



NOTES FROM THE ACTING HEADS

The first part of the autumn term has whizzed by at Balfour in a flurry of learning and activity!

We are delighted that Mrs Geard, KS1 Assistant Head, returns after her maternity leave this week. Ms Francis will continue to be part of the Senior Leadership Team during the rest of the autumn term and will focus on SEND provision during this time.

Children in **EYFS** have been learning to count in ones, exploring the school grounds, drawing someone special to them and labelling the picture with initial sounds. There is a beautiful display of teddy bears in classrooms, designed, drawn and painted by our talented children.

Year 1 have been writing about their teddies' adventure using a writing plan. They have learnt to use sound boards and the writing rocket to help them with their writing. Children have been using their Part Whole models to help solve addition problems. This has included finding the missing addend (a number added to another number) in a number sentence.

Year 2 have been reading 'Where the Wild Things Are' and used it to support them in writing their own story, which they have edited to make improvements. Children have been exploring the relationships between addition and subtraction.

As part of Black History Month, children in **Year 3** have been learning about the story of Malala through the text 'Malala's Magic Pencil.' Children explored what changes they would make in the world to make it fairer and more peaceful. Year 3 have also practised adding and subtracting 1,2 and 3 digit numbers. Children have produced excellent Prehistoric posters, which are displayed in the classrooms and corridors!

The focus for **Year 4** has been on the text 'The Magic Box', which has inspired the children to write their own versions. In Maths, children have been learning to add four digit numbers to four digit numbers. Look out for the fantastic writing displays inspired by the story of 'Camille and the

Sunflowers’.

Children in **Year 5** continue their focus on ‘Odysseus’; which has enabled them to use their drama skills to write and perform a play script. They have focused on how a play script is set out and telling the story through dialogue. Children have continued their work on addition and subtraction calculations, applying their knowledge to solve worded problems and more open ended problem solving.

Children in **Year 6** have been improving their alien spaceship poems by editing them and adding passive voice for suspense. They have also spent time publishing them for a class book. Children in Year 6 enjoyed a visit from the Space Dome where they learned about the Solar System and the relationship between the Sun, Moon and the Earth. The children also explored constellations in the night sky!

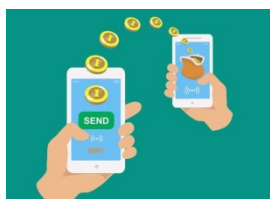
You can check what you child is learning each week on our website under Children → Year Groups and Curriculum.



Sandra Mulholland & Dawn Loader
Acting Head teachers

CASHLESS SCHOOL

As part of our SchoolPing migration we are also following the lead of many other schools in Brighton and Hove and are working towards being a *cashless school*. As you may know, we already take lunch payments via ParentPay and that system is working quite well. **We're now going to introduce payments for school trips via SchoolPing.** The great thing is that you will be able to use the app to approve permission forms and make the payment all at the same time! (No more cutting off and returning slips of paper whilst trying to find exact change to return with it!) We hope you'll find this useful and we'll be sending out how-to information soon - but we wanted to let you know about this exciting change ahead of time. Please do let us know if you have experienced any difficulties with using the service.



EYFS READING, WRITING AND MATHS PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP

The workshop will aim to outline the teaching and development steps taken through the Development Matters DfE document for 40-60 months and the end of Reception 'Early Learning Goals.' There will be a Powerpoint presentation followed by the opportunity to look at resources and ask questions. This will include how these areas are taught at Balfour, as well as ways to support your child's learning at home.

Wednesday 7th November in the KS1 hall:

- First session will be 9.05-10.00 am
- Second session will be 2.00-3.00 pm

The presentation and resources will be uploaded onto the website under Children → Year Groups and Curriculum → EYFS

PARENT FORUM MEETINGS

The focus of the next forum meetings will be on:

- Ways in which we can make the school feel more integrated between KS1 and 2.
- Poverty Proofing Audit actions.

These will take place on:

- Monday 3rd December 7.15- 8.15 pm
- Tuesday 4th December 9.00-10.00 am

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION DEADLINE REMINDER

The deadline for secondary school admissions is **Wednesday 31st October 2018**. You can apply online by visiting the Brighton & Hove City Council website → apply for a school → apply for a school place.

CHRISTMAS PLAYS AND CONCERTS

Here at the dates and times for all the Christmas concerts and performances for Y5 & Y6.

- Thursday 29th November 10.15-11.15am - **Year 3** Carol concert at St Johns church
- Thursday 29th November 1.45-2.45pm - **Year 4** Carol concert at St Johns church
- Monday 3rd December 7pm - **Year 5 and 6** choir concert at the Brighton centre
- Tuesday 11th December 6-7pm - **Year 5** Christmas Production
- Wednesday 12th December 1.45-2.45pm - Matinee of **Year 5** production
- Thursday 13th December 6-7pm - **Year 5** Christmas production
- Tuesday 18th December 6-7pm (first concert) 7.30-8.30pm (second concert)



ART COMPETITION

RAL Space National Satellite Test Facility is running an art competition to design pictures to be displayed outside their new building to help explain the work they do. The link below provides more details and there is a video to watch too.

The deadline is Midnight 23rd November 2018 and the winners has a chance to win:

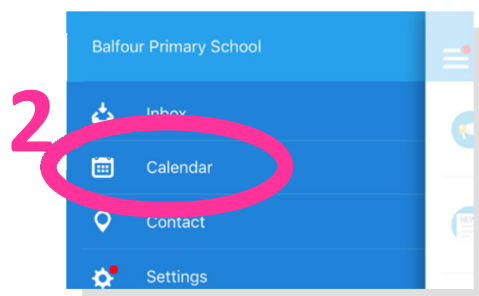
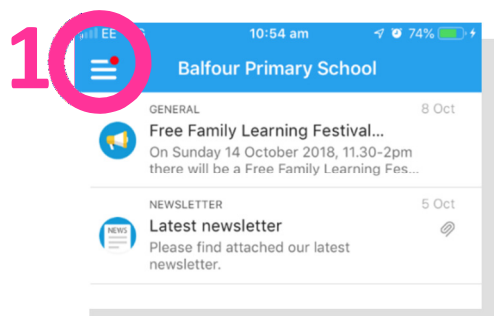
- Their picture displayed outside the NSTF construction
- The chance to visit the current satellite test facilities and meet RAL's expert space engineers
- Or a visit by a RAL Space scientist to your class or group

Follow the link below:

<https://www.ralspace.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/National-Satellite-Test-Facility-Art-Competition.aspx>

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
9 th Nov		X							EYFS Workshop 9-10 & 2-3
9 th Nov							X		Greek Workshop
12 th Nov					X				Feather Class to Booth Museum
13 th Nov					X				Fern Class to Booth Museum
14 th Nov					X				Forrest Class to Booth Museum
14 th – 15 th Nov					X	X	X	X	Parents Evening
14 th -15 th Nov				X					Fiveways fieldtrip
16 th Nov					X				Fossil Class to Booth Museum
20 th – 21 st Nov		X	X	X					Parents Evening
21 st Nov							X	X	Cross Country Championships
3 rd Dec							X	X	Brighton Centre Xmas choir concert
6 th Dec		X							EYFS Christmas Play 9.10-10am
7 th Dec		X							EYFS Christmas Play 9.10-10am
10 th Dec			X	X					Y1 & 2 Christmas Play 9.10-10am
11 th Dec			X	X					Y1 & 2 Christmas Play 9.10-10am
11 th Dec							X		Y5 Christmas Production 6pm
12 th Dec			X	X					Y1 & 2 Christmas Play 9.10-10am
12 th Dec							X		Y5 Christmas Performance- matinee
13 th Dec			X	X					Y1 & 2 Christmas Play 9.10-10am
13 th Dec							X		Y5 Christmas Performance
18 th Dec		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Christmas Lunch
18 th Dec								X	Y6 Christmas Concert 6pm & 7.30pm
3 rd Jan		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	First day back to school

OFSTED UPDATE



On Wednesday 10th October the school received the annual 'Know your school visit' which was carried out by our School Partnership Advisor, Janis Taylor. The Senior Leadership Team met with Mrs Taylor and our Chair of Governors, Ms Cashman to review performance data, the School Development Plan 2018-19 and progress made since Ofsted in November 2017. A Learning Walk was also carried out and every class was visited with a focus on the learning environment. The feedback was extremely positive and supported the Senior Leadership's judgement that the school is now a good and improving school.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIC BOARD

The School Improvement Strategy Board meeting took place on 12th October 2018. The purpose of this meeting was to review progress with the Local Authority in the key areas identified from Ofsted and quality assure Senior Leadership Teams' judgements on where the school currently is in the journey towards improvement and where it would like to be. Significant progress has been made in terms of performance data (attainment and progress), compared with 2016-17 and is well above both local and national comparative data. You can see the 17/18 results on our website! [A link can be found in the bottom right of the front page.](#)

ASSEMBLIES

Across the school we have been focusing on positive mental health and mindfulness. Year 1 and 2 children read the story 'The Huge Bag of Worries' and explored how worries make us feel and ways in which it is helpful to deal with them by talking to a trusted adult.

Assemblies in KS2 have been focused on celebrating Black History Month, where we have heard an account from a child who attended the famous Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream...' speech with her father, how Rosa Parks courageously championed equality and how the Windrush generation

helped re-build Britain after World War II. We have also focused on the text 'The Thankful Coat' which discusses how changing your thinking can change your feelings.

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	95.89%	96.43%	97.33%	97.82%	98.79%	96.83%	97.91%
# of lates	2	12	5	11	21	23	13

Whole school attendance since Sept 2018 = 97.57% (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.

NEW STAFF GOVERNOR

Nick Huxley has been voted the new staff governor for Balfour Primary. Congratulations to Mr Huxley.

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: 32nd 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

FAB AGM

Thanks to everyone who came along to the recent FAB AGM. It was encouraging to find a few more enthusiastic people willing to help out at FAB.

Do you fancy getting involved too? With more people, we can do even more great things for the school.

We're always open to new ideas, and would love it if you could suggest ways to improve our current events. Innovation and change can help us raise even more funds for the school (as long we have enough people to make it all happen!).

FIREWORKS NIGHT – SATURDAY 10TH NOV IN JEOPARDY

There's a real risk that Balfour's famous Fireworks Night might not go ahead this year – we don't have enough marshals to fulfil our health and safety obligations.

Please sign up to be a marshal (4.30pm to 7pm) to save the show – you obviously don't have to pay for a ticket!

We're also looking to fill a few 1-hour slots for set-up, helping on stalls, selling tickets and tidying up at the end.

Hopefully lots of you will answer our rallying call – so buy your tickets at [ticketor.com/friendsatbalfour](https://www.ticketor.com/friendsatbalfour) or at our new FAB website at [friendsatbalfour.org/events/fireworks-night/](https://www.friendsatbalfour.org/events/fireworks-night/)

QUIZ NIGHT TONIGHT! FRIDAY 19TH OCT 8PM IN KS1 HALL

Come along this evening and buy your tickets on the door. You can be part of a ready-made team (max. 6 people) or join one on the night. The bar's stocked and plenty of tickets have been sold: it's set to be a cracking night!

Entry: £4 per person



THE BALFOUR 100 CLUB

The Balfour 100 Club is up and running! September's lucky winners were Sally A, Jake W, and Sarah S. And Sandra M, Hannah H and Louise P picked up the prizes in October.

You could be in it to win it too – join anytime to help the school raise much-needed funds.

The lottery is open to all Balfour parents, carers and staff, and costs £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.

To sign up, or for more information, please email fab100club@gmail.com.

SPREAD THE WORD – YEAR GROUP FACEBOOK PAGES

Learn and share information about the school activities that are relevant for your child's year group. There's a Balfour Primary Facebook page for years 4, 5 and 6 – follow the links below to find out more:

Balfour	Primary	Yr	4	2018-19
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368365863298066/>

Balfour	Primary	yr	5	2018-19
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2111849342467472/>

Balfour	Primary	yr	6	2018-19
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2178553149070778/>

There are individual class Facebook pages and other communication channels for other years. Find out more from your class rep, or email volunteers@friendsatbalfour.org.

CONTACT FAB

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT FAB'S NEW WEBSITE: friendsatbalfour.org



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