

# Balfour Primary News

Respectful • Courageous • Friendly • Ambitious • Caring • Enthusiastic

28th September 2022



## NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the academic year. September always heralds change; new classes for the children, new teachers and year group teams, new children joining the school, school for the first time for 90 of our children and this year a new school for me and new Head Teacher for you!



Alan Gunn  
Headteacher

I would like to thank everyone for affording me such a warm welcome, all the children, parents and staff have shown a warmth and openness that helps make Balfour such a special place. I felt this the moment I first walked through the doors of the school and it was a key motivator in me wanting to be Head Teacher here.

I have met many of you out and about at the start and end of the day and earlier this term those who were able to make my 'meet the new Headteacher' meetings. For those of you who have not had that opportunity yet I would like to just give you all a little snapshot about me and my vision for the school...

I have been working in Primary Education for 27 years and for the last 6 years as Head Teacher of a primary school in Crawley. My passion for Primary Education is driven by giving all children the best possible start in life and the belief that by doing this we make the world a better place. By instilling strong values and learning behaviours, by teaching the fundamental skills and knowledge that children need, we create individuals who are confident, successful and responsible. It is vital our children achieve well academically as this opens doors to future choices, but it is also vital we teach children how to get on well with each other, work as a group and a team, how to work well as individuals and build resilience to cope when things do not go according to plan. Our curriculum needs to be designed to provide our

children with a breadth of experiences and the understanding that they can make a positive difference.

I am someone who cares deeply about the community; I was born and raised in the city into long established 'Brightonian' families, and plan to be Head at Balfour for a long time. My vision for the school is one where everyone succeeds and that the school is right at the centre of its community, learning and growing together.

In order to achieve this, the school's culture has to be the one we want to see throughout society. The shared values and attitudes and beliefs and the relationships within our community are the shared "why we do what we do" manifested in the "how" and the actions that support this. The culture for our school and community must be one where everybody is treated fairly and openly with compassion and understanding. It will be culture of warmth and kindness and giving the benefit of the doubt.

I started this piece saying that September is the month of change and as I sit here in my darkening office with a distinct chill in the air it reminds me that summer is fading and soon, we will be welcoming the clear fresh autumnal days and the trees will go through their fiery splendour. Despite these changes Balfour remains constant, working hard for the best of all our children. My time here as Head Teacher will undoubtedly see changes but these will be built upon the solid foundations of all the excellent work that is happening now. Balfour has already shown me how great it is and I am extremely proud to be leading such a fantastic and dedicated school and community.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

➔ [Can be found on our website.](#)

## TERM DATES FOR 2021/2022

**Autumn Term 1:** 05/9/22 – 21/10/22    **Autumn Term 2:** 01/11/22 – 16/12/22

➤ Half Term: 24 Oct – 28 Oct

➤ Christmas Break: 19 Dec – 02 Jan

**Spring Term 1:** 4/1/23 – 10/2/23

➤ Half Term: 13 Feb – 17 Feb

**Spring Term 2:** 20/2/23 – 31/3/23

➤ Easter Break: 3 Apr – 14 Apr

**INSET days:** 31 October, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> May

## GOVERNORS

Governors have been delighted to see Mr Gunn receiving such a warm Balfour welcome! It has been great to see so many parents chatting to him in the playground.

There have been a few changes to the governing body at the start of this term. We say farewell and thank you to Charlotte Bonham Carter who has worked extremely hard to support the school over the past 4 years. We have been joined by Anna Hudson Young who joins us as a parent governor, Erin Moore as staff governor, and Ray Leeke who is a new co-opted governor - welcome to the team! Katie Wood will be standing down as co-chair of the governing body in October (but staying on as parent governor), and Kirstin Baker will continue as Chair. Carolyn Bristow will continue as Vice Chair. Governors have re-allocated their responsibilities and areas of focus to be in line with the school development focus areas, and this will help us to continue to work strategically and supportively.

We have exciting plans for the term ahead, including a training session with our school development partner, focus and monitoring weeks, and further opportunities to connect with strategic leaders and curriculum leads.

If you wish to contact the school governors, the email address is:  
[balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

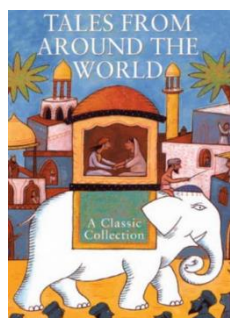
Governors can also be contacted via the school office who will be happy to forward any correspondence, or to the clerk of governors, Kristina McCulloch:  
[kristinamcculloch@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:kristinamcculloch@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Best Wishes, Katie Wood & Kirstin Baker.



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

**Reception** – Reception have been learning all about different types of families through our Marvellous Me posters. We will be reading books about celebrating our differences and what different types of families look like.



**Year 1** - In year one we have begun exploring traditional tales. We have looked at alternative versions to traditional tales we are already familiar with. In recognition of the wealth of traditional tales from around the world, we have planned to read a story from a different country each week during this topic.



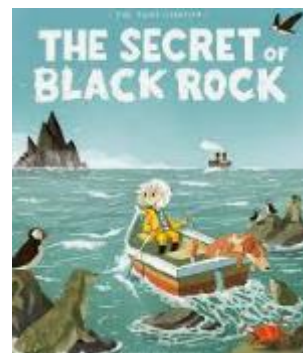
**Year 2** - In Year 2, we began our science lessons on animals, including humans, by thinking about what skills scientists need and looking at two inspiring female scientists, Dr Jane Goodall and Dr Marie M. Daly. Jane Goodall is an

anthropologist and expert on chimpanzees after studying them in the wild for 60 years. She is passionate about animal welfare and has worked hard to help protect chimpanzees. Marie M. Daly was the first African American woman to receive a PHD in chemistry in the United States. She worked hard to understand more



about how foods and diet can affect the health of the heart and how our blood circulates in our body. We were amazed at their passion and perseverance to find out more about humans and animals!

**Year 3** – In Year Three, we have thought carefully about our every changing local community and so this has been our focus this half term. In English, our key texts of Meerkat Mail and The Secret of Black Rock have both been written by Brighton authors. The Secret of Black Rock was written by Joe Todd- Stanton who went to school at Downs Junior and Dorothy Stringer. In PSHE, we have been reading a story about Sami who moved from the Ukraine and started school. We has discussed how he might have been feeling and the different strategies we can use to help new children feel included in our community.

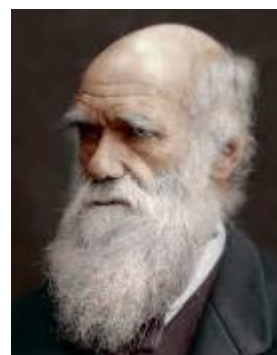


**Year 4** - In year 4, we are reading the text “Song of the Dolphin Boy” which features a group of children with families from different cultures.



**Year 5** – In Year Five we are reading a Michael Morpurgo story called 'The Sleeping Sword'. The main character is visually impaired and the story is about how he learns to live with his disability and how his life changes when he discovers an ancient underground tomb. It's linked to our prior learning about the legend of King Arthur.

**Year 6** – Year 6 have been learning all about Charles Darwin and his trip around the world on the HMS Beagle. We have used the maps to plot his voyage, including looking at the landscape of Chile, finding fossils in Punta Alta and of course his trip to the Galapagos Islands. We have been looking at a variety of texts, to help us write his biography, including, 'When Darwin sailed the Sea, by David Long. Did you know that Darwin certainly wouldn't have been aboard that voyage if he hadn't been taught some of the skills he needed by John Edmonstone, a freed black slave who taught Darwin the art of taxidermy. Imagine having taught and influenced one of the greatest men in the history of science, Charles Darwin!





## PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE

Welcome back to another school year at Balfour! We have had such a great start to the year with the teachers getting to know the children and the children getting to know their new classmates.

Please see below the petition that Natasha Paling has set up to raise awareness about the criteria for Free School Meals. There is also an eligibility checker which is quick and easy to use.

A petition has been set up to request that all families that are in receipt of Universal Credit should receive free school meals. Currently, if you have an annual income of less than £7,400 and claiming Universal Credit, you are eligible for free school meals. If your annual income is just over that, you are not eligible. With a cost of living crisis looming, many families who are earning just above £7,400 will find themselves in even harder financial hardship. We would really appreciate it if you could sign and share this petition. Caroline Lucas has already raised the petition with the previous education secretary, James Cleverly.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/619561>



All children in receipt of Universal Credit to receive free school meals - Petitions - [petition.parliament.uk](https://petition.parliament.uk)

With a cost of living crisis, more families will plummet into poverty with children suffering. Families earning just over £7,400 in receipt of Universal Credit are not eligible for free school meals.

[petition.parliament.uk](https://petition.parliament.uk)

If your financial circumstances have changed recently and you are unsure whether your child is entitled to Free School Meals, you can use this eligibility checker: [Free School Meals Eligibility Checker](#). A check only takes a few moments. You will need your National Insurance Number. If your child is eligible, information about free school meals and how to apply can be found on this webpage: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/free-school-meals>.

The teachers have all been given guidance on ensuring our Pupil Premium children are receiving the support they need, both pastorally and academically, so please do get in touch with your child's class teacher, if there is something you would like to discuss.

### **Ukrainian families**

If you would like to join a Ukrainian WhatsApp group, please email [natashapaling@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:natashapaling@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Ukrainian families across Brighton & Hove are organising events and support to those who are living in our community.

If you have any questions regarding Pupil Premium, please do not hesitate to contact me:

[sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



Sandra Mulholland,  
Deputy Headteacher

## INCLUSION

We are extremely delighted to let parents/carers know that Balfour has been awarded the 'Inclusion Quality Mark'. The assessment process for this was finalised through an assessor visiting the school for a two day assessment in July. He visited classrooms and also met with different members of our school staff and school community.



This mark reflects Balfour's belief and ongoing commitment to creating an Inclusive school environment in which all pupils have the opportunity to thrive.

The assessor concluded 'I believe that Balfour Primary School meets the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark's Inclusive School Award. I am confident that the continued reinforcement of the Balfour routines and systems will lead to excellent outcomes and outstanding inclusive practice'.

If you would like more information about Balfour's approach to Inclusion then please visit the school website to read our SEND policy and also our SEND information report.



# ATTENDANCE

Welcome to our new attendance page section of the newsletter.

This week's attendance data...

Well done Year 2!

<b>Reception</b>	97.5%
<b>Year 1</b>	95.3%
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	96.1%
<b>Year 4</b>	96.4%
<b>Year 5</b>	95.6%
<b>Year 6</b>	95.4%



We are looking to introduce a year group certificate or trophy to celebrate. Please get in touch with any ideas you or your children may have!

If you have any questions or would like any help or support regarding your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Francis-Hicks:

[michaelafrancishicks@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:michaelafrancishicks@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



Michaela Francis-Hicks  
Assistant Headteacher

# FAB UPDATE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A new school year ushers in a new Headteacher *and* new parents to Balfour. On behalf of FAB, to them I say greetings and welcome!



We are planning to hold our full roster of events over the coming months and hope to see as many of you there as possible. This starts with the FAB Quiz in November and is followed by the Xmas Fair towards the end of term. Both of these are great fun and the fair will follow last year's successful format of being spread out over KS1 and KS2 sites.

Before we go into too much detail about these events and others, I want to say that we recognise the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on people and we appreciate every pound spent or donated to the fundraising activities that we hold. It is never taken for granted and we strive to make all our events as affordable as possible and that they are genuinely enjoyable for everyone. It is worth reiterating that FAB's mission is to enhance our children's educational experience through installing playground equipment or subsidising school trips for example. With school budgets under ever tightening conditions this has never been more important.

To enable this to happen we do need the energy and help from parents like you and so we are launching a recruitment drive to attract the talented and the willing to help fulfil various roles.

One of these roles is for a new Treasurer. Haley, our current treasurer, is stepping down this year and so we are urgently looking for someone to take over that position. If you think you may be interested but are unsure then please by all means contact us and we will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on the 11th October at the school where there will be plenty of opportunity to find out more about FAB

and what we do. There will also be lots of time to chat to us if you feel you may be able to join us.

On that note I hope to see lots of you at the AGM!

## TREASURER URGENTLY NEEDED



Our current treasurer is stepping down after several years of helping out and so we are urgently looking for a replacement. Whoever steps up can expect to get a period of overlap with Haley who will also be available to advise, along with the rest of us, afterwards. Unlike a lot of the other roles

this one does suit someone who is confident with numbers, budgets and spreadsheets. If you think you may be able to help please come along to the AGM where we can answer all your queries.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

### FAB NEEDS YOU!

Do you have any skills that you think would come in handy? We'd love to hear from you. We have lots of places for parents just like you.



If you have a background in anything, it doesn't matter, we are a diverse bunch at FAB and would gladly welcome you aboard.

We are currently looking to fill the roles for: Treasurer, Vice-Chair, Website, Marketing, Volunteer Coordinator, Food Team members and Activity Leaders.

All of these roles and others can be discussed at the AGM or at any other time by dropping us a line. We are a friendly bunch of parents just like you!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) – 8PM KS2 SPORTS HALL TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER

The AGM will be held in the KS2 sports hall as usual and there will be ample opportunity to meet us and learn about what we do. We hope to present Mr Gunn, the new head teacher, to you as well as ply you with ample cheese and wine.

## FAB QUIZ – FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER DOORS 7.30PM – KS1 HALL

The brilliant FAB Quiz returns with our quizmasters Daryl and Kelly back at the mic. The quiz is FAB's only child-free event so roll up for an evening of free heating, fun and food (provided by the fantastic Olly's Fish Shack). No quiz night would be complete without the FAB Bar which will be on hand to provide plenty of liquid inspiration. Tickets will be available soon.



## CHRISTMAS FAIR – SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER – SAVE THE DATE



Following on from last year's successful event we will be pushing ahead with the new dual site format spread over KS1 & KS2. There will be more details closer to the time but expect the fair to run from 12 - 4pm. And finally... if there is anyone out there with a flair for set design or decorating please do drop us a line.

The same goes for anyone who fancies themselves as a Santa!

## 2022 CIRCUS REFUNDS

As most of you know, the circus was cancelled on the eve of the show earlier this year and so we set about refunding the tickets. This is the first time we have had to cancel an event of this size and we were simply caught out by how difficult this was to do using our online booking provider. We have now found a better solution to actioning the remaining refunds (some have

already been refunded via Ticketor), which should be completed by the end of September. FAB would like to sincerely apologise for the long wait and hope it has not caused too much inconvenience.

## BALFOUR SWIM SCHOOL

The swim school is run for all levels and is priced very keenly to support the children of the school. In light of upwards pressures on costs we have been forced to increase prices slightly however these will be kept as minimal as possible.



There are some spaces available. Please email [balfourswimmingschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:balfourswimmingschool@yahoo.co.uk) if you're interested, or would like more information.

## RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP

There are three 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/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsatbalfour/)

Then when you shop online, go to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.





## **School Crossing Patrol Vacancies**

Balfour Road for Balfour Primary School - 7 hours 30 mins

Millers Road/Highcroft Villas Brighton for Stanford Infant and Junior Schools – 8 hours 45mins per week

Port Hall Avenue Brighton for Stanford Infant and Junior Schools - 6 hours 40mins per week

The Green, Rottingdean for Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School - 5 hours per week

County Oak Avenue, Brighton for Carden Primary School – 5 hours 25 mins per week

Church Road, Portslade for St Peter's Primary School – 7 hours per week

Lustrells Vale, Saltdean for Saltdean Primary School – 6 hours 15mins per week

Training, uniform and equipment will be provided to successful applicants.

**Interview date:** 3 October 2022

**Closing date:** 25 September 2022

For an informal discussion, please contact Emily Tester, Road Safety Training Manager on 01273 293847

**TO APPLY** [Job Details | Brighton & Hove City Council \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/jobs/job-details/school-crossing-patrol-vacancies)

Your starting salary will be pro rata



OFSTED REGISTERED

# School Holiday activity camp

NON-STOP FUN & ACTIVITIES FOR 4-11 YEAR OLDS  
Children go home happy and can't wait to come back!

At Balfour Primary School

## OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 24th - Friday 28th October  
8.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Join us for an Autumn  
Extravaganza featuring  
a mix of Games, Sports,  
Arts, Crafts & Role play.

## OUR HOLIDAY CAMP TEAM

Our fun & friendly team includes  
qualified teachers, sports coaches, arts  
& games leaders. With familiar faces  
from our Breakfast & After School Clubs!

# BOOK TODAY!

Online at [pioneerchildcare.co.uk](http://pioneerchildcare.co.uk)  
For more information call us on 01444 411388  
or email [enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk)



**99%**  
would recommend  
our Holiday  
Activity Camp\*

\*Parent Survey 2021



**£31**  
per day  
Siblings & Multi-day Discounts Available





Monday Breakfast Club Gymnastics start time 07.45 to 08.45 am  
September term 2022

10 week terms, in school term time. Starting 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. No gym on Inset day 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. So last session of term is 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022. Payment can be made in full per term or by standing order throughout the whole year pro rata. On top, you will need insurance with BG and club affiliation fee. Fee info on website. £10 per lesson paid termly or monthly. Open to all ages

Fully qualified and insured and enhanced DBS checked staff.

Uniform is available to purchase and a progressive competitive squad path is on offer for talented gymnasts. Please see our website on how to order and term dates.

Trials: To book on to a trail please log on to [www.starsgymclub.co.uk](http://www.starsgymclub.co.uk) and click 'contact us'.