



NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our Latest Newsletter. I sit here in the Key Stage 1 office on what is the first day of spring, the daylight hours are certainly longer, there are more flowers pushing their way through the soil in the gardens on my way to work, but the air is still cold and full of winter. Spring is often associated with rebirth and green shoots as the natural world begins to awaken from its winter slumbers. It is a time of looking forward to the warmer days ahead and planning and planting for the rest of the year. It is like this in school now as we consolidate all the excellent work happening and think strategically about the year(s) ahead.



Alan Gunn
Headteacher

With this in mind, along with us being halfway through the school year, it is important for us all to reflect on what has gone well and what areas that are not yet strengths. We strongly believe that taking the views of all our community is vitally important in shaping our school and its journey. We have recently asked all staff lots of questions about us as a school, we continually speak with our children about their experiences and our next step is to give all our parents and carers a chance to give us some vital feedback.

We are using a service that manages all our surveys so that you can give us anonymous views about how you feel we are doing as a school and anything that is missing. They will then compile the data and produce a report that we will use to help us plan and become even better. We will send out, via Weduc, a link to this questionnaire on **Monday 20th March**, and the survey will be open until Friday 24th March. It would be amazing if as many of you as possible can take part so we can get a truly representative view of our parent community – the more responses the more validity in the data and the easier it is to use this to help shape our future.

You can also complete the Ofsted parent view questionnaire [here](#) at any time. This is used by Ofsted when and before they visit to get your views and help plan their inspection visit; we can also view as an anonymised report.

If you ever have anything specific you want to feed back to us or want to talk about your child, I would always urge you to contact the class teacher in the first instance. They know your children very well and will be able to give you the bigger picture of what is happening in school. Our teachers always quickly respond to parents and your information is often useful in highlighting something we might not have been aware of or how a child is feeling about an aspect of school life. I am aware of lots of positive interactions between parents and staff and how working positively together is giving our children the best experiences and outcomes possible. A quick email or phone call can quickly resolve any worries, concerns or provide that vital bit of information.

I want to finish by saying how wonderful it was to see so many children join us for our bedtime stories on Tuesday evening. The children certainly created some special memories – the excitement of coming back to school in the dark cannot be underestimated. Reading with and telling stories to our children, as you know, is such a rewarding and special time, even when the favourite book has been the *favourite for three weeks in a row!* It is often the only time in the day where we as parents get chance to have some quiet 1:1 time with our children and building this bedtime routine really helps us all have a quiet and peaceful evening. I am sure you will join me in thanking all our teachers who helped create such a magical experience and I hope all the children were ready for bed when they got home.



Thank you as always for all your support.

TERM DATES

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

Summer Term 1: 17/4/23 - 25/5/23

➤ Half Term: 29 May — 2 June

Summer Term 2: 5/6/23 — 21/7/23

➤ First back day for students: TBD

INSET days: 26th May



[Additional dates for your diary](#)



EQUALITY

INCLUSION

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

Reception — Our new topic in EYFS is 'A Long Time Ago'. We are reading stories to compare the past and present. We have been reading the book *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin, making observations and comparisons of the 1960s to present day. It also brought up conversations of not treating anyone differently because of the colour of their skin. We are also reading *Fantastically Great Women who changed the World* by Kate Pankhurst, celebrating wonderful women from the past!

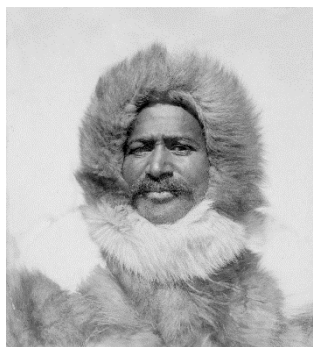


Year 1 — In Year 1 we are learning about inventors in some of our history lessons. We've learned about a variety of different men and women of colour and their inventions. Did you know that Garrett Morgan invented the three signal traffic light in 1923?

We're also learning about Victorian era inventor Sarah Boone, who invented the first ironing board in 1892 and the inventor Frederick McKinley Jones. He invented the first refrigerated truck in 1940.



Year 2 – In our History topic, We Are Explorers, we are learning about significant people through time who achieved some amazing things. One of these impressive people that we are learning about is Matthew Henson, an African American explorer who went on extraordinary expeditions and made big contributions to polar exploration. He was one of the first explorers, black or white, to reach the North Pole. His achievements later in life were largely ignored because of his race. For nearly a century, Henson's contributions to polar explorations were downplayed in favour of other explorers. But in 2000, Henson was posthumously awarded National Geographic's highest honour for exploration, the Hubbard Medal.



Year 3 – In Year Three, during our Shared Reading lessons, we have been reading the biography of Katherine Johnson. She is a famous black mathematician who worked for NASA and was part of the team that helped put an astronaut into orbit. The children are really enjoying learning about her and discussing how it would have felt to have been a 10 year old in secondary school and then as part of a white male team.



Year 4 - In English, we have been reading about Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay who were the first men to climb Everest. In geography, we also learnt about other famous climbers such as the first women, and the youngest and oldest Everest climbers.

Year 5 – In year five we will be reading a book called 'Women in Space', which is all about the contribution that women have made to the exploration of Space. We will be finding out about their achievements and this will link to learning in year three about Katherine Johnson.



Year 6 – Year 6 are enjoying their stunning start to the World War 2 topic. The children will be exploring the important role that woman played as, with thousands of men away serving in the armed forces, British women took on a variety of jobs during the Second World War such as: mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens, bus and fire engine drivers. They also played a vital role on the home front, running households and fighting a daily battle of rationing, recycling, reusing, and cultivating food in allotments and gardens.



INCLUSION

We are delighted to introduce you to Miss Hammarton who has joined our Learning Mentor team!



'I would like to introduce myself as Miss Hammarton, Learning Mentor. I am new to Balfour, so I am very grateful to the children who have been showing me how things work around here! You can often find me in the Nurture Room. I work with children to help them feel safe, calm and happy at school- we do this through games, creative activities or just having a chat. I'm enjoying my time at Balfour, thank you for helping me feel welcome!'

GOVERNORS



If you wish to contact the chair of governors, Kirstin Baker, the email address is: KirstinBaker@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk

If you wish to contact the school governors, the email address is: 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

PUPIL PREMIUM UPDATE



Sandra Mulholland
Deputy Headteacher

Natasha Paling
Pupil Premium Deputy

Welcome back after the half term holidays - we hope you managed to enjoy some of the temporary sunshine!

We have been so busy this term with making contact with our families in need and providing the support they need.

Both myself and Natasha Paling attended Day 2 of our 'Mitigation to Success' training at Durrington High School. We were given such fantastic advice on how we can provide bespoke provision for our families and we're looking forward to putting it all in action over the next few months.

We sent out a Weduc about World Book Day costumes for hire and we received information about a group who provide birthday cakes for those families in need. Please use the following link:

<https://www.freecakesforkids.org.uk/>



There are also free Easter clubs available - one of them is:

<https://www.helenogradysussex.co.uk/our-summer-school-christmas-clubs/>
so please take a look and book your children in as the spaces go quickly!

Other clubs are available on the HAF website:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food-haf>

As always, please get in touch if you need anything.

Sandra Mulholland and Natasha Paling

ATTENDANCE

Welcome to the attendance section of our newsletter.

We are working hard to support families in order to increase the attendance of children missing more than 10% of school.

Attending 90% of school may sound high, but this means they miss 19 days of education a year – that's nearly a whole month of learning missed!

Missing two school days a month doesn't sound like many, but this adds up to missing a whole year of school within your school life.

The biggest reason for our pupils dropping below 90% attendance is holidays during school time. We can only authorise leave during school time for 'exceptional circumstances'. This is because we want our pupils to attend as much school as possible, in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. Please support your child's school attendance by not booking holidays or excursions during term time.

The Local Authority instructs us to issue Fixed Penalty Notice fines of £60 per parent, per child for some cases of unauthorised leave during term time (increasing to £120 if not paid within 21 days).

This week's attendance by Year Group... Well done Reception!

Reception	98.3%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	95.9%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.4%
Year 6	96.8%



If you have any questions or would like any help or support regarding your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Francis-Hicks on michaelafrancishicks@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk.

FAB UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Do I dare say that Spring feels as if it is starting to creep back into our lives? Certainly the afternoons are lighter and picking up my cherished little one from after-school club at 5pm is a completely different experience in the daylight.

Some of you won't have failed to notice a lot of messages going out on Weduc about the Quiz. We did have a situation where ticket sales were extremely low and in all likelihood the event was going to be cancelled. However, you guys responded in the final week. Sales tripled, the bar was stocked and I got to wear my ridiculous jacket. In the end we all had a great night, as it is every quiz night.

What's next? Well of course it is the Great Balfour Easter Egg Hunt. Buckle up and prepare for the carnage. It is the event you dare not forget, lest you actually want your children to despise you. An exaggeration? It's not. Just take my word for it.

Finally, what I really want to talk about is how much FAB needs parents to join. We have a handful of regulars who help out at events and get involved with organising events and activities. These awesome people are the reason we continue to function, but we need more help. Many hands make light work they say. And it's true. We are in real pressing need for more of you to help us with your skills, experience, energy and creativity. We especially need a person or two with skills in marketing and websites as well as people with experience or enthusiasm in the kitchen.

If you think that maybe that could be you then drop us a message. There is no commitment. We'd love to meet you!



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!



UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

GREAT BALFOUR EASTER EGG HUNT – FRIDAY 24TH MARCH (AFTER SCHOOL)

The most manic event of the year returns. If it's your first time then you should know it's more or less compulsory. It is great fun, the kids love it and if you don't do it you'll be the worst parent ever. And of course all proceeds go towards enriching the children's school experience anyway. So we all win!



SAVE THE DATES! BALFOUR CIRCUS AND SUMMER FAIR



Yes, they are some way off but you know that thing where time suddenly flies by?

Balfour Circus – Wednesday 14th June

Summer Fair – Saturday 15th July

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. Places are still available. Please use this form to submit an enquiry: <https://forms.gle/3UWdVvZqKnG2iUJMA>

RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP

A REALLY easy ways to raise money for the school while doing your shopping:

Easyfundraising www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsatbalfour/

Then when you shop online, go to easyfundraising.org.uk, find the retailer you want, click through and shop in the normal way. The retailer will automatically make a donation to your cause when you check out.

There's a Donation Reminder you can download so you don't forget. That's all there is to it. There are no catches or hidden charges to you or the school. Just more money to help enhance the children's education.

100 CLUB

The Balfour 100 Club is open to all Balfour parents, carers and staff and costs just £5 per number per month. You need to sign up for at least a year.



Half the monthly takings are given out in prize money; the other half is used for the benefit of the children at school.

Join anytime to help the school raise much-needed funds. To sign up, or for more information, please email fab100club@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to be added to our committee email list, drop us a line at info@friendsatbalfour.org. You'll be kept informed of committee meetings, and contacted if we need a little help from time to time.

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us for the latest information on our events and meetings:

 Website: <http://friendsatbalfour.org/>

 Facebook: [Friends at Balfour](#)

 Twitter: [@FABatBalfour](#)

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



Happy INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8 7-9PM

Refreshments on arrival.

You Are Invited to an Inspiring Evening...

WHAT GIRLS WANT

Dr Kevin Stannard, Director of Innovation and Learning, GDST.

[For more information, click here.](#)

CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN TECH

Rifa Thorpe-Tracey of SheSays Brighton and Spring Forward Festival

PANEL DISCUSSION and Q&A

with alumnae guests and Rosie McColl, Head



Scan to book



Drama Club

Monday and Tuesdays 3.20pm to 4.20pm

My name is Jeanette and I have worked as a LSA for over 15 years. I have also been teaching Drama for over 8 years at various schools. I hold a full equity card and continue to take part in teaching Drama courses.

Drama club is a chance to for children to gain confidence, have fun and embrace their individuality. They particularly enjoy the lesson on stage fighting as well as dressing in costumes to develop character building skills.

Below is one of many parents' testimonials from one of the schools I teach at:

"My son, now aged 9, has attended the drama club for 3 years and obviously really enjoys it. His confidence has visibly increased as well as his social skills with adults and his peers"

If you think your child might be interested, please contact me direct on:

07539641108

jeanetteaustin@hotmail.co.uk



Albion in the Community



Balfour After School Club

Wednesdays from 19 April - 19 July (excl 31 May & 14 June).
3.15pm - 4.30pm, £66 for 12 weeks.

**Years
R-2**

BOOK ONLINE NOW
albioninthecommunity.org.uk

Email: soccerschools@albioninthecommunity.org.uk for more information.

Brighton & Hove Albion After School Clubs delivered by Albion in the Community.
American Express 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).



Reception

<https://bookings.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&clientCode=ASC-BPS-23>

Year 1 – Year 2

<https://bookings.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&clientCode=ASC-BPS-22>



Why train with Patcham United?

At Patcham Utd we explore football through fun activities and games. We work on controlling the ball, and building skills like agility, balance and co-ordination. Our games are designed to develop communication skills and teamwork. Plus, we make sure that every child gets that great feeling of scoring a goal! The sessions will be fun and engaging and will turn skills into techniques by creating specific in-game scenarios. Our coaches will also build on transferable skills and knowledge for them to take into any other sport they enjoy.

As with all our courses, the focus is on inclusion more than competition – we want every child to join in and have fun. We press the importance of following and understanding the rules and respecting both the players and others – these skills are important both on and off the pitch.

- Fully qualified coaches
- Boys and Girls welcome
- Insured
- DBS, child protection and First Aid trained
- Working in collaboration with Premier Education, the largest coaching company in the UK

Sessions take place every Saturday morning at Horsdean Recreation Ground, Vale Avenue, BN1 8UB.



PATCHAM PUMAS

Ages 4-5 (Reception children)

Saturdays: 10.00am - 10.40am
4th March to 1st April

£30.00 for 5 sessions

Book here: [Evening & Weekend Football Club – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](http://Evening & Weekend Football Club – Premier Education (premier-education.com))



PATCHAM TIGERS

Ages 5-6 (Year 1 children)

Saturdays: 9.00am - 9.50am
4th March to 1st April

£30.00 for 5 sessions

Book here: [Evening & Weekend Football Club – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](http://Evening & Weekend Football Club – Premier Education (premier-education.com))

Book courses: [Patcham Football Club – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](http://Patcham Football Club – Premier Education (premier-education.com))

Safe. Active. Together.

Every session promotes teamwork, togetherness, problem solving and the importance of being active.

Sessions will be delivered outside so that children can get lots of fresh air which provides vital vitamin D!

We have wet weather contingency plans for any days that the weather won't allow us to be outdoors.



Sessions at: Balfour Primary School

Dates: Fri 28th April - Fri 26th May 2023

Times: 15:15 - 16:15

Price: £32.50

Class: Y3-Y6

Additional Info: Dodgeball

How to Book...

Go to www.premier-education.com/parents and search for your child's school using our handy school activities finder.

"FREEGLE BRING & TAKE"

free jumble sale

Saturday 25 MARCH

10am to 1pm

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Upper Drive, Hove, BN3 6ND

**** Enter via Top Field by College ****

#ConsumeLess #ShareMore #SaveMoney #ChooseToReuse



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Cottesmore St Mary
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www.iLoveFreegle.org