

Balfour Primary News

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Issue 5, November 2018



NOTES FROM THE ACTING HEADS

We hope everyone enjoyed the half term break and made the most of the last of the two week-long October holiday.

Our children have settled back well into school and are immersed in their learning. They are already busy planning and practising their Christmas assemblies and plays to share with you at the end of term- please put the dates in your diary!

It was lovely to see so many parents at the parents' evenings during the last two weeks. We hope you found these meetings as useful and informative as the teachers did. It was also good to listen to your feedback on the report cards that we have introduced this term with the purpose of providing you with more frequent and useful information regarding your child's attainment, progress and targets for reading, writing and maths. We had an impressive number of responses to the short survey and will be collating them over the next few weeks to gauge how effective the report cards have been and what improvements we can make for the spring term.



Sandra Mulholland & Dawn Loader
Acting Head teachers

PARENT FORUM MEETINGS

We would like to invite all our families to attend the next Parent/Carers Forum meeting which will take place on:

Please make a note of the next two dates for our meetings:

Monday 3rd December @ 7.15 pm in the KS1 Hall

Tuesday 4th December @ 9 am in the KS2 Sportshall

All parents/carers are very warmly invited to join us at these meetings to contribute your views and ideas to help us improve our school.

AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE:

- How we can work together to make the school feel more integrated.
- Poverty Proofing Report.
- Feedback from the Report Card Survey to parents.

If you have any other additional agenda items that you would like discussed at the meeting please contact Ms Loader/Miss Mulholland.

MARTLETS SNAIL

We would like to say a huge thank you for all of the contributions raised on our Mindfulness Day for the Martlets Be More Snail campaign. We have had some fantastic feedback from both children and staff and there were some really lovely activities happening across the school.

In order to take part in the Be More Snail campaign and to decorate our snail, Snaily McSnail Face, we need to raise a certain amount of money for the Martlets charity. Unfortunately, we did not raise enough funds from our Mindfulness day so we will be organising a non-school uniform day on Tuesday 18th December.

Martlets is the only charity that we will be raising money for this school year so your donations are really appreciated. With that in mind, we are suggesting a £1 donation per child but please give what you feel you can.

BREAKFAST CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Does your child attend breakfast club? You are warmly invited to join them for a Christmas breakfast. Key Stage 1 is on Monday 17th December and Key Stage 2 is on Tuesday 11th December.

SAFE & WELL AT SCHOOL SURVEY 2018

In December, pupils in Years 4-6 will participate in the Safe & Well School Survey. This is an online, anonymous, annual City Wide survey for children and young people aged between 7 and 16. The survey asks a range of

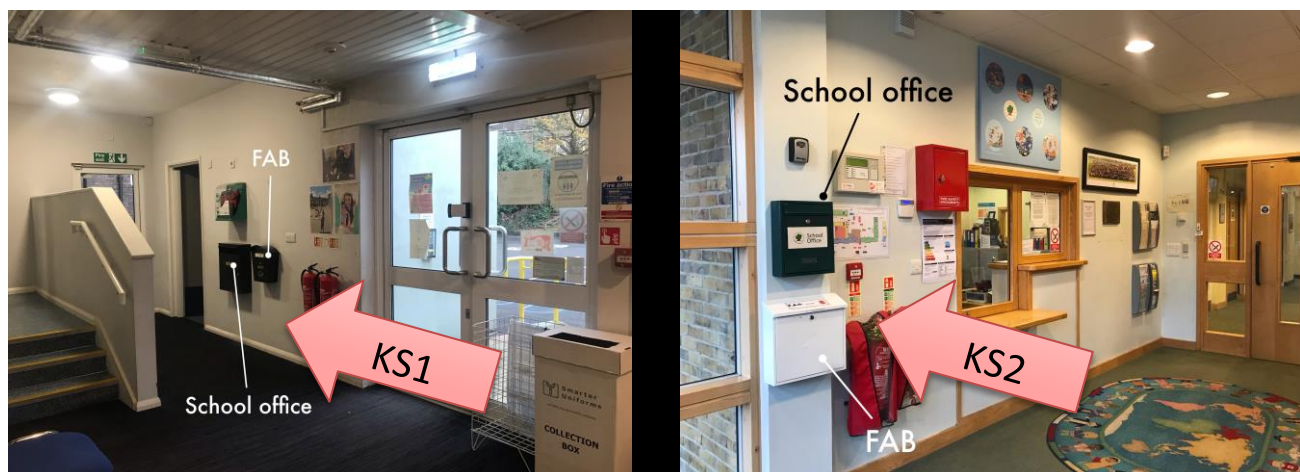
questions about school, health and wellbeing and about experiences of bullying. It is explained to all children that this is a confidential survey and they cannot be identified by the information that is collected. They are also asked to speak to a member of school staff or other trusted adult if participating in the survey makes them feel worried or concerned. This survey does not require parental permission to participate, but all children have the right not to participate. The local authority runs this survey to help our school further improve Healthy Schools activities, PSHE lessons and our whole school approach to anti-bullying and equality. Furthermore, data from all schools is collated to provide city-wide information about bullying and health and wellbeing and this is used to improve services and support for children.

We will feed back on the survey results in March 2019 and what actions our Rights Respecting Champions will be taking to ensure that our approach to bullying is fair, consistent and supportive. If you have any questions about anti-bullying week or the survey please contact Ms Loader.

Please see the related article about anti-bullying in the 'in review' section.

OFFICE POST BOX

We're pleased to let you know that we now have installed a postbox outside both offices which you can use if you just need to drop off paperwork/forms/etc. This way you don't have to wait in the queue just to hand in a form! We hope you find this useful and it saves you valuable time!



KEEP UP WITH YOUR CHILD'S WEEKLY LEARNING

Don't forget that you can find out more about what your child is learning each week from the school website under the **Children tab- Year Group and Curriculum**.

BALFOUR DOES NOT USE THE 'STUDYBUGS' APP

Please note that if you want to report your child absent you need to ring in on each day of the absence, in line with our attendance policy. Some parents have been using an app called 'StudyBugs' to report absence but please note that we are not affiliated with this service in any way and cannot do anything with the information you put into that app. Thank you very much for your help with this!

WHITEHAWK FOODBANK 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS DONATION CAMPAIGN

Monday 3rd December – Friday 7th December

We are delighted to announce that we will be supporting the Whitehawk Foodbank's Christmas Donation campaign again this year.

The foodbank provides essential support to families all over the Brighton area and our generosity is especially welcome in the run up to Christmas.

Please see the [social media post](#) which has the Christmas video.

And the link to their webpage which brings everything together in one place: [/https://thewhitehawk.foodbank.org.uk/news/](https://thewhitehawk.foodbank.org.uk/news/)

This year, the Foodbank are collecting items from 12 categories:



12 Days of Christmas Shopping List

1. Shampoo and Conditioner
2. Cat or dog food
3. Anti-perspirant deodorant
4. Biscuits
5. Jar of coffee
6. Long-life Juice
7. UHT milk
8. Box of Chocolates
9. Jar of Mayonnaise
10. Tin of Custard
11. Toiletries pack
12. Tinned Pie



We're asking that your child brings in an item from this list on any day between Monday 3rd December and Friday 7th December.

They can deposit it in the foodbank crates at KS1 or KS2 offices.

The items will be collected and delivered to the Foodbank by the school.

Hope you can support this!
Many thanks, FAB Committee

EXECUTIVE INCO

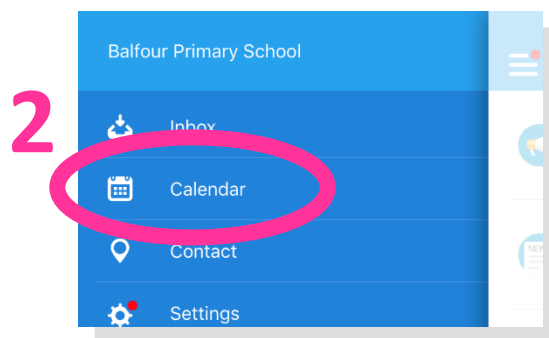
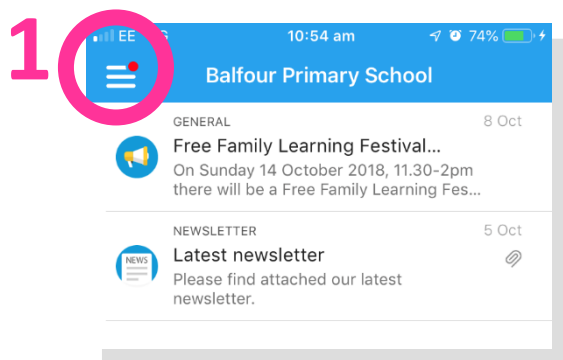
Rachel Tuck, our newly appointed Executive Inco, has joined the Senior Leadership Team for two days so far this term. She has been meeting with the Assistant Headteachers from KS1 and KS2 to familiarise herself with the current systems for SEND and disadvantaged children implemented post Ofsted. Ms Tuck will be visiting for a further two days and will take up her post in January 2019- Welcome to Balfour Ms Tuck!

WELCOME MR LAM

We would like to welcome Mr Lam our new ICT Technician, who started with us after half term and already feels like an established member of the team!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Can now be found in the SchoolPing calendar but will **temporarily** remain in the newsletter during the transition)



DATE	YEAR:	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	EVENT
Thurs 29 th Nov					x				10:15-11:15 Y3 Carol Concert at St Johns
Thurs 29 th Nov						x			1:45-2:45 Y4 Carol Concert at St Johns
Fri 30 th Nov		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Non uniform day (Tombola donation)
Mon 3 rd Dec		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7:15pm Parent/Carer Forum KS1 Hall
Mon 3 rd Dec							x	x	7pm Choir concert at Brighton Centre Y5 & 6
Tues 4 th Dec		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9:00 Parent/Carer Forum KS2 Sports hall
Thurs 6 th Dec		x							9:10-10:00 EYFS Christmas Play
Fri 7 th Dec		x							9:10-10:00 EYFS Christmas Play
Mon 10 th Dec			x	x					9:10-10:00 Y1 & 2 Christmas Play
Tues 11 th Dec					x	x	x	x	KS2 Breakfast Club Christmas Party
Tues 11 th Dec			x	x					9:10-10:00 Y1 & 2 Christmas Play
Tues 11 th Dec							x		6:00-7pm Christmas Production
Mon 17 th Dec		x	x	x					KS1 Breakfast Club Christmas Party
Tues 18 th Dec		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Christmas Dinner
Tues 18 th Dec								x	6-7pm & 7:30-8:30pm Y6 Christmas Concert
Tues 18 th Dec		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Be More Snail Day non school uniform day

OFSTED UPDATE



We received our annual 'Know your school' visit from our School Partnership Advisor (SPA) on the 10th October. This is a monitoring visit carried out by the local authority to determine how effective a school is in providing quality teaching and learning for children and to identify what level of support is required during the next academic year.

During the visit, a learning walk was carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the SPA and the Chair of Governors across the school in order to evidence the progress made since the inspection.

Other areas explored and discussed were around the school context including current numbers on roll, attendance, staffing, budget, School Development Plan (SDP) and whole school data.

The school will remain in the 'blue' category which means that we will continue to receive support from the local authority until we receive our next Ofsted inspection.

The SPA concluded that:

- Leadership, including governance is clearly good and there has been significant improvement overall since the last inspection.
- Leader's judgements are accurate and they are focusing on the right priorities.

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS MEETINGS

Balfour welcomed over 170 new parents to our prospective parents' evenings last week and were proud to share our school's journey. Senior Leaders outlined how special Balfour is in terms of our unique values and rights and our staff who care for, and provide an exciting start to our reception children. We were equally proud of our wonderful Year 6 children who acted as tour guides and provided parents with very honest views and information about the school!

NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 'CHOOSE RESPECT.'

Children in Reception have explored what makes a good friend and looked at photos of different scenarios. They have talked about how they could help or be a good friend in different situations.

Year 1 discussed the difference between bullying behaviour and just having a disagreement with a friend. They read 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' which encourages positive behaviour and explores how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and respect.

Year 2 have explored what bullying means, how to be a good citizen and how to look after each other. They also looked at our anti-bullying poster to ensure everyone is aware of what to do if any bullying or unkind behaviour occurs.

Year 3 focused on identities and all of the things that make them unique. They learnt about the importance of respecting others and appreciating differences.

Year 4 children have explored the definition of bullying; their understanding of bullying behaviours and what actions can be taken to prevent it.

Year 5 children have been exploring identity and how these are different for everyone. They watched clips of children in Brighton talking about their identities and how important it is that others respect these.

Year 6 focused on cyber bullying. They looked at various different scenarios and thought about how they made each person within them feel. Children then looked at the possible respectful and caring choices which they could then make. They then made some fabulous anti cyber bullying posters, which we will display around the Year 6 areas.

Please see the related Safe and Well article in the 'up next' section.

SPORTING HEADLINES

Last week, Balfour took two girls teams and two boys teams to the Albion Cup 6-a-side tournaments run by Albion in the Community every year.

All the children who represented the school played tremendously well throughout the day and we even saw one of our girl's teams and one of our boy's teams qualify for the Sussex Finals of the tournament!

Well done to everyone who played and good luck to those children who will be playing in the finals at the Brighton & Hove Albion Training ground in Lancing next week.

ASSEMBLIES

This half term so far have focused on Anti-bullying 'Choose Respect', World War One and Mindfulness.

SUCCESS FOR BALFOUR CUBS

An enormous well done to Aquiles [year 6], Ingo and Tobias [year 5] who represented the 29th Brighton cub troop at the annual cubs 'Who wants to be a millionaire' quiz competing against 8 other teams.

In a nice collaboration, as they were a small team, they were also joined by a girl from Downs school who is from the 7th Brighton cubs troop.

They smashed it! winning the overall quiz and Tobias won best individual round when he reached the £100,000 points [sadly not cash!] and have been awarded 2 trophies to take back to the cub house.

Balfour is very proud of them!



RIGHTS RESPECTING CHAMPIONS

The newly appointed RRS Champions met on the 13th November to explore their role in school and what their priorities will be this term. The first project will be on reviewing how behaviour is managed in the class and how we can ensure that it is fair for all children. The champions will be consulting with the children in their class about how they feel when they are placed on the rainbow and the cloud. The children have some very good ideas- so watch this space!

ATTENDANCE AND LATES

As you know, school attendance is a high priority at the moment and we want to **celebrate our successes** ... and highlight areas for improvement ... so we publish in each newsletter the percent attendance and the number of late arrivals. The figures below are for the previous fortnight only.

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% attendance	98.07	96.39	99.16	98.69	97.67	97.65	97.33
# of lates	1	11	7	18	29	26	14

Whole school attendance since Sept 2018 = 97.59% (down from 97.89%)

Please note that if your child is late the office staff will ask you to record the reason. (e.g. traffic, overslept, etc.) This is part of our attendance procedure and we thank you for your help and support.

TERM DATES FOR 2018/19

Autumn Term: 3rd Sept to 19th December

☞ ~~Autumn Half term: 22nd Oct to 2nd Nov~~

☞ Autumn End of term: 20th Dec to 2nd Jan 19

Spring Term: 3rd Jan 19 to 9th April 19

☞ Spring Half term: 18th Feb to 22nd Feb

☞ Spring End of term: 10th Apr 19 to 22nd Apr 19

Summer Term: 23rd Apr 19 to 26th July 19

➡ Summer Half term: 27th May 19 to 31st May 19

INSET days 18/19: ~~3rd Sept, 4th Sept, 5th Nov~~, 15th Feb 19, 24th May 19

TERMINOLOGY & ACRONYMS

If you have any questions about terminology or acronyms we have a handy guide on our website! ([Parents](#) → [Helpful Curriculum Information](#) → [Commonly Used Acronyms](#))

GOVERNORS

If you wish to contact the school governors for any reason, their email address is: balfour.governor@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk

FAB UPDATE

WIN A FREE TICKET TO THE GROTTO OF YOUR CHOICE!

To be in the running for a free ticket to either the Grinch or Santa Grotto at the Christmas fair please email lisacollington@balfour.brighton-hove.sch.uk with the subject "newsletter contest". Entries must be received by 7am on Tuesday 27th November and the winner will be contacted later the same day.



FIREWORK NIGHT

Firstly, we'd like to say a HUGE 'thank you' to everybody who came along to, and helped out, at our Fireworks Night.

Despite, the, er, challenging weather, we had a great turnout, and our volunteers did an amazing job under the deluge!

So thanks and well done to everyone who braved the elements – volunteers and spectators alike!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

And so on to our next big event... The Christmas Fair!

This year, it's happening on Saturday 8th December, 2-5 pm.

Like Fireworks Night, the Christmas Fair is a big fundraiser for the school. As always, it will feature Santa's Grotto and The Grinch's Cave, plus lots more fun stuff: gift and cake stalls, a tombola, face-painting... and of course, tasty hot food and a bar.

And BRAND NEW for this year, there will be CHRISTMAS KARAOKE on the big screen! So come along and belt out all your festive favourites.

We need plenty of volunteers to help set up before the event, run stalls, serve food and drink, and tidy up afterwards. If you can help for an hour or two on the day, please contact: volunteers@friendsatbalfour.org.

DONATION DAYS

We also need tombola prizes and cakes for the cake stall. Our donation days are as follows – please give generously!

Friday 30th November: **Non-uniform day** – please bring prizes for the kids' and adults' tombola stalls.

Adult prizes could include alcohol, chocolates, gifts, etc.

Kid's prizes could include games, toys, teddies, etc. Second-hand items are welcome if they're in good condition.

Friday 7th December: **Cake donations** – please bring in cakes and/or mince pies.

CHILDREN'S DECORATIONS

Each year, we decorate the KS2 halls for the Christmas Fair with a little help from the children.

If your child would like to decorate a snowman or snowflake, we'll make sure it's displayed on the day. Please use A4 paper or a paper plate.

(Note: the poster in the children's book bags this week only mentioned snowmen; but snowflakes are also welcome!)

Please bring decorations in by Friday 7th December – there will be a prize for the best one!

THE BALFOUR 100 CLUB

Congratulations to our November 100 Club winners:

First prize: Beth W

Second prize: Molly T



Third prize: Helen B

The Balfour 100 Club lottery 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; FAB uses the other half to benefit 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

CONTACT FAB

If you'd like to help out at any of our events, please contact us at balfourfabvolunteers@gmail.com.

This address should also be used for all class rep communications.

For anything else, drop us a line at friendsatbalfour@hotmail.co.uk.

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

Website: friendsatbalfour.org

Facebook: Friends at Balfour

Twitter: @FABatBalfour

HEADING

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