patient, but consistent, in helping your child organise their school work. This will help them feel in control, less overwhelmed and more motivated to learn.

#### 10. Recognise and celebrate achievements

No matter how small they may be, it is important to recognise and celebrate your child's achievements. This is especially important for primary school children who require constant positive reinforcement to keep them motivated to learn and challenge themselves to do better.

#### 11. Focus on strengths

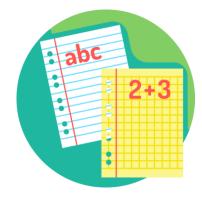
Focusing on your child's strengths is vital to healthy emotional and academic development and progress. Focusing on your child's strengths is another form of positive reinforcement that will motivate them to keep learning. Conversely, focusing on your child's weaknesses does nothing but cause discouragement, distress, and a lack of desire to learn.

#### 12. Make every day a learning day

Whenever possible, encourage your child to explore the world around them, ask questions and make connections. Help them categorise, classify, and think critically of what they see and experience. Turning everyday into a learning day will help your child develop the internal motivation to learn in the classroom, at home or wherever they may be.









## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



Can be found on our website.

## **TERM DATES FOR 2021/2022**

**Summer Term 1:** 25/4/22 - 27/5/22 **Summer Term 2:** 7/6/22 - 21/7/22

➤ Half term: 30 May – 03 Jun ➤ Summer Holidays: 22 Jul – 31 August

**Autumn Term 1: 05/9/22** – 21/10/22

➤ Half Term: 24 Oct – 28 Oct

INSET days: 6 June, 1 & 2 September, 31 October

#### **GOVERNORS**

If you wish to contact the school governors, the email address is: <a href="mailto:balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk">balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk</a>

Governors can also be contacted 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

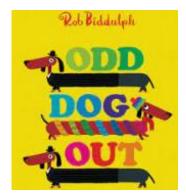
Best Wishes, Katie Wood & Kirstin Baker



#### **EQUALITY**



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



**Reception** – In Reception, we have been reading Odd Dog Out. We have been celebrating and discussing our similarities and differences. The book says to 'blaze a trail, be who you are' so each of the children designed their own odd dog, celebrating their individuality. Through reading the Tiger Who Came to Tea, we have discussed references to the past through illustrations. We have discussed who

our families are made up of and how this may differ to the story. We also learned about Eid and how this can be celebrated.

**Year 1** - In Year 1 we are comparing London to Brighton as part of our geography topic. We have been learning through the experiences of Paddington Bear. We are thinking about and learning about how people have travelled and moved to live in different countries. We have been thinking about how populations have changed and become more diverse.



**Year 2** - Year 2's topic this term is 'The Caribbean'. We have been learning about a Jamaican born artist called Ebony Patterson and have created

sculptures using mixed media, inspired by her bright patterns and vibrant colours. We have also been reading a picture book called 'Gregory Cool' which is set in Tobago and we have discussed key differences between Caribbean culture and our own. We are finishing the half term by writing information leaflets to share the facts we have found out about the Caribbean.





**Year 3** – In Year Three, we have been learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam. We have looked at the act of Islamic prayer in detail and discovered that Muslims use brightly, highly decorated prayer mats. We have then used this information to create our own Islamic prayer mats for the Art Exhibition. The children have really enjoyed linking their Art learning and RE together.



**Year 4** - In English we've been reading stories from South America, with a particular focus on tales from the Amazon region, linked to our current geography topic. These have included beliefs, values and morals and the

children have written their own stories inspired by what they've heard. In RE, we are learning about how Christianity is followed around the world, including similarities and differences in worship and customs. Finally, as part of our tennis topic, we've looked at how wheelchair tennis is played.



**Year 5** - Year 5 have been learning about the Gypsy Roma Traveller people on PSHE. We completed a quiz initially to grow our learning about Gypsy Roma Traveller communities and learnt that the term describes many groups of people including: English and Welsh Gypsies; Irish and Scottish Travellers; Fairground families; Circus families; New Travellers and Bargees and other families living on boats. We learnt about their past and talked about how to welcome new people and focused on stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. It led to an interesting discussion: Should school be a good stopping place for everyone?

**Year 6** – This term, Year 6 have been using the artist Amos Paul Kennedy Junior as inspiration for our art topic. An American printer, book artist and



papermaker best known for social and political commentary, particularly in printed posters. His posters have inspired thought provoking conversations across Year 6 with references to Black History and key figures such as Rosa Parks. Pupils have been imitating his stencil creations, linking to positive and negative spaces with bold, simple and clear fonts.



### **PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE**

Following our very popular Community event at the weekend, I thought I would share a few facts and figures with you about our school. A bit of a 'Who we are?' to show our families what a diverse catchment we have.

We currently have a large number of children registered as being in receipt of Pupil Premium, many of which live



in postcode areas for high poverty. We strive to support these families and provide any additional extra-curricular activities and academic support we can. Many children at Balfour Primary are registered as speaking English as an Additional Language. With this brings a wealth of cultures to Balfour and we celebrate this as often as we can.



We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome families from Ukraine in to our school and continue to provide additional support to ensure they have a positive experience

here at Balfour. Nearly a quarter of our families are BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) which includes mixed heritage.

We would very much like to encourage you to talk with your children about the diversity within our school community and to be open to conversations about the differing range of financial difficulties and cultural differences being faced by some of the children and their families at our school.

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

Sandra Mulholland, Deputy Headteacher.

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



#### **NEW COMMUNICATION APP – SCHOOLPING OUT, WEDUC IN!**

We moved to an app-based communication system (SchoolPing) a number of years ago and it was a great leap forward. However, it hasn't been without its drawbacks too. With our contract up for renewal we took some time to look at what was available on the market and we believe we have found a better solution for our school. We listened to your concerns about our current system and from a parent point of view it will have the following benefits:

- You can archive your own messages
- We can separate up direct messages and a less urgent/direct 'notice board' - so you can better prioritise what you look at
- It will have genuine instalments for more expensive trips (so no more going through multiple payment requests for the same trip to figure out if it's paid or not)
- You'll be able to purchase uniform pieces directly through the app
- You'll be able to report student absences through the app too

More information will be coming out soon, but we wanted to let you know this change is on the horizon. The goal is to start the transition mid-June. All communications dealing with the 22/23 school year will take place in Weduc. Anything to do with the current 21/22 year will remain in SchoolPing. (That way when we close down SchoolPing you won't lose any important information about next year!)

We'll be sending out your login details and further information in June. Watch this space!







## **INCLUSION**

# Transition

We have our Year 6 pupils getting ready to move onto Secondary, and also all children moving to the next year group in September with a new class mix.

There are lots of things that school, and parents/carers, can do to help children prepare for, and cope with, change and to also help build resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem.



Please also have a look at this link for a document that can help with ideas for supporting children with change.

in review



youngminds.org.uk/media/2odjlktz/top-ten-tips-for-parents.pdf



#### **BALFOUR AT THE CHILDRENS PARADE!**

It was so fantastic to be able to celebrate the Brighton Festival's Children's Parade in person this year!

Miss Redfern and the Samba band did a fantastic job of keeping spirits raised throughout the parade. A huge thank you to all of the families and staff who were able to join us to represent Balfour and make the parade such a special occasion.



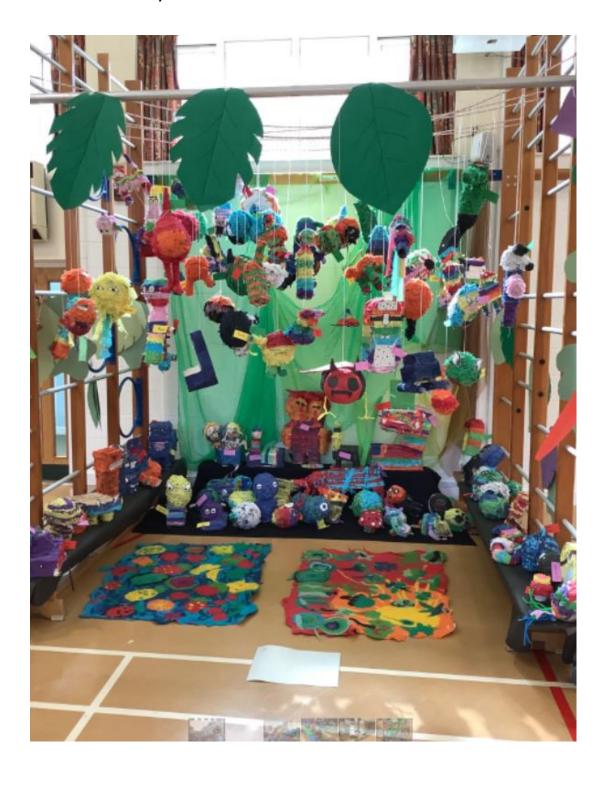






#### **OPEN HOUSE ART EXHIBITION**

Our annual Open House art exhibition was combined into a Balfour Community Day this year. Every child in the school had a piece of art work displayed to show off their fantastic creativity. Staff worked hard to display these into installations in both halls. A huge thank you to all of the families who came on Saturday!











#### **FAB UPDATE**

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

As many parents will sympathise, it seems only yesterday that it was Easter and the children revelled in a chocolate-fuelled frenzy. But despite my incredulity it is indeed the summer half term. By the time you read this we will have had the school-organised Celebration Day and Happy's Circus and we will be on the home straight to the summer holidays via the Summer Fair.



It seems an opportune time to pause for breath and thank everyone for their contributions to the events we have had. Events such as the scavenger hunt, the pizza kits, the quizzes and of course the Great Balfour Easter Egg Hunt.

All of our events contribute greatly to the FAB coffers, a fund that is so vital in going towards enriching the kids' experience at Balfour. Things like new playground equipment, the OPAL shed and library refurbishment all benefit directly from your generous donations of time and money – so a big Thank You!

A big shout out too to Abyss Brewing, Estrella Galicia and Higgidy for supplying us at the Art Exhibition & Community Celebration day and at other events.

This year we were also able to make good use of the remaining Easter eggs that weren't sold and donate them to the Balfour Food Bank and the Vegan Food Bank in time for Easter. There were around 100 eggs left over so not only was there zero waste, there were also another 100 or so children in Brighton who got to stuff their faces with chocolate too.

As I mentioned at the start, the next big event is the Summer Fair, which is our biggest event not just in terms of fundraising but also in terms of manpower requirements. This event more than any relies on volunteers to man





the food stalls, bar, bouncy castles, games, etc, Soon we will put a formal shout out to the parent community for help and you will be able to sign up. So I implore you, if you can spare an hour of your time in the sunshine to help it will be much appreciated.

So until then, enjoy the break, enjoy the weather (fingers crossed) and see you soon!

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS**

#### SUMMER FAIR SATURDAY JULY 16TH

The biggest and best event in our calendar returns this year. If you have been



before you will know it's a great opportunity to enjoy the summer sunshine, delicious food and as much Prosecco as you can drink (you know who you are). And if you haven't been before, think of the Community Fair we had in September - only bigger!

All the usual attractions will be back – Balfour's Got Talent, bouncy castles, games stalls, FAB food and FAB bar, the tombola and of course the summer raffle.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

All our events are dependent on one thing – volunteers. We do rely heavily on help from parents and carers to make our events happen.

The final event this year is the summer fair so keep an eye out for our Ping! A big thank you to everyone who has signed up already. We really couldn't do it without you.





#### **BALFOUR SWIM SCHOOL**

Lessons for swimmers of all levels will be run by qualified swimming instructors, and cost £5.50 per session (sibling discount available).

There are some spaces available. Please email



<u>balfourswimmingschool@yahoo.co.uk</u> if you're interested, or would like more information.

We are also reaching out to gauge interest in a summer course during the holidays. A Google form is out there in the Pings so if you haven't seen it please take a moment to have a think. There is no commitment at this stage.

#### 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.og.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.

#### **March winners:**

 1st - £65 Gaussen

2nd - £39 Hargreaves

3rd - £26 Sellwood

#### **April winners:**

1st - £62.50 Saville

• 2nd - £37.50 Mulholland

3rd - £25 Carr

www.balfourprimary.co.uk



#### **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: <a href="http://friendsatbalfour.org/">http://friendsatbalfour.org/</a>

Facebook: Friends at Balfour

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



#### The Brighton & Hove Family Grapevine SPRING 2022 issue is now available!

It is a one stop directory of things to do for family with children from bump to teen. We have a list of activities, places to visit, events taking place this spring. We also feature 6 fantastic competitions to enter to win some fantastic family time. The magazine is available to view online and to download here:

#### www.thefamilygrapevine.co.uk/brighton-hove/see-a-copy/

Copies of the magazine should still be available to pick from Churchill Square (our magazine bin is next to the reception desk) and at the following supermarkets: Asda — Hollingbury & Marina; Sainsbury - Lewes Rd & Old Shoreham Rd; Tesco — Church Rd Hove & Holmbush Shoreham, as well as at your local library if you would like your own copy.





#### Thank you to Clarks Shoes Brighton for donating to our Summer Fair Raffle!



## 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 results?

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 Brighton 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 Clarks Brighton on 01273 328938

Opening hours, Mon to Sat 9:00am-6:00pm Sunday 11:00am-5:00pm









COME & JOIN US AT

# SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMP

SPORTS | PERFORMANCE

AGES 4 - 11

25TH JULY - 26 AUGUST 2022

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 4PM

BHASVIC COLLEGE, HOVE, BN3 6EG

Our **Premium Package** is **excellent value for money** even if your child does not attend each day, offering the day-to-day choice of the Sports and Performance Camps. Flip over for all our pricing packages





**Sports Camp** 

Your children will be developing skills in a wide range of sports based activities including:

- Team Games
- Individual Sports
- · Obstacle Course Creation
- Fun and Friendly Competitions



**Performance Camp** 

Your children will be developing skills in a wide range of performance based activities including:

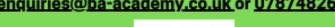
- · Acting Workshop
- · Singing Lessons
- Dance Classes
- Arts and Crafts

# **Pricing Packages**

	Premium Package *Unlimited access to both camps across the 5 weeks	2 Week Package *Access to either camp	1 Week Package *Access to either camp
1 Place	£295	£225	£150
2 Places *Discounted rate	<b>£247.50</b> £ Per Child	<b>£195</b> £ Per Child	<b>£130</b> £ Per Child

Check out our website at https://www.ba-academy.co.uk/summer-holiday-camps

For any queries please contact us at either enquiries@ba-academy.co.uk or 07874826409











MORE INFO HERE

office@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk









Monday 30 – Tuesday 31 May 10.00 – 12.30 each day Ages 11 – 15 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 firstcome first-served basis.

Level 3 training costs £45.00 per person.

To book your place, please visit <a href="https://sports.brighton-hove.gov.uk/events">https://sports.brighton-hove.gov.uk/events</a>









NON-STOP FUN & ACTIVITIES

✓ Sports sessions for all ages & abilities

Daily Arts & Crafts activities

✓ Team games, quizzes & music

Outdoor Adventure games

Drama activities ✓ Lego Challenges

✓ THE Dodgeball Classic

Plus much, much more...

Bringing the FUN back to school holidays for 4 – 11 year olds across Sussex. Children FOR 4-11 YEAR OLDS go home happy and can't wait to come back!

#### WHEN DO THE ACTIVITY CAMPS RUN?

8.15am - 5.00pm Monday 30th May - Wednesday 1st June

#### **EXTENDED HOURS AVAILABLE**

7.30am - 8.15am includes Breakfast 5.00pm - 6.30pm includes a Hot Dinner

#### MAY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CAMP LOCATIONS

- Balfour Primary School, BN1 6NE
- Halsford Park Primary School, RH19 1LR
- Harlands Primary School, RH16 1PJ
- Manor Field Primary School, RH15 OPZ
- St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, RH15 9JR

#### **OUR HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CAMP TEAM**

Our fun & friendly team includes qualified teachers, sports coaches, arts & games leaders.

Look out for a few familiar faces from our Breakfast & After School Clubs!

Lunchtime 'Grab Bag' is available to pre-order. **Hot Dinner included** with evening extended hours.



CHILD-FRIENDLY FOOD

Online at pioneerchildcare.co.uk For more information call us on 01444 411388 or email enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk





May half term! For girls & boys

Monday 30th May - Year 3&4, 1-3pm

Tuesday 31st May - Year 3&4, 1-3pm

Wednesday 1st June - Year 5, 1-3pm



Learn fun cheerleading stunts, jumps, tumbling, dance & lots more!!

In the KS2 Sports hall

£15 per day

Sessions led by experienced, qualified cheer & gymnastics coach

DBS checked, public liability insurance, First aid qualification

To book a place contact Jo Osborne on Tel: 07867303725

Email: cheerstars25@outlook.com



