

# Balfour Primary News

Respectful • Courageous • Friendly • Ambitious • Caring • Enthusiastic

28th September 2022



## NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our November Newsletter. My goodness it does feel that every week starts with gloomy, rainy days and that it is wetter and darker than it has been in a long time. Life at Balfour contrasts the weather and every day is filled with magical and uplifting stories.



Alan Gunn  
Headteacher

This month, I want to talk about the key role the children play in our school's success and how they have such a positive influence on our culture.

Our pupil parliament is up and running again this year. All the children took part in the elections last half-term and already we are seeing a positive impact they are having across the school. Currently, the children are looking at how we mark work and give feedback. This will give us useful information and help us inform the decisions we are making about how to improve further the outcomes for our children.



The Play Leaders across the school are really working hard to ensure our break times are successful and fun for all the children when they outside. As

you know we try to have children enjoying the outdoors as much as possible and taking part in our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). They are instrumental in ensuring the equipment is in the right place and supporting the play. You can help further support this by ensuring your child remembers to bring their coat and waterproof shoes, as a little bit of rain will not put us off.

It is not only outside that the children are working together to make lunch times fun, as our child lead clubs in Key Stage 2 are now set up and ready to start in the Spring. There has been such an interest from our children that we have enough to keep us going for the whole academic year.

Alongside the child lead roles that we initiate as a school the children are using their own initiative and “coming up with” their own ideas to improve life at Balfour. Some examples include; a regular group that meet in my office once a week, different children each week performing in our Friday assemblies and even today a group of children came to see me about setting up our own on-line newspaper.

We are quite rightly proud of all our children and we strive hard to give them all the confidence and independence to try things and succeed. This is a crucial part of our values and vision at Balfour. We demand success for every child to enable them to be confident, successful and responsible, providing the strong foundations that they will take with them for the rest of their education and their lives.

I have spoken about some of the ways we support the children to be independent and the opportunities we provide outside of our usual classroom learning, but this is only possible because of your input as parents. The partnership between school and parents is vital in ensuring the success of our children. As Head Teacher, I have already seen how strong this partnership is at Balfour and I am sure we will all continue to work together supporting our children.

I want to finish by saying how much I am enjoying my time at Balfour. The staff, children and parents are amazing and I am so proud to lead such a fantastic and dedicated school community.

## TREE PLANTING AT BALFOUR

**It's Tree Planting Week starting this coming weekend...**

November 26- December 4th **PLANT A TREE and NAME the Avenue**

**NEWS:** We are part of an exciting new bio-diversity action group made up of the schools on the Surrenden Campus. Along with Stringer and Varndean Schools, Balfour will be planting an avenue of semi mature trees down the sides of the bridle path that is currently called 'Stringer Way'. This avenue will form a broadleaf canopy wildlife corridor linking Hollingbury and Bursted woods to the north east to the Dorothy Stringer Nature Reserve Woodland, to Balfour's Wildlife Reserve and nature areas and to Varndean School and Varndean College's wildlife areas. The new tree canopy will also link directly to the mature tree line on Surrenden and into Withdean and Preston Park. In addition, the trees will be under planted with pollinator attracting plants and bulbs which will not only further enrich and extend the biodiversity of our area but also increase the opportunities for the children and young people we serve to be closer to nature.

**Can you think of a name for our avenue?** As the corridor will be made up of predominantly elm-disease resistant elms, what do you think of Surrenden Elm Way? Any thoughts please email me.

**PLANTING:** In addition to the trees above, this month we will be planting, mulching and watering another 12 semi mature trees around the school. The 12 we planted last Winter survived the drought thanks to the small dedicated team of volunteers who watered every single week throughout Spring and Summer.



If you would like to help plant and/or help water these new trees please email me on [alexandrawitt@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:alexandrawitt@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk).

We do not have a precise planting date yet but it will be within the next 2-3 weeks, afterschool and/or on Sat or Sun am. As soon as I can confirm the date, I will send a message out.

**Where did the money come from?** The trees have been funded by the UTCF. The Urban tree Challenge fund from the Forestry Commission pays for trees to be planted in Parks and open spaces (not streets) and covers their establishment costs for 3 years. Brighton and Hove City Council has provided stakes, wire and contractors to do the hole digging. Through this fund, Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum, (which is a citywide group incl us) will have successfully planted over 400 semi-mature trees around Brighton and Hove by the end of this November!



Planting of the first 12 trees 12/03/22



As a thank you for the many hours of watering, a few of us attended an event at the Brighton Pavilion where Caroline Lucas gave an encouraging speech on the importance and impact of planting trees in our cities. This is a photo of Elise (yr 3) and Caroline Lucas who had a lovely talk about exactly that. A huge thank you from us too to Maddy and Elise for all your care keeping our trees alive

## TERM DATES

**Autumn Term 2:** 01/11/22 – 16/12/22

➤ Christmas Break: 19 Dec – 02 Jan

**Spring Term 1:** 4/1/23 – 10/2/23

➤ Half Term: 13 Feb – 17 Feb

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



[Additional dates for your diary](#)





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

**Reception** – EYFS have been learning about family diversity. Through reading quality texts including 'Stella brings the family', we have been learning about what different families might look like. The children loved learning about Diwali! We discussed how Diwali can be celebrated, designed our own Mehndi style patterns and used salt dough to make diva lamps.



**Year 1** – In year one we are learning about the symbols used in different religions. We explored the symbol of light and discussed which religious festivals we know where we see many lights. We explored how lights are used when celebrating Diwali and Christmas. We then learnt about the story of Hanukkah - which is also known as the Festival of Lights. We were able to compare the similarities and differences between different faiths.



**Year 2** - In History, we have been learning about the Victorians. We created a timeline with key points in the children's lives and then looked back into History and added on relevant key events. The children came up with some of their own ideas to add in too, such as 'The Great Fire of London' and George Stephenson. We have also explored a range of artefacts including; clothing, toys, writing tools, and chimney sweeps. We discussed some of the similarities and differences between these artefacts and what we have in modern day.



**Year 3** – In History, we visited the Royal Pavilion and learnt about the history as well as some of the famous people who worked there. We learnt about Sake Dean Mahomed, he was the first person in Brighton to open a Spa. His Spa allowed seawater to be



piped in and warmed so people could swim and take their Seawater Cures which Brighton had become famous for.



**Year 4** - In Year 4 we have learnt about how the Jewish people escaped slavery in Egypt and how Jews remember their ancestors at Passover time. In PSHE we have been learning about disability equality. In Shared Reading, we have read a collection of traditional stories from different world cultures, called 'Fierce, Fearless and Free'.

**Year 5** – We've been finding out about Hindu deities and how God is represented in many different ways. We've read stories about well-known deities and asked questions about them. We've also been learning about Bollywood dance movements and routines by watching film and practising individually and small groups.



**Year 6** – In our PHSE lessons, Year 6 have been learning that differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors, including family, cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversity, age, sex, sexual orientation, and disability. Our focus has been diversity: what it means; the benefits of living in a diverse community and about valuing diversity within communities. Our whole school antibullying week, gave us the opportunity to further reflect on



what we mean by prejudice: how to recognise behaviours/actions which discriminate against others and explore ways of responding - being an upstander - if we witness or experience it.

## PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE

Thank you so much to those families who have been able to support with our new foodbank. We have had some contributions through the JustGiving page and families have contributed selected items as shown on the posters around school.

If you are able to donate, please scan this code (or [click on the image](#)) and follow the path to donate. Or if you can donate any of the following, please do so: instant coffee, honey, jam, olive oil, tinned meat/fish, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, instant hot chocolate, seasonal treats.



We have met with several families, during the past few weeks, to discuss what we can do to support their family. Please do get in touch if you are experiencing financial difficulties.

Several children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium are attending sports clubs, with the payments being made by Balfour Primary through the Sports Premium fund. If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium and would like your child to attend a sports club, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact me directly at [sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:sandramulholland@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk) If you have any questions regarding **Pupil Premium**, please do not hesitate to contact me



Sandra Mulholland  
Deputy Headteacher

## GOVERNORS

Many thanks to both candidates who stood in the parent governor election and to everyone who voted. **Marcus O'Dair** has been elected to the governing body and I look forward to working with him.

Many thanks also to Katie Wood, who has recently stepped down as co-chair. The good news is that Katie will be continuing as a governor so we will not be losing her!

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)

## INCLUSION



- Set the ground rules with your child from the beginning
  - Check, and adhere to, age restrictions for phone apps and online games
  - Set daily limits for phone and screen use
  - Spend time away from technology- model this yourself as well
  - Try to keep screen devices in shared areas of the house and/or make sure your child's bedroom door is open
  - Ensure your child has privacy settings activated for online gaming and think about using a parental control app on their phone
- 
- Talk to your child about how to keep themselves safe online
  - Make sure your child knows what to do if they are worried or concerned about anything online
  - Please report any incidents to school or discuss any concerns that you have

Please see these other helpful websites for further advice

[Balfour Primary School - Online safety](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)



# FAB UPDATE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The days are getting shorter and the cold is drawing in. That can only mean one thing – the Christmas Fair!

Preparations are almost finalised now and this year's event promises to be great.

With live music, a Christmas market and lots of mulled wine there will be plenty seasonal cheer to be had. As usual the FAB food team will have a mouth-watering menu to entice you and the bars will keep the drinks flowing.

But we need volunteers to help out on the day. There are a wide range of activities that need people to run them and they are usually in 1 hour slots so you can still enjoy the day with your family. I urge you to take a look at the Volunteer section and sign up. A list of all the volunteer slots can also be found on our website here



<http://friendsatbalfour.org/2022/11/23/christmas-fair-volunteer-slots/>

In the New Year we will be looking forward to longer days and warmer weather and also the FAB Quiz which we will be held sometime before half term. Watch this space for more info.

I can also reveal that Brighton Bricks have generously agreed to donate money raised from their Lego Minifigure trail to FAB. This is a fab, fun task to keep restless ones occupied in the holidays and a good excuse to visit some of the great businesses Fiveways has to offer. More details further on.

All that remains is to say bye for now and I will see you all at the Fair on December 10th.

## 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: Vice-Chair, Website, Marketing, Volunteer Coordinator, Food Team members and Activity Leaders.

Drop us a line anytime if you are curious or interested in ways you can help. There is no obligation to do more than that, we are a friendly bunch of parents just like you!

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



The dual site format continues this year with lots of fun events held over KS1 and KS2 sites. Visit Santa's grotto and The Grinch's cave. Enjoy live music, games,

inflatable snow globe, kids and adult tombolas, Christmas crafts and market and of course lots of yummy food and the FAB bar.

There will be lots of mulled wine to be enjoyed and if that isn't enough there is the raffle. Tickets will be going out in book bags anytime soon, if they haven't already by the time this goes out, and I urge you to buy as many as you can. Tickets will also be available to buy on the day too, should you wish to buy more!

There are also some important dates to be aware of for the fair. They are:-

**Friday 2nd December** – Non-uniform day in exchange for tombola donations

**Friday 9th December** – Cake and mince pie donations for the fair

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As mentioned already, the Christmas Fair needs volunteers to help set up and clear up as well as run on the day. These events rely on you guys sparing an hour or so to help so please take a look at the sign-up sheets and see if you can donate a little of your time. As usual it is hugely appreciated and your contributions make a big difference.

<http://friendsatbalfour.org/2022/11/23/christmas-fair-volunteer-slots/>

Christmas Jumper Sale – **Monday 5th December** – after school

The 2nd hand xmas jumper sale returns after school outside KS2.

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## THE FIVEWAYS XMAS MINIFIGURE TRAIL – 10TH DECEMBER – 15TH JANUARY

Can you find the Lego Minifigures hidden in shop windows?

www.brightonbricks.com are running their Lego minigure trail with money raised going to FAB. Entry forms can be collected from Wigwam Toys. £1 per entry.



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## FAB QUIZ – EASTER TERM - WATCH THIS SPACE

The FAB Quiz returns in the first half term of the New Year and promises the usual mix of fun, food and fizz to banish those winter blues. Watch this space for details.

## 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.



**NOW  
HIRING**

Looking for some occasional work? Dorothy Stringer are currently recruiting for Exam Invigilators for the upcoming Mocks and Public GCSE exams. More info can be found here: [https://dorothy-stringer.co.uk/work\\_with\\_us/](https://dorothy-stringer.co.uk/work_with_us/)



**AFTER  
SCHOOL**

# ARCHERY CLUB

 Premier Education | **INSPIRING  
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INFORMATION**  
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 **Trustpilot**  
★★★★★  
Based on over 15,000 reviews

## ARCHERY CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL!

**Venue:** Balfour Primary School

**Dates:** Fri 13th January - Fri 24th March 2023

**Times:** 15:20 - 16:20

**Price:** £65 (10 sessions)

**Ages:** YR 3 - 6

**Additional info:**

For kids, Archery is an incredible way to develop accuracy, concentration and patience. There are very few sports which require such a level of precision.

Premier Education's expert coaches are trained to make sure that every child improves, no matter what level they start at. Archery also teaches some fantastic transferable skills, which can help everybody excel in a wide range of sports.

Book now for an extracurricular club they will never forget.

“My daughter loved the archery club after school and she wants to carry on next term”

Maria - Parent

 Premier Education | **INSPIRING  
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★★★★★  
Based on over 15,000 reviews



**BEST CLUB THEY'VE BEEN TO...  
IT'S JUST EAT, SLEEP & DRAMA NOW!**

*Sussex parent*



# Christmas Club!

**Drama & Dance Holiday School**

**SUSSEX**



**AGES 4-16 WELCOME**

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**FREE scholarships\***

**[www.helenogrady.co.uk](http://www.helenogrady.co.uk)**



**Department  
for Education**

**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

**Adur &  
Worthing  
councils**



**\*FREE SCHOOL MEAL PUPILS  
TS & CS APPLY**





**Albion in the  
Community**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
2-4pm

# Seagulls Festive Fun Run

Family fun run around the Amex Stadium

- Warm-up with Gully
- Hot drinks and mince pies
- Albion shirt tombola
- Face painting

£6 under-16s  
£8 adults

All under-16s  
must be  
accompanied by  
an adult.

**FREE**  
**ALBION SCARF**  
**FOR EVERY**  
**RUNNER**



« Scan here to book, [click here](https://albioninthecommunity.org.uk/festivefunrun) or visit:  
[albioninthecommunity.org.uk/festivefunrun](https://albioninthecommunity.org.uk/festivefunrun)



Albion in the Community, American Express Community Stadium, Village Way, Brighton BN1 9BL Tel: 01273 878245.  
Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No. 5122343). Registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1110978).

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REGULATOR**





# Balfour After-School Spring-Term Cricket



Balfour After-School Cricket - YRS 3-6.  
Spring Term 2023, Tuesdays from Jan 24th  
(9x Sessions). End of school- 4.30/4.45pm

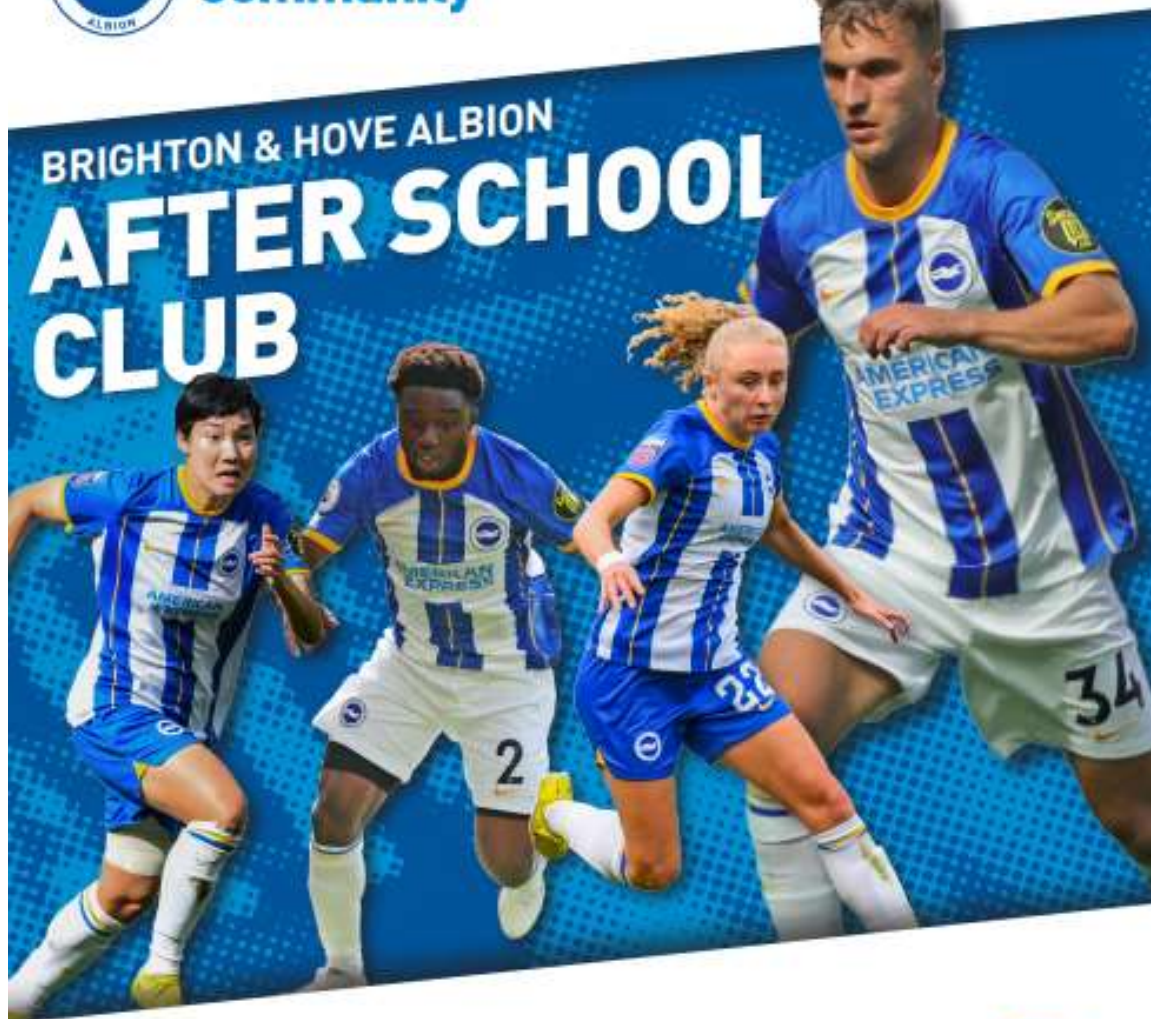
A cricket club centred around games-based learning with the emphasis on FUN! We take an ecological approach to coaching that encourages children to be creative, expressive and to problem-solve. ECB qualified Level2 coach and All-Stars Activator with vast experience of coaching at Primary level. Enhanced DBS. First-Aid Qualified.

**Please text message Dom Ashton for info**  
07894 332 867





**Albion in the  
Community**



### Balfour After School Club

Wednesdays from 11 January - 29 March (excluding 15 February).  
3.15pm - 4.30pm, £60.50 for 11 weeks.

**Years  
R-2**

**BOOK ONLINE NOW**  
**[albioninthecommunity.org.uk](http://albioninthecommunity.org.uk)**

Email: [soccerschools@albioninthecommunity.org.uk](mailto:soccerschools@albioninthecommunity.org.uk) for more information.

Brighton & Hove Albion After School Clubs delivered by Albion in the Community.  
American Express Community Stadium, Village Way, Brighton BN1 1FL. Tel: 01273 678263.  
Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No. 3102363). Registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1130718).



A promotional poster for B.A. Academy Clubs. The background is light blue with abstract dark blue shapes. At the top, a small pencil icon is next to the word 'BALFOUR'. Below it, 'B.A. Academy Clubs' is written in a large, dark blue, cursive font. Underneath, 'OPEN FOR REGISTRATION' is in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. A dark blue banner with white text says 'START FROM JANUARY 13TH 2023'. Below this, there are two photos: on the left, a boy in a grey 'B.A. Academy' t-shirt is laughing; on the right, three girls in similar t-shirts are smiling. A dark blue banner with white text says 'FRIDAY 3:20-4:20PM'. Below the photos, the text 'OUR CLUBS:' is in bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, followed by a bullet point: '• Friday - Musical Theatre - All Years'. To the right of this, a dark blue box with white text says 'FULL TERM BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE\*'. Below the bullet point, the text 'BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!' is in bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text '\*contact us for details' is in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the contact information '07874826409 ENQUIRIES@BA-ACADEMY.CO.UK BA-ACADEMY.CO.UK' is in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

BALFOUR

**B.A. Academy Clubs**

**OPEN FOR REGISTRATION**

**START FROM JANUARY 13TH 2023**

**FRIDAY  
3:20-4:20PM**

**OUR CLUBS:**

- Friday - Musical Theatre - All Years

**BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

**FULL TERM BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE\***

\*contact us for details

07874826409 ENQUIRIES@BA-ACADEMY.CO.UK BA-ACADEMY.CO.UK





OFSTED REGISTERED



# Christmas Holiday Activity Camp

Join us for 5 FUN DAYS of Winter Themed  
Sports, Challenges, Arts and Performance!

AT FAIRLIGHT PRIMARY SCHOOL & WEST HOVE INFANTS - SCHOOL ROAD

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd December, 8.30am - 5.00pm

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



## HAF

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at all camps  
Includes:

- All Camp Activities
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**4-11 year olds**

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For more information call us on 01444 411388

or email [enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk)

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