



## NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our second Newsletter of the academic year. It only seems like five minutes ago I was welcoming everyone back to school and now we are off for our half term break.

This month I want to talk about the thorny issue of parking and the exciting news of the School Street scheme.



Alan Gunn  
Headteacher

Many of you will have received our earlier correspondence around the proposed “School Street” on Balfour and Loder Roads and I urge you to take part in this consultation process. The consultation runs until 27<sup>th</sup> November and the quick survey can be found [here](#). Whatever your views, it is always important to take part in the process; this supports the teaching of our children about the importance of taking part in the democratic process and social responsibility – maybe they could take part too?

I understand that parking and traffic around school drop off and pick up times is always a contentious issue but the positive impact on children’s well-being as well as safety are well-documented in school street schemes across the country. The impact on the local environment is also positive and by encouraging everyone to find an alternative way to get to school also impacts positively on emissions and pollution.

The scheme ties in perfectly with the school’s climate change curriculum and the work and support we give our children in empowering them to make a positive difference. The proposals on pavement widening and the alterations at the junctions and at the bottom of the steps will also have a positive impact outside of drop off and pick up times for our wider community.

As the mornings and evenings get darker and the weather closes in, I would like to continue the theme and kindly ask those people who drive their children to school to park responsibly (I know most of you do) and to be extra vigilant when opening car doors. We have had a couple of near misses where cyclists have had to take evasive action recently. Also please do not park on the pavements, double yellow lines and the school zigzags. Doing this makes

crossing roads more difficult and dangerous for children and parents, we need to do all we can to ensure all our children remain safe. We will shortly receive some boards that will be put in the road to support the parking restrictions. If we can avoid driving and parking too close to the school or try and car share, this will mean that those parents and children who do have to park closer to school - blue badge holders for instance- can find a safe and legal place near the school.

Balfour has one of the highest percentages of children who walk to school,



currently just under 70%. This is amazing! We have just rewritten our travel plan which will be published shortly, we are now aiming to have at least 75% of our children walking (or scooting) to school. Any further ideas on how we can encourage or support our community in achieving this are warmly welcomed.

I started this Newsletter saying how quickly the time seems to have gone this half-term but on the other hand I cannot imagine not being Headteacher here at Balfour. It feels as though I have been at Balfour for a long time and as I have reflected on this, I have come to realise that the values and culture already in place in the school community resonates with my own values and philosophy. This is why Balfour feels like home to me and hope for you too.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and restful half-term break and that we all come back in November refreshed and ready for the headlong rush into winter.

## 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

**Spring Term 2:** 20/2/23 – 31/3/23

➤ Half Term: 13 Feb – 17 Feb

➤ Easter Break: 3 Apr – 14 Apr

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

## GOVERNORS



Please note we have a Parent Governor vacancy. We encourage all parents to consider the role regardless of your experience as training is provided. For more information please see the message that was sent out via Weduc on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

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** – We have carried on with their 'Marvellous Me' topic and celebrating how we are all different. We have looked at books such as Mummy, Momma and Me to discuss how our families are all different. During our Understanding the World lessons, we have learnt about challenging gender stereotypes with our book 'Pink is for Boys'. We have also read 'The Colours of Us', discussing how we all have different colour skin and celebrating our uniqueness!



**Year 1** – We are continuing to explore traditional tales. Alongside the more familiar tales we have read, we've been reading stories from different countries and traditions around the world. We have been enjoying making links between the tales we know, and those that are traditional in other places. For example, we've been noticing similar characters and patterns in many of the stories we've read.

**Year 2** - In PSHE this term we have been learning about environmental safety and drugs. We learned that different people might need different things to help them live healthy, happy lives. We watched some videos about children who have to take medicine every day to stay well and listened to how they felt about this. We discussed how sometimes children may need to help care for others in their families. We also shared how we each like to keep our minds and bodies healthy and happy and what we can do when our mind or body doesn't feel its best.





**Year 3** – In Science, the children have been learning about the human skeleton and labelling the different parts. We have ensured that the children have seen a variety of different bodies and skeletons so they gain a deeper understanding that all the human bodies are the same. When discussing this in class the children have shown great maturity and a thirst for knowledge about wanting to find out more.



**Year 4** - We have been focusing on increasing global awareness. We have looked at flooding around the world and also had a zoom workshop with Water Aid where the children learnt about many different countries effected by climate change.



**Year 5** – We’ve been learning about Hindu beliefs and values. This has included finding out about Hindu celebrations, family and how our actions affect ourselves and others.

**Year 6** – We have been learning about Harriet Tubman in RE. She became a “conductor” for an Underground Railroad - a secret network that helped enslaved people find their way to freedom. By 1857 she had freed dozens of enslaved people, including her own parents. She said that she, “never lost a passenger,” even though slaveholders offered large rewards for her capture. After the Civil War, she settled in Auburn, New York, with her parents where she worked for racial justice and also for women’s rights. She believed that the two struggles were closely linked.



## PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE

We are really pleased to announce that the Balfour MA Foodbank is returning to its roots and coming back to the school. It is a valuable resource to the city of Brighton helping many families and it is hoped that by moving back to the school, it can support our families as well.

The foodbank operates on a no referral, no questions, no forms, no judgement basis. We do ask that before contacting us, you have applied to the council for the Local Discretionary Social Fund and looked at the Money Advice Service. We will not ask for proof of this. We do also ask for a voluntary donation of £1 per bag if you can afford it. Please do not worry if you cannot, everyone is always welcome.

### LINKS:

- [Get emergency help with food, energy bills and other essentials](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefits/help-and-support/get-emergency-help-food-energy-bills-and-other-essentials)
- [Money Advice Plus](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/adult-social-care-hub/health-and-adult-social-care-directory/money-advice-plus)

We will not be taking food donations for the foodbank as it has evolved quite dramatically, now operating on an efficient 'click and collect' basis. We now



receive and distribute fresh produce as well as purchasing food the most effective way. Instead of food donations, families can make monetary donations via their JustGiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/balfourmafoodbank>

If you wish to help support the **foodbank** in other ways (such as offering storage solutions, delivering packages, cooking or any other way) contact [natashapaling@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:natashapaling@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



Sandra Mulholland  
Deputy Headteacher

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)

## INCLUSION



### Autism

You are invited to an informal coffee afternoon with BHISS staff on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 1:30pm.**

We will meet in the Year 6 base at Balfour School, where parents can discuss their children's autism.

The coffee afternoon is for parents or carers of pupils with an autism diagnosis and also those on the pathway.

Mandy Leahy, who is an autism family support worker from the council's inclusion and support service (BHISS), will be here at the school to answer questions and talk through strategies.

## ATTENDANCE

Welcome to our new attendance page section of the newsletter.

This week's attendance data...

**Well done Year 5!**

Reception	96.5%
Year 1	92.1%
Year 2	92.9%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	92.7%
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
Year 6	95.5%

We aim for a  
minimum of  
**97%**  
attendance

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



Needless to say, it is half term already (how did that happen?) and the clocks will be going back (boo) BUT respite is on its way in the form of the FAB Quiz!

If you haven't already tickets then I urge you to do so. It promises to be the usual mix of fun and fizz hosted by that great guy in the gold jacket. Details can be found a little bit further on.

We held our AGM on the 11th and it was great to welcome Mr Gunn who spoke about community – something we at FAB hold central in the way we do things. It was also brilliant to meet new people and for us to be able to present to a wider audience who it is we are and what it is we do.

The main thrust of this year's AGM is that FAB needs YOU! We need the energy and help from parents like you and so we are continuing to push recruitment 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.

## 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!

### 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!

## 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.

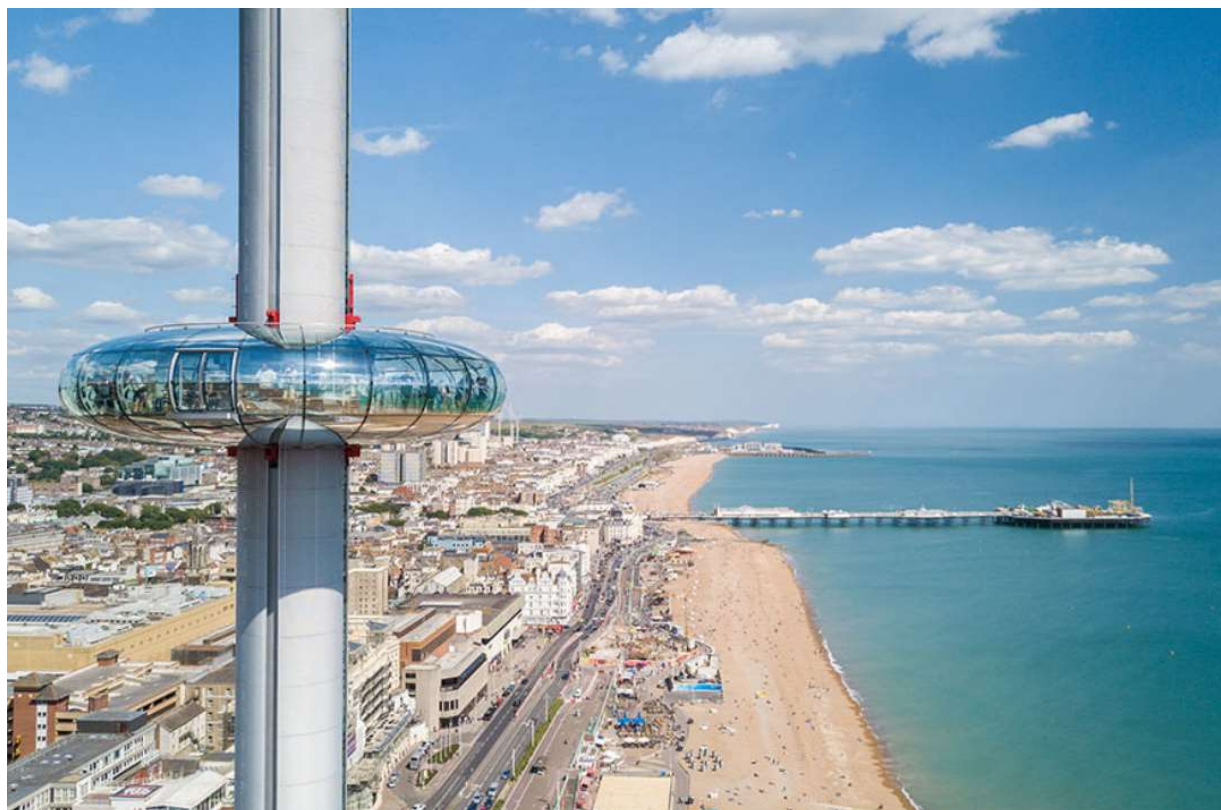




BRITISH AIRWAYS  
i360 Viewing Tower  
Brighton's best views

From Friday 21st to Monday 31st October up to two  
children per one paying adult fly free at BA i360.

[britishairwaysi360.com](http://britishairwaysi360.com)







# KIDS EAT FREE

from 21st - 31st October

One free kids main with the purchase of any adult main.

[westbeachbarandkitchen.com](http://westbeachbarandkitchen.com)



# YOUNG ENGINEERS HALF-TERM CAMP

## Science, Technology, Engineering and Mechanics



**Morning sessions for ages 6-11  
years during half-term holiday**  
**24th - 28th October**

Enrol your child today and they will explore the world around us from a scientific, technological and mechanical (STEM) perspective.

In each session your child will be given a number of Lego model options of which they can choose 2 models to build during the morning. Model themes range from building a tower or a bridge to flight and speed to fairground rides, war machines and everyday machines like washing machines and mixers.



Brighton & Hove  
T: 01273 807328

E: [b-hcentre@young-engineers.co.uk](mailto:b-hcentre@young-engineers.co.uk)

9:30 am - 1.30 pm  
Stanford Junior School  
£35.00 per child per session.  
£150 per child per week  
(10% sibling discount)



[https://brightonhovecentre.  
young-engineers.co.uk](https://brightonhovecentre.young-engineers.co.uk)