

Balfour Primary News

Respectful • Courageous • Friendly • Ambitious • Caring • Enthusiastic

25th May 2023



NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter. The sun is shining, and summer feels as though it is on its way – let us hope it lasts during next week's half term break.



Alan Gunn
Headteacher

I would like to start by thanking all of you who have been able to find the time to come in to school over the last couple of weeks. The children and staff loved it and we hope some of what you have seen and joined in with has given you more of a flavour of some of the wonderful things that happen at school. We appreciate that not all of you have been able to make it in. We plan to try varying the times of these sessions to allow as many of you as possible to visit us during the school day.

One of the main areas that we want to continue to develop (and this was born out by our recent parent survey) is opening up the school more to allow families opportunities to come in and see their children in school, become more involved in supporting the school in different ways and building even further the relationships within our school community. Just this term we have seen so much going on including; Y2 parents transforming the Y2 outside space, families joining us at the children's parade, an increase in numbers attending FAB meetings and a successful Balfour Park Run last Sunday in Preston Park. Please keep an eye out for more events after the break including our Community Day event on the first Saturday back, 10th June.

As a result of our parent survey, we have also been thinking about communication between school and families. For those of you who have not seen it yet we have set up a new [Balfour Facebook](#) page where we can share all the great things that have been going on. We also share news via [Twitter](#) and of course on our [website](#)

One method of communication is our monthly Newsletters. Some feedback we have received is that these are often too long and have too much information in. To help us find out what you really think we would be grateful if you would share your thoughts with us via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/RZzimKavPg>

I would also like to return to drop off and pick up times. There has been some improvement with less inconsiderate parking on road junctions and across driveways. I do need to remind some of us that we should never be parking half on the pavement as this causes a considerable risk to our families and often forces them to walk in the road. Can I also ask people to avoid trying to turn in the road during these busy times and to drive with extreme caution. If you witness any inconsiderate parking or any near misses between pedestrians and children, please could you report this to the school either in person or email via the school office.

Although we have no updated news regarding School Streets, the plan of the council to close Balfour Road to all vehicles other than Blue Badge holders and residents is still due to start in September. As part of the walk to school weeks, which this year in Brighton has been timed to coincide with the walking festival (June 24th until 9th July), we will be encouraging everyone to practice the School Streets restrictions. The focus will be on travelling actively and sustainably to school by walking, scooting or cycling and will help us with the preparation for the School Street implementation in September.

We would encourage all families to plan how they will travel to school and if they need to drive, to not drive on Balfour Road (between Ditchling Road and Bates Road) as there will only be access for residents, staff, emergency services or blue badge holders. We know this will take some planning and adjustment but thought it would be a good idea to trial it before September. We will be sending out further information after the half-term break.

In addition, during Global week (5th – 9th June) we will be asking children to design posters/slogans encouraging our families to choose active and sustainable ways of travelling to school. The Y5 and Y6 Eco MPs will also be leading an assembly on the plans for School Street which will be implemented from September and will be available after school to answer any questions about this from families or children.

And finally I would like to thank you all for your support for everyone at school over the last half term. I know the children have found it difficult as the Monday to Friday routine has been disrupted so much. Even though the second half of the summer term is always busy with different events, we look forward to the next 7 weeks being 'normal'. I hope you all have an enjoyable break next week and we look forward to seeing you all in June.

TERM DATES

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](#)



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

Reception - We've been reading Odd Dog Out. We have been celebrating and discussing our similarities and our differences. Every child 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 how our families are made up and how they may differ to the story. We also learned about Eid and how this can be celebrated.



Year 1 – We have been exploring how people are different but all equal. We have celebrated things we are proud of and discussed how sometimes we can feel jealous. We have also been sharing a wide range of stories about diversity to celebrate differences.

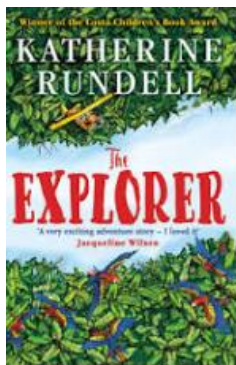
Year 2- We have been learning all about the Caribbean! We have thought about the similarities and differences between Kingston, Jamaica and London, UK. We even mapped out some popular Kingston spots for Mrs Francis-Hicks and Mrs Geard to visit (hypothetically of course). Our topic has linked our Geography, Art, English and Science this half term helping us to become Caribbean experts!





In English we have been reading 'Coming to England' and using the text to write for different purposes. Most recently, we wrote a letter from Dardie in England, to Floella in Trinidad explaining what the journey was like and what life in England is really like.

Year 3 – We have continued to learn about the Islam faith and the 5 Pillars of Islam. The children will then be using this knowledge of the prayer ritual, Salah to design and create prayer mats during our Art lessons. The children are really enjoying learning about a different faith.



Year 4 – We are continuing to read the book "The Explorer" which has characters from around the world. In RE we have been learning about how Christian festivals are celebrated in different countries. We have also looked at a range of art work from Egypt.

Year 5 – We've been playing Ultimate Frisbee in PE, which originated in high schools in the USA in the 1960's before spreading further to Europe and Asia in the late 1970s. We are also practising relay racing as part of athletics and will find out how the sport is adapted as part of Paralympic sport.



Year 6 – We have been looking at refugees. We started off by looking at what 'home' means to us and then we learnt more about refugees from different countries and what we can do to help. The children had an enormous amount of empathy and it built on from looking at evacuation in our last History unit. Coming back to the original question, we all agreed that 'home' means where we are safe.

INCLUSION

Transition

We have all children moving to the next year group in September including our Year 6 pupils getting ready to move onto Secondary!

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.

[top-ten-tips-for-parents.pdf \(youngminds.org.uk\)](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/top-ten-tips-for-parents.pdf)

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

We recently had a visit from the LA to carry out a Pupil Premium review and it was a really positive experience.

Extracts from the report we received include: 'Overall, the day was productive and the school have some clear ways forward to consider over time' and 'Ensuring the best provision for PP

children is a high priority for the school and one they are clearly taking seriously. The children and their families are both well-known and cared for.'

We are very excited to announce that we will be setting up our 'Sharing Shed' in the very near future. At the Community Day on Saturday 10th June, please look out for our stall which will provide all of the information you need about what will be available and how you can help support the school and use the facility. If any of you know somebody who can build us a fancy new shed, please do get in touch!

Please use this link if you think you may be eligible for free school meals.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

And, as ever, please get in touch if you have any questions about anything Pupil Premium.

COMMUNITY DAY SATURDAY 10TH JUNE

Balfour Primary Community Celebration Day

Saturday 10th June 12-3 pm

- Opal play
- Bar tent 🍺
- Bring a picnic
- Cake tent 🍰
- Art trail with work from every child 🎨
- Collective green art - make a mandala
- Make your own nature crown 🌿
- ...and lots and lots of FUN!



Please could families have a rummage through their sheds and attics and bring along any 'loose part' items they have at home that could be donated, such as tyres, old shopping crates, wooden flooring planks, wooden pallets, old body boards, windbreakers, tarpaulin, sheets etc that can be used to build structures/camps for the children on the playground and field. The children love building camps and inventing creative games together! We would also love some old clothes, hats and scarves that children can use to dress up in as part of their imaginative play.

If there any parents are able to help repair or make safe some of the resources that would be *amazing*. We have some wheelie boards where one wheel has come off. We want to fix them so that the children can continue to enjoy them! We may also need to sand down any rough wood or remove nails- this could be an activity you could do with your child so we'd be grateful if you could bring along some basic tools to help with this!

LILA EVEREST- YEAR 5

The Art of Surviving is an online art competition for brain tumour survivors which raises both awareness and funds. It is organised by the Raymond A Wood Foundation, a charity that campaigns to improve the quality of life for survivors of rare hypothalamic-pituitary tumours.

Lila's family discovered the charity in 2019 when they were in the USA for Lila's treatment. Lila has participated every year since (except after brain surgery last year) and has raised **hundreds** of dollars! During difficult times, Lila has found art to be calming and healing, and it is great to be able to showcase her art whilst raising money! Check out one of Lila's pieces below titled 'Cranio Colours'



Lila said "This represents how my life is intertwined with my tumour, and how they have both changed over time.

I carefully wove this using different colours of yarn in a cardboard frame, to show my different moods and aspects of my life, as they have changed with my tumour"

View more of Lila's art here: [2023 Winners | Art of Surviving | Online Art Exhibition](#)

SUE BATEMAN

It is with deep sadness & heavy hearts that we inform you of the death of our colleague and friend, Sue Bateman, who passed away on 11th May after a prolonged illness. We will miss her more than words can express. Her contributions to Balfour over her 25+ years of service made such a positive impact to so many children.

We invite you to sign a condolences card for her family. If you would also like to contribute to some flowers and a gift for the family that would also be appreciated, but there is certainly no expectation to do so. <https://viing.com/v/condolences-to-the-Bateman-family>

FAB UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Surely it isn't already half-term and surely I am not alone in wondering how that has happened? Well, time really is flying by and that brings us closer to our next events - Happy's Circus and the Summer Fair. More on these later...

The school is also hosting a Balfour Community Day which FAB are helping by supplying a bar and cake stand. This is a school organised event which was held for the first time last year and was a great success. We look forward to seeing you there once again.

In the last newsletter I put a shout out for enthusiastic, interested and curious parents to come and say hello as we rely on the parent community to help us. We are all parents here after all. This time I get to say a massive THANK YOU to a bumper turnout at our last committee meeting. It was wonderful to see so many new faces come along with ideas and energy. We actually ran out of time in the end but hopefully we can pick up where we left off at the next meeting.

I also want to mention the Year 2 outside space and how great it looks. Year 2 parents Ruth and Anna have done an amazing job of organising the disco and fundraising and now also the work in brightening up the children's space.



Finally all that remains for me to say is to remind everyone that the next FAB event is the circus for which we need volunteers. We have a few people signed up already but we need lots more. These events rely on volunteers to

help run it. If you can spare some time, your help is hugely appreciated. You can sign up to volunteer here <https://volunteersignup.org/JA4M3>

Until next time, have a great half term!

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!



EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

BALFOUR COMMUNITY DAY AND ART EXHIBITION

Saturday, 10th June 2023, 12-3pm

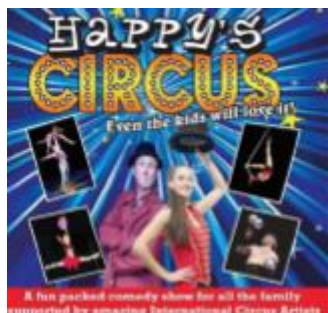
School community day featuring an exhibition of every child's artwork in the KS1 and KS2 halls. Bring a picnic and enjoy the activities such as making a Mandala and making a crown out of natural resources. Cake and Bar supplied by FAB.

As with all events, volunteers are needed. If you can spare a little time you can sign up here <https://volunteersignup.org/YRC9J>

HAPPY'S CIRCUS AT BALFOUR

Wednesday, 14th June 2023, from 4pm

We're bringing the Big Top and a cast of amazing international performers to Balfour!



The action-packed show starts at 6pm and finishes at 8pm (pre-show 5.40pm). Bring a picnic and grab a drink at the FAB bar – the fun on Balfour playing field starts from 4pm.

Watch Happy's Circus video to find out more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu59rGEFXVM>

Tickets cost £10 per person and are available at

www.ticketor.com/friendsatbalfour

We will need volunteers to help with this event – please sign up here:

<https://volunteersignup.org/JA4M3>

SUMMER FAIR SATURDAY 15TH JULY- SAVE THE DATE!

Yes, it's still over 6 weeks away, but there's a lot of preparation going on in the background! Volunteer slots will be coming out after half term. Expect the usual fun and games, food, bar and Balfour's Got Talent.

BALFOUR SWIM SCHOOL



At the end of the Spring term, the swimmers at the BSS challenged themselves to a sponsored distance swim. We've collected £900 and still counting! Well done to all the swimmers who took part – it was a real physical and mental

challenge. The furthest distance awarded was 3000m with many who swam a mile (64 lengths)! The swimming school will be investing in some new flippers and other swimming equipment.

GET INVOLVED

The next FAB committee meeting is on **Tuesday 13th June at 8pm KS2 – all are welcome!**

STAY IN TOUCH

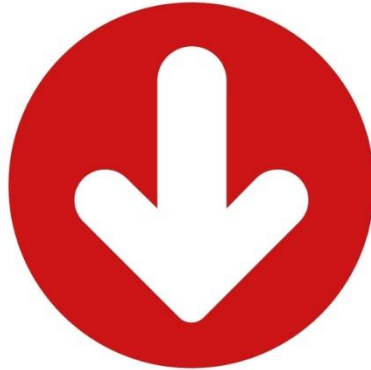
Follow us for the latest information on our events and meetings:

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

 Facebook: [Friends at Balfour](#)

 Twitter: [@FABatBalfour](#)

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





The Outdoors Project are running kids clubs through the half term. If you need childcare that week, they have fun & engaging activities ran by enthusiastic instructors.

The days are: Star Wars Day, Bushcraft, Circus Skills & Viking Day.

Running **9am-3pm** at 2 locations in Brighton & Hove.

Visit the website for full info: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk/brighton

The Outdoors Project
OFSTED REGISTERED

WHITSUN 1/2 TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"

LANCING COLLEGE PREP (HOVE)

TUES 30TH MAY
FIRELIGHTING, S'MORES & SHELTER BUILDING

WEDS 31ST MAY
MANDALORIAN NERF, PLAY DOUGH PLANETS & STORMTROOPERS

THURS 1ST JUNE
CIRCUS SKILLS, GIANT BUBBLE WANDS & PAINT MURAL

FRI 2ND JUNE
VIKING POTTERY, KUBB & SHIELD WALLS

COTTESMORE ST MARY'S SCHOOL

TUES 30TH MAY
VIKING POTTERY, KUBB & SHIELD WALLS

WEDS 31ST MAY
FIRELIGHTING, S'MORES & SHELTER BUILDING

THURS 1ST JUNE
MANDALORIAN NERF, PLAY DOUGH PLANETS & STORMTROOPERS

FRI 2ND JUNE
CIRCUS SKILLS, GIANT BUBBLE WANDS & PAINT MURAL

"THIS CLUB IS CONSISTENTLY BRILLIANT"

- ✓ 100% OUTDOORS
- ✓ MAKING FRIENDS
- ✓ PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- ✓ BUILDING CONFIDENCE
- ✓ ENERGETIC & ENGAGED STAFF
- ✓ OFSTED REGISTERED
- ✓ FLEXIBLE BOOKING
- ✓ CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

For more info on dates, locations and how the clubs run & to book: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK



SAMA BRIGHTON HALF TERM CLUBS

BOOK NOW

2 DAY KIDS CLUB - £25 Per day, £45 - 2 Day's
Martial arts training - Fitness games - Karate games - Fun
TUESDAY 30TH MAY & WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY
SAMA CENTRE, WILD PARK, BRIGHTON.

MEGA NERF FUN DAY, 9AM - 12PM - £22.50
Nerf games - Bouncy castle - Shooting range - Sumo suits
THURSDAY 1ST JUNE - MOULSECOOMB LEISURE CENTRE
TO BOOK - VISIT WWW.SAMAGROUP.CO.UK
AND CLICK ON HOLIDAY CLUBS



10% OFF CODE FOR PARENTS OF THE SCHOOL – QAP087



Cheer Stars Camp!

Half term! For girls & boys

Thursday 1st June – all Year groups, 1-3 pm

Friday 2nd June – all Year groups, 1-3 pm



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

TennisTigers.co.uk

**For children aged from 4 to 16 years
All abilities welcome!
Join us at Preston Park Public Courts**



Summer Half Term Tennis Clubs

**Tuesday 30th May, Wednesday 31st May and Thursday
1st June**

10am to 12pm £20.00 10am to 1pm £30.00 10am to 2pm
£40.00 *price per day *10 % sibling discount

**Choose any combination of days
Book as little as 2 hours or as much as a full week!**

*Advanced Bookings only *Tennis Rackets Provided

*Small Groups of 8 max

For more information please email:

vanessa@tennistigers.co.uk

Text / Whatsapp 07531 879 404