

West Blatch News

Head's Corner



Dear Parents and Carers,
What a busy half term it is turning out to be!

Last week, we launched our new school app Arbor. If you have not downloaded the app yet, I urge you to do so in the next week. We will be moving all school communications to the app so this is the best place to keep in touch with what is going on day to day.

You can also use the app to book your slots for parents evening next week.

As always, this is an excellent opportunity to find out how your children are doing at school, and how you can best support them at home.

Over the last month, we have had open mornings and afternoons for prospective parents, as all schools do at this time of year, to market their schools and to strive to secure reception admissions.

The feedback has been very positive.

At the same time, we are well aware of the ongoing challenge around an over supply of places across Brighton and Hove and this is intensified in certain areas and Hangleton is one of these areas!

The local authority are currently in consultation to close two schools in the city and reduce pupil numbers for 9 schools.

With this in mind, please spread the word about our amazing school. Word of mouth and personal recommendations are more powerful than any other marketing strategy and funding for schools is based on the number of places filled.

Our recent Saturday open day was very well attended, with a real buzz of excitement from new parents seeking a place for their children. So we hope to be full again next September.

This half-term we have

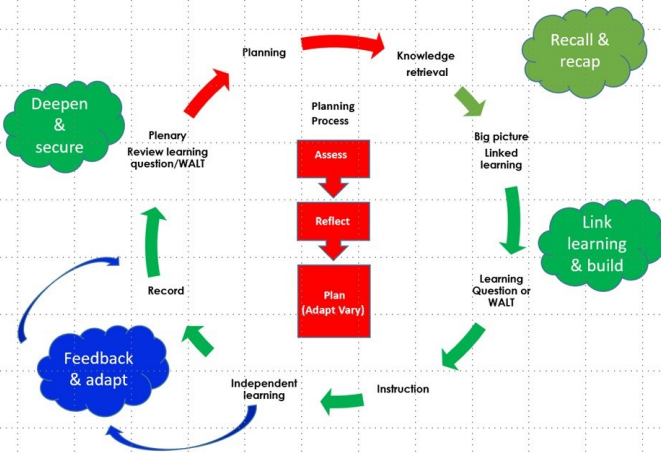
introduced Head Teacher Award stickers for every child that finishes the day at the top of our learning ladder for being a learning hero. I have been thrilled to have so many children sharing their excellent work with me and getting a sticker.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas festivities that are about to commence. For the children, there are various music workshops and performances for them to watch in the city. And for the parents we have our Nativity performances for early years and KS1, and the Winter Celebration performance for KS2 parents.

Best wishes,
Russell Brentnall

An update on joining The Pioneer Trust

We have now had our first half-term working within the Pioneer Academy, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you all on how things are going.



Teaching and Learning

The biggest impact that we have seen since joining the trust, is their investment in training to support Teaching and Learning in the school. Working in a trust that has 'Outstanding' schools, has ensured that we are able to plot our way to becoming an outstanding school ourselves. On our INSET day in October, we attended a Teaching conference with the other 16 schools in the trust. We had high quality speakers and presentations that were all well received by the teaching staff.

You will have seen the additional INSET days that we have in place for January. These training days are designed to ensure that our school offer of learning is the very best it can be. As we align with the trust and their

vision of a Safe-Happy-Learning school, we are having to commit many hours of quality training. I want to thank you for your understanding around this. As a parent, I know these additional days will be hard for many families to find the child care for- but it is crucial that we are giving staff time for training and preparation to ensure the school can deliver the highest quality of lessons.

The Pioneer Academy uses its own 'Teaching Model' to ensure that every child does their best in all lessons. Having adopted the model this term, we are already starting to see lessons get even better than they were last term! This is no mean feat, when we consider that the school was already very strong before joining the academy.

The Pioneer Passport

Year 5 and Falcons are the first classes to have a fully funded school trip. They went to the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux in East Sussex. We are finalising the details with each class to ensure that all children will benefit this year from funded activities from the trust.



Pioneer Tournaments

As well as our children competing in our usual local tournaments with Brighton and Hove schools, we have started to compete in trust tournaments as well. This month, we sent a Boys and Girls football team to Hastings to compete in the trust regional matches. The Girls team won and are through to the finals next term! Thanks to the use of the trust minibuses, we were able to compete at no cost to the school or parents.

EYFS and Jays outdoor areas

We are thrilled with the significant investment of £100k into our outdoor learning areas for Nursery, Reception and Jays class. We are now able to offer the very best provision for our youngest children in the school and the ASC facility. The trust has plans for additional funding for some other areas of the school within this academic year- more news to follow!

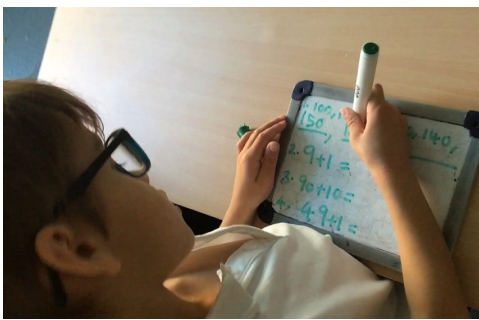


Jays Class

Jays have been doing some fantastic learning about the human body this term. They had some great questions during the knowledge harvest, such as: Why are bogies green? Will a seed grow inside of you if you eat it? Why do we poo? Why do we have different colour eyes and hair? We've loved learning about our bones and the jobs our different organs do. We have been doing lots of different experiments to understand how and why our bodies are so amazing!



This term, we have also been studying traditional fairy tales. We have looked at a range of fairy tales such as: Jack and the Bean Stalk, the Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding hood and much more. We have been understanding the features of fairy tales, classic characters, similarities and differences between fairy tales and beginning to write our own twisted fairy tales. We have really loved this topic so far!



In Maths, Jays have been using different methods to add and subtract. We have loved using the resources to help us understand how we can complete these challenges in a variety of different ways. It has been tricky, but we are getting there. Some of us are subtracting from three-digit numbers. Others are using a combination of part-whole and number lines to calculate.

Jays and Falcons class will be hosting a craft and bake sale on the 14th of December. We welcome all parents and guardians to join us on that day for celebrations and Christmas themed activities!



Puffins Class

We have completed our unit of learning about how humans work. We learnt about nutrients, healthy food and vitamins and designed our own healthy meal. We also learnt about the four components that make up the blood in our bodies – plasma, white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets. We then built some 'blood' with a variety of art supplies. We used yellow food colouring, water and glue as the plasma, red food colouring as the red blood cells, blue glitter as the white blood cells and red glitter as the platelets. We watched as the blood 'flowed' slowly through the vein (bottle).



During relating week, we have been thinking about how to make a noise about bullying. We have created our own helping hands, thought about ways we can be kind and discussed what bullying behaviour may look like.



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ABOUT BULLYING



Swallows Class discover a range of flavours with Chef John

Swallows class were paid a visit by a professional chef! Chef John transformed the classroom into a restaurant, and the children all became chefs. This is the first of three workshops we will have with Chef John.

The focus for this session was on using all our senses to carefully taste a variety of different foods - including some highly unusual jellies.

We also learnt about the importance of eating a balanced diet, and the different nutrients that various types of food provide.

We are looking forward to having John back next year, to learn about knife skills and bread making!



Falcons Class

The last few weeks have been filled with fun and excitement in Falcons class.

In Week 2 of Autumn 2, Falcons visited Pizza Express. We journeyed on the bus from school to the restaurant in Hove and were met by friendly staff members who showed us how to make a pizza.



Falcons took part in another trip a week later as we joined Swallows class with a visit to the Observatory Science Centre in Herstmonceux. We spent large parts of the day exploring the centre where there were countless exhibits to discover, including a vacuum-powered chair and anti-gravity wheel.

We were also given a special science show where we learnt about Tim Peake, the International Space Station and infra-red technology. In the afternoon the groups also took part in a robotic arms activity which tested their resilience and teamwork skills



Towards the end of Autumn 2, the ASC facility will be hosting a bake and craft sale on Thursday 14th December.

Well done Falcons for a great start to this half-term!

Swallows & Falcons visit the Observatory Science Centre in Herstmonceux

Swallows and Falcons classes embarked on their trip to the Observatory Science centre, to support their learning on the *Space Scientists* topic for the Autumn Term. We had a wonderful time, despite the rain!

At the museum, we had the chance to engage and experiment with dozens of interactive exhibits. Some of our favourites included a vacuum-powered chair, an earthquake simulator, and a trick mirror that could make your face change into someone else's!

We also got to see the *Destination Space* science show, all about the science involved in sending humans and spacecraft into space. We learnt how rockets are fuelled, what astronauts eat, and what happens to a marshmallow man in a vacuum.

After lunch, it was time for the robotic arms workshop. We all had a turn practising controlling robotic arms to manoeuvre various objects.

Finally, we had a chance to see two of the huge telescopes kept at the observatory centre, including one that was more than 100 years old!



Years 5 & 6 Pioneer Academy Football Tournament

On Tuesday 7th November our Y5/6 Girls and Boys football teams took part in a tournament at Hollington Primary School in Hastings.

They played an amazing five matches against other schools within our academy including Holland Juniors, Edenbridge, Hollington and Moulseccomb.

Both teams played really well and our girls' team got into the regional finals which means they go on to play the winners of the other regions!

The teams were both fantastic role models for our school by playing fairly, cheering on the other teams and playing with smiles on their faces.

Well done to all taking part!



School Council

We have been working on linking the pioneer personal goals to our learning heroes. We have created new learning hero goals and shared them with all the classes.

I make links with my learning.

I use my initiative when I am stuck.

RESOURCEFUL



I use resources around me to help.

I have opinions or ideas about something I learned (thinker).

I give, receive and share information (communicator).

I celebrate what I have done well and work on my thinking questions.

I can use 'Just Right' so that I am ready to learn.

REFLECTIVE



I accept change and I welcome new ideas (adaptable).

I follow and change my plan.

I learn from my mistakes.

RESPONSIBILITY



I know right and wrong (ethical).

I embrace all the learning heroes.

I have a love for learning.

I stay focused in lessons.

I listen well.

I think carefully about the words I use.



RESILIENT

I keep trying, even when it is difficult (resilient).

I can confidently work on my own.

I am keen to take on challenges.



RELATING

I understand the emotions and feelings of another person (empathetic).

I work with others to complete a task (collaborator).

I am kind and polite to everyone (respectful).

Friends of West Blatchington

FoWB are Proud to Announce - £100 for resources for each class!

After the recent Halloween disco, FoWB have voted to give each class £100 towards resources.

We have used the entire disco profit, along with money raised from recent Uniform sales and other activities to fund this gift.

We really appreciate the Teacher's support for this event – and hope everyone comes along to the next one at Easter!



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE IS LIVE!!!!

Prizes include

£100 cash

Luxury Cosmetic bundle worth over £200

Toy bundles of your favourites – Harry Potter, Super Mario and more!

Days out at places like Drusillas, Paradise Park and more!

Afternoon teas

Bar and restaurant vouchers

The Team Colour Hampers

Outdoors Project £50 voucher

2 x tickets to The Little Matchgirl at Brighton Dome

After School Club

Here at after school club we have been very busy creating our display for Autumn and as you can see, we have been exploring all different resources to re-create what we have seen whilst in the garden.

As always, please remember to book your place early at after school as we are extremely busy.

We would also like to say a great big thank you to our amazing parents and carers as well!

Miss Haslam, Miss Muna and Miss Young





What's coming up at West Blatchington...

Tues 28th Nov: School nurse drop in 2.30pm

Wed 29th & Thurs 30th: Parents Evenings

Fri 1st Dec: Red and Green Dress Down Day for Hamper donations

Wed 6th Dec: One Voice Festival of Singing - Brighton Centre (Choir)

Thurs 7th Dec: Christmas Fayre

Wed 13th Dec: Christmas Lunch

Wed 13th Dec: 9.15am Owlets, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Christmas Show

Thurs 14th Dec: 9am Year 3 - 6, Jays and Falcons Christmas Show

Thurs 14th Dec: 2.10pm Owlets, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Christmas Show

Fri 15th Dec Last day of the Autumn term

Mon 17th Dec - Tues 2nd Jan: Christmas holiday

Wed 3rd Jan: INSET Day

Thurs 4th Jan: INSET Day

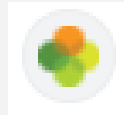
Fri 5th Jan: INSET Day

Mon 8th Jan: First day of Spring term

Mon 15th Jan: Deadline to apply for a Reception school place



Arbor



Thank you to all those who are now using the Arbor app and a reminder to parents who haven't yet downloaded the app to do this as soon as possible.

Please check your child's details and all your contact details here to ensure that we have the most up to date information for you.

This is also where you can also book parents evening appointments.

Thank you

Park safely
Park legally
Park considerately

Consider walking part of the way to school or share the school run with other parents

... meaning fewer cars at the school entrance

... making it safer for you and your children.

Studybugs

Thank you to all of those who have signed up to the Studybugs App to report absence. Attendance continues to be a high priority for the school and for those of you who have not yet signed up, please download the app and follow the instructions.

Any absences relating to COVID19 will not impact on your child's attendance.



Aiming high, Nurturing all

Ofsted Rated Good - 2019



**Friends of
West Blatchington
Christmas Fayre &
Raffle Draw**

**Thursday 7th December
3pm – 4.30pm
Sports Hall**

**Raffle Draw!
Christmas Crafts and Decorations,
Refreshments, Face Painting,
Cupcakes and more!**

**Buy your raffle
tickets using the QR
code below!**



Enter Now



School places for four year olds!



7241 design by Brighton & Hove City Council | Communications Team

Apply now online for a school place at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, you need to apply for a school place by
15 January 2024

For a hard copy of the application pack please email the School Admissions Team at schooladmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk or phone 01273 293653.



Brighton & Hove
City Council

The
Outdoors
Project

OFSTED
REGISTERED

"NO SCREENS,
JUST GOOD FUN
IN NATURE"

XMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS

"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"
Fresh air. Fresh activities. Fresh attitude.

COTTESMORE ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAY 18 DEC

MEGA GAMES, SNOW MAKING, S'MORES & PAINT MURAL

We love to play! A day of mega games, woodland adventure & a wild time as we toast s'mores around the campfire to recharge between mega games. There'll be a 'snow' ball making session before we come together to design a massive Paint Gun Mural!

TUESDAY 19 DEC

BAD SANTA & SNOWBALL NERF: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Join us for an energetic day of Nerf dart dodging, with tactical & team-based Nerf games. There's an imposter dressed as Santa & he's out to steal Christmas - we need help to save our stockings! Come along for battling Bad Santa & a game of Snowball Assault. (Due to the more competitive nature of this day, age 6+ is recommended).

WEDNESDAY 20 DEC

NEW: MINECRAFT DAY WITH TOOLS & MODEL WORKSHOP

The kids will be building & maintaining their village using bushcraft equipment, while earning reward pixels & protecting their village from the Creeper! They will have to collect their elements & using the crafting table build their tools, before our Minecraft paper pixel character modelling workshop

THURSDAY 21 DEC

DROP PANCAKES, S'MORES, PINE NEEDLE TEA & FIRE LIGHTING

Gather around the campfire for Campfire Cookout: Christmas Edition! We will make our own drop pancakes, master the art of brewing pine needle tea, & hone your bushcraft fire lighting skills. Oh yeah - then head to the campfire once again for some tasty s'mores!

FRIDAY 22 DEC

XMAS CRAFTS: BIRD FEEDERS, EMBROIDERY ART & CANDY CANE HUNT

Today we'll be enjoying a wintery Christmas craft day appreciating the beautiful season of winter. We'll be helping our feathered friends out as we craft some bird feeders. We'll create our own floss embroidery art & there'll be a hunt for the candy canes Santa's elves have left out for us!



For more info on dates, locations and how the clubs run & to book: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk



The Little Match Girl | Theatre | Family | What's On / Brighton Dome

Hans Christian Andersen's classic story is magically retold by Ballo Arthur Pita through dance, song and atmospheric live music

bit.ly

'Adults should beg, borrow or steal a child to take to this funny and moving production.' – ★★★★★ *The Guardian*
Experience Arthur Pita's magical storytelling in this enchanting dance-theatre production of Hans Christian Andersen's classic story



The Pioneer Academy



Post Title: School Minibus Driver
School: The Pioneer Academy, various locations (Bromley, Croydon, Brighton & Hove)
Status: Bank Staff – Casual contract / Term time only
Grade: TPA1 / NJC 1-4 / £11.56-£13.00 per hour
Post Start Date: As soon as possible pending pre-employment checks

The Pioneer Academy is seeking to employ minibus drivers on a casual contract to drive the minibus vehicles for the Trust to enable pupils to participate fully in a wide variety of activities, such as sporting fixtures, school trips, visits for staff and pupils to other schools. We have a fleet of minibuses located at three of our schools: Red Hill Primary School in Chislehurst, Kent, Broadmead Primary School in Croydon & Moulescoomb Primary School in Brighton. You will need to be of a minimum of 25 years of age and hold a current clean driving licence, which has a D1 mini bus license and will need to disclose if you have had any claims on your own insurance within the last 5 years.

This role will include collecting and dropping off pupils and staff from any of our schools across South East London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Brighton & Hove, depending on the location of the drivers and their availability.

Key responsibilities include:

- To be responsible for carrying out driving duties.
- To work co-operatively with all staff.
- To be responsible for carrying out vehicle checks before driving and report any problems to the school office.
- To be responsible for ensuring that the required number of seats are in place and secure.
- To be responsible for the welfare, safety and comfort of passengers at all times, and to offer assistance where appropriate.

The Pioneer Academy Trust which is an academy trust with schools across London and the South East. At The Pioneer Academy, we put children first, pioneering excellence and championing each and every child. All our schools, ranging from small infant schools to large primary schools, work collaboratively, sharing resources and expertise. Find out more at: www.thepioneeracademy.co.uk

If you are interested in applying for the post, please see the Job Description/Person Specification. To apply for this vacancy, please complete the application form, completing a full education and employment history since leaving school and indicating how you satisfy the criteria set out in the Job Description/Person Specification. You will also be required to complete and return a self-disclosure declaration with your application. Applications should be submitted via email to the Recruitment Team at recruitment@thepioneeracademy.co.uk

Only those shortlisted for interview will be contacted. References will be requested for those shortlisted only and prior to interview. In line with [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#), online searches will be completed as part of the due diligence on shortlisted candidates, searching online content that is publicly available for inappropriate online content that may suggest that a shortlisted candidate may not be suitable to work with children, or that may harm the reputation of the school. If any issues of concern come up in online searches, shortlisted candidates will have an opportunity to address these at interview. An Enhanced DBS certificate will be required on provisional offer, including a check of the Children's Barred List. Further vetting checks, in line with the requirements of [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#) will be completed following a provisional offer of appointment. Where applicable, if an applicant with a provisional offer of employment has lived and/or worked outside the UK, they will be required to obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct.

The Pioneer Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Offers of employment are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure and other employment checks. Our school Safeguarding Policy can be downloaded and read following this link: [safeguardingandchildprotectionpolicy-2022-23](#)



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Primary School

every time you shop online

Find us on [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fowestblatchington/>

or download the App



Shop at over **4,000** online stores



£ Over £30 million raised

👤 1.6 million users

📍 130,000 causes



**JOIN
OUR
TEAM**

BECOME A CLASS REP FOR

FRIENDS OF WEST BLATCHINGTON (FOWB)

Help spread the word about upcoming fundraising events

Raise money for the school

Get involved

**To become a class rep or to find out more details,
please email us:**

fowb@wblatch.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Parentkind
Member Association