

West Blatch News

Head's Corner



Dear Parents and Carers,
It has been a very positive start to our new school year with our children settling quickly in to the routine and expectations of school.

I would like to give a warm welcome to our new families (especially those with children that have just started in Reception). All of our new joiners are settling well into the school. We are always looking to make links with our community – this includes our Friends of West Blatch, who are a group of parents and staff representatives that work together to raise funds for 'extras' for all the children at West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School. For a few years now, they have been funding extra PE lessons and support for KS1 and KS2 pupils, Swimming Lessons for Year 4 at Hangleton Pool, as well as the annual visit from Father

Christmas at the Winter Gathering. They have also provided support for school trips and outings and other special events. If you are interested in joining the PTA, then please email [**fowb@wblatch.brighton-hove.sch.uk**](mailto:fowb@wblatch.brighton-hove.sch.uk) for further details.

Having joined the Pioneer Academy, we no longer have the parent testimonials on the Ofsted website. If you would like to share your positive experiences of the school, then please use this link [**https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk**](https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) to help other parents find out more about West Blatch.

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our Governing School Board. The application forms were sent out last week. I would urge you all to think about whether you would like to join our School Board as a representative of our parent community to help provide support and

challenge to make our school the best it can be. If you would like to find out more about the role, I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss the role and the commitments attached to it.

Lastly, please could I remind parents and carers that the school car park is only for use by families with a parking permit. Please do not use the car park if you do not have a permit. If you think you might be eligible for a permit, please speak with the school office. As you know, we want to keep every child safe by reducing the cars on our school site.

Best wishes,
Russell Brentnall
Headteacher

Joining The Pioneer Academy



Over the summer, the academy trust provided a £100,000 investment to transform our outside spaces, as well as helping revolutionise the school curriculum and enrichment opportunities.

The renovation work focused on renovating the school's ASC facility to provide the best possible learning environment for these children. The school also remodelled the outside Nursery and Reception areas so that the youngest children would have access to the best possible facilities.



paying for school enrichment activities and school trips as part of its 'Pioneer Passport' promise to pupils.

In the classroom meanwhile, through working with The Pioneer Academy Trust, West Blatchington has introduced the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). Developed through evidence-based research, the IPC supports 5-11 year olds with enjoyable, relevant, and rigorous learning, preparing them to be globally competent, socially conscious, and motivated individuals while still preparing them for academic success.

Reception Open Days

Across the city, the population of children starting in Reception is falling each year– as Brighton and Hove becomes less affordable for families to live in our area.

With that in mind, we want to share how fantastic our school is – to the wider community. If you have friends and family that have children looking to start school next September, then please encourage them to join one of our Open Days.



Tuesday, 17th October 09:30-10:30

Thursday, 19th October 09:30-10:30

Wednesday, 1st November 13:30-14:30

Thursday, 9th November 09:30-10:30

Saturday, 11th November 10:30-11:30

Tuesday, 14th November 13:30-14:30

Thursday, 23rd November 09:30-10:30

Please contact the school office, if you would like to book a place (01273 770777).

If your child is currently in our school Nursery Owlets Class, and looking to move to Reception next September, please make sure that you apply in good time if you would like a Reception place. Last year, we had a number of children in our Nursery class that applied late and were not initially given a place.



Owlets class

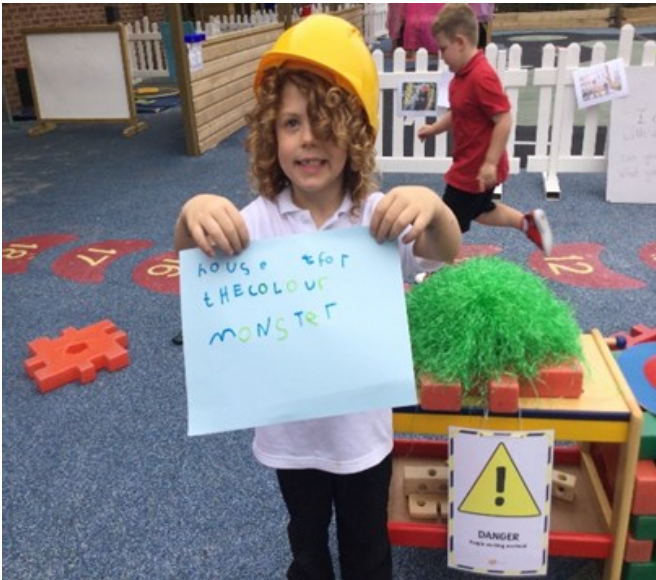
Owlets have had a great start to the year! We have been focusing on routines, sharing and forming great relationships with the adults and children in our classroom.

What a fabulous start to our school life!



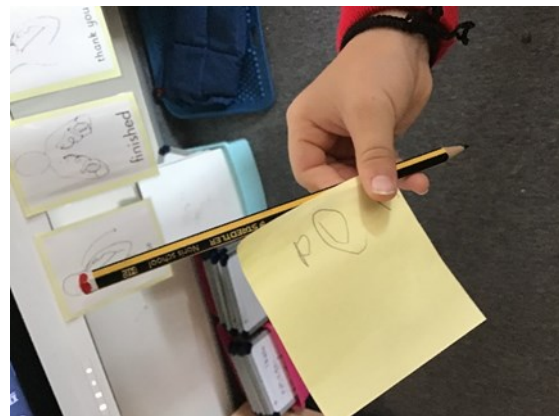
Wrens Class

Wrens class have had a fantastic few weeks settling into reception. We have been embracing our first topic called 'Marvellous Me'. The children have enjoyed listening to lots of different stories, getting to know each other and exploring their new learning environment.



Goldcrests Class

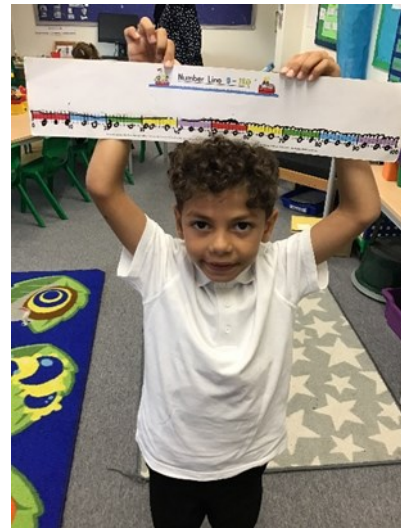
Goldcrests have really enjoyed being in year 1! We have explored our Brainwaves theme over the past few weeks as part of our IPC unit. We met professor sparks and learnt various ways to keep our brains healthy. In English we have explored 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' where we went on a fun noun hunt! We loved retelling this incredible story. In maths, we have been exploring 'more than' and 'less than'. We met a very hungry alligator who only likes to eat numbers that are greater! We look forward to learning our IPC unit 'Treasure Islands'.



Skylarks Class

Skylarks have settled in well to their new class and have been very busy doing lots of learning already! In Maths, we have been making 2-digit numbers up to 100 and counting in twos, fives, tens and threes. In English, we have been learning a story called 'Kassim and the Hungry Fox' and are now learning an explanation text all about The Great Fire of London.

We are especially excited about our new topic From A to B. So far, we have been focusing on the geography tasks and have found out about different types of transport, how we all get to school, what is in our local area and have also mapped out our routes to school.

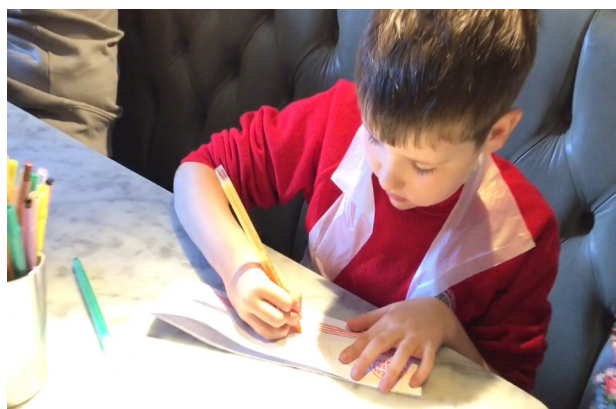


Jays Class

Jays have had an exciting beginning to term by focusing on our getting ready routines, writing poetry and completing place value challenges in maths.

In our poetry sessions, we have discovered our love for Michael Rosen, as well as writing poetry based on the book *Fantastic Forests*. We used this as inspiration to write our own animal poetry - focusing on writing rhyming couplets and then performing them to the class.

In addition to this, we also visited Pizza Express. It was very exciting catching the bus and all the pupils in Jays loved tasting their creations. We'd also like to give a massive thank you to all the parents who attended to support us on the trip!



Puffins Class

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the year. We have enjoyed getting interested in our new unit – How Humans Work. First, we did a work out to see how our body reacted. We then drew around some members of our class and labelled the parts of the body. We have learnt about the eyes, ears, teeth, digestive system and skeleton. We spent a lesson making lungs from straws balloons and bottles and a lesson recreating the digestive system!



Starlings Class

Super Starlings have settled back into school beautifully. We have had a great time investigating sound and light in lots of practical ways.



We have also been looking at how the brain works and how we learn best. We had a go at code breaking and even made marshmallow and spaghetti towers— sticky but fun!



Swallows Class

Swallows class have made a fantastic start to year 5. The children have settled in well and are making a great start to their learning.

In English, we've been using drama to explore characters' emotions in our class text *Street Child*. The children have used this to craft some wonderful fictional diary entries.

In our *Brainwaves* Unit, the students taught each other various talents and we explored different memorisation and mindfulness strategies.

We've also kicked off our *Space Scientists* unit, by researching the planets of our solar system and creating pop-up books, including our favourite planetary facts



Ravens Class

Ravens have settled into school life well and have been engaged in a variety of practical activities to explore some of the new topics we are looking at this year. This has included creating some fantastic dioramas to explore some of the habitats of endangered animals for the entry point of our new topic 'Existing, Endangered and Extinct'. We had fun using art and natural materials to create the habitats of various endangered animals from the Asian elephant to the red panda.



Falcons Class

It has been a lovely start to the year in Falcons. The students have welcomed Emilio into our class which demonstrates their kindness and respect.

We have completed a unit of work called 'Brainwave'. Throughout this unit, students reflected on their learning, thinking about how they learn best and what they can do to improve how they learn. We played several different games which the class enjoyed, including a blindfold trust game that encouraged clear communication between students.



Falcons class have been taking part in structured physical exercises every morning as part of our getting ready time. During these sessions, students practice different exercises to become more aware of what is happening in their body.



We have also spent time learning about our class pioneer for this year – Alan Turing. We have learnt how to use secret codes to send messages (but we made sure to learn how to decrypt them too!)

In these photos, students made their own Mayan masks. Very creative!



Friends of West Blatchington

FoWB are excited to welcome our re-elected and new committee members!

After the short AGM on the 26th September we are pleased to announce this years' main roles and the joining of another 7 committee members.

This will make so much difference to our group and we are so thankful to all those who volunteer . It's not too late to get involved, please keep an eye out for when you can help us with various events and other items.

Chair and Vice Chair – Marie C and Lisa C
Joint Secretary – Leah H and Becky S
Joint treasurer – Mahima M and Gemma P

Dates for the Diary 2023 – 2024

Autumn

19th Oct Halloween disco
1st Dec Dress down for hampers
7th Dec Christmas Fayre

Spring

12th Jan Uniform sale
9th Feb Valentine sweet sale
22nd Mar Easter disco
12th July Summer Disco

Summer

19th Apr Uniform sale
24th May Dress down day for Tombola
7th June Frozen Fridays start
15th June Summer Picnic/BBQ
12th July Summer Disco

Playground Equipment Purchase

At the end of the summer FoWB approved a funding request for new equipment for the Nursery and Reception Playgrounds, with the money the team were able to buy –

Giant Connect 4, smiley face paddle boards, Wooden ball catch cups, superhero action figures, Basketballs, Tea set, hot wheels vehicles, Monster truck playmat, Mirabel doll, Isabelle doll, footballs, giant dominoes, chunky chalks, skipping ropes, 8 jungle animals, Baby Bella dolls, Chinese skipping rope, Twister style game, Tennis Balls and chalkboards

FoWB are proud to have funded this important play equipment



Attendance - Everyone's Responsibility!

It has been wonderful to see everyone back at school and really engaging in school life. Attendance remains a key focus not just for the school, but for the whole city and country. You may have read that nationally, attendance for children in schools is at a real low. As a school community, we need to remain committed in ensuring our children are able to come to school on time and every day.

Attendance Top Tips:

- Please use Studybugs to report absence and provide as much detail as possible when reporting.
- If you are struggling with drop off/pickups – we have our Breakfast Club and After School club which you can book into – please contact front office for more information
- Why not try the Parent/Carer What's App group if you are needing to get some occasional help with pick up and drop offs
- Nurture Breakfast (run by our lovely Mrs Martin) is available for all children who may be feeling a little bit worried/sad/anxious about the beginning of the school day. This starts at 8.40, based in the Hive and is FREE
- Our Welfare Manager, Natalie Bellis is ALWAYS available to discuss ways of supporting with attendance/lateness
- Do talk with us at school to let us know if there are difficulties – if we know – we can help!
- Our Schools Mental Health Service can offer support and advice around possible barriers to attendance especially in relation to Emotionally Based School Avoidance (Coffee Morning taking place in November)
- Please do talk about the importance of coming to school every day with your child.
- If your child is having a lot of time absent due to illness, we can help by linking you in with our amazing School Nurse, Katie Farmer
- Any evidence to support your child's absence will be gratefully received. This will help us to code the absence correctly and ensure you and your child are getting the right level of help

Do Remember:

- Holidays in term time will always be unauthorised
- Absence for more than 3 days due to illness will require supporting evidence from the GP/Nurse/pharmacy
- Report any absence via the Studybugs app
- Attendance is EVERYONES responsibility

Attendance - Everyone's Responsibility!

Class Attendance:

Here's the attendance for the whole school.

	Attendance % School Year to Date
Overall	95.7
CLASSES	
Chaffinches	-
Falcons	93.3
Goldcrests	95.0
Jays	86.7
Owlets	91.0
Puffins	97.1
Ravens	97.1
Skylarks	96.1
Starlings	96.3
Swallows	95.2
Wrens	98.2

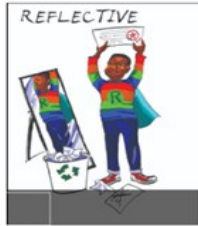
Congratulations to all classes who have achieved over 96% since the start of term - keep it up!!

100% weekly class attendance:

Ravens

Starlings

School Council



Our School Councillors this year are:

- YEAR 6** Omobe and Korede
- Falcons** Leo and Tyler
- YEAR 5** Ameen and Aisha
- YEAR 4** Malakai and Soraya
- YEAR 3** Storm and Noah
- YEAR 2** Amalia and Lamaan



We have had our first meeting and are working on a number of ways to help support and improve our school, including:

- Special ways to have fun at school
- Ways to make sure everyone feels safe
- Developing team work across classes and the school

We will keep you updated with all the progress we make.

Breakfast Club

It is widely reported that breakfast is the main meal of the day and children who start the day with a healthy, balanced breakfast will achieve optimum learning. Here at West Blatchington Primary & Nursery School our excellent Breakfast Club ensures that the children have the opportunity to start their school day in a calm, relaxed atmosphere.



Mrs King and Mrs Jackson supervise this popular club; it runs from 7.45am to 8.30am every day. It allows children to sit with their friends as they eat and drink. We offer a selection of healthy cereals, toast, pancakes, crumpets, bagels and muffins. Also water, juice or milk. In April this year, we were very proud to have won the Gold Award for healthy breakfasts.

Once the children have finished eating, there is a variety of activities on offer such as arts and crafts, board games, small world, construction and reading. The older children sometimes like to finish homework or just chat with friends.

If you would like your child to attend, then please contact the school office to book and pay for a place in advance.

Thea, Year 4-

"I really like breakfast club, it's fun to be with our friends and the bagels are my favourite"

Olivia Year 5-

"I have been coming for a long time now and my favourite breakfast is Cheerio's. I love chatting with my friends and it's good fun when we have jenga competitions!"

Cole Year 3-

"I really like breakfast club, the toast is yummy and buttery !"



After School Club

Welcome back to the new school year!

Here at After school Club, we have welcomed lots of new faces and many returning faces as well.

Our theme this half term is Autumn Watch and we have been exploring the changing environment all around us and taking advantage of the fantastic weather.

We have been using many different mediums to recreate all the creatures that we have been observing.

If you'd like a place at After School Club, please book early as we are extremely busy. We look forward to welcoming you to the club - Miss Haslam, Miss Muna and Miss Young.



Introducing our Education Mental Health Practitioner

Hello, my name is Zoey Bell and I am an Education mental health practitioner (EMHP) working for the schools mental health service. I work directly with pupils in Keystage 2 and work alongside Natalie Bellis to support wellbeing and positive mental health in West Blatchington.

I am based at West Blatchington Primary School one day per week.

As an EMHP I help Children and young people get early intervention for mental health difficulties in an environment that is well known to them.

I offer low-intensity interventions for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, worry, phobias, or sleep difficulties.

As an EMHP I work as part of a mental health support team with other mental health professionals. I work collaboratively with my team and sometimes may need to refer the children and young people I see on to other agencies.

My role is part of the government initiative to provide more mental health support in schools and colleges.

A coffee morning is being arranged for the next ½ term so I can introduce myself and my role more fully to the wonderful school community



Keeping our school community safe and happy

If someone else is picking up your child at the end of the day, please let front office know and the message will be passed on to the teacher.

If you have a parking permit – please park safely in our car park, smaller children can sometimes not be visible when cars are not parked in allocated bays.

If you need to park outside the school, please can you park in a safe place, avoiding the yellow zig-zag lines; double yellow lines and near junctions.

The Keystage 2 playground is unavailable for free play at the end of the school day. Please inform your children that at the end of the school day, they need to remain with the person who is picking them up.

If you are running late, please contact front office. It can then be arranged for your child to wait in a safe space until collected.



THANK YOU!



What's coming up at West Blatchington...

- Mon 16th Oct:** Flu vaccinations
- Wed 18th Oct:** School Photos
- Wed 18th Oct 2.30pm:** Harvest Assembly
(Reception, Jays, Years 1 & 2)
- Thurs 19th Oct 9am:** Harvest Assembly
(Years 3 - 6 & Falcons)
- Thurs 19th Oct:** Halloween Disco
- Mon 23rd—Fri 27th Oct:** Autumn half term
- Mon 30th Oct:** INSET Day
- Tues 31st Oct:** Year 6 deadline to apply for
secondary school
- Fri 1st Dec:** Dress down for Hampers
- Thurs 7th Dec:** Christmas Fayre
- Fri 15th Dec** Last day of the Autumn term
- 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

Library News

Welcome back everyone and I hope you all had a lovely summer break.

Congratulations to Starlings and Skylarks who won the end of term prize for having the least outstanding loans. Hope you enjoyed your books.

The libraries are now open again, please encourage your children to return any outstanding books and encourage them to read the book they have chosen. Look out for lots of new books hitting the shelves soon.

Happy Reading
Mrs Jackson
School Librarian



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. If you have any questions relating to attendance, please contact Natalie Bellis.



Aiming high, Nurturing all
Ofsted Rated Good - 2019





HALLOWEEN DISCO

**THURSDAY
19TH
OCTOBER
FOWB**



Level 1 & Level 2

CYCLE



TRAINING



at Preston Park
and Hove Park

Level 1 is where you will learn to control your bike.

Level 2 is where you start with real traffic, but sticking to quiet roads.

Monday 23 – Thursday 26
October

10am – 12.30pm each day

Ages 9 – 15

Levels 1 & 2 together is £40 per person.

Riders must be able to ride independently with confidence and without stabilisers.

Progression to level 2 training is subject to achieving level 1 standard.

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.

To book your place, please visit

<https://cycling.envelope.host/courses/>

or email: east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Level 3

CYCLE



TRAINING

at Preston Park
and Hove Park



Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 October

13.15 – 15.15 each day

Ages 11 – 15

Level 3 costs £45.00 per person.

Level 3 is where you learn to cycle safely on busy roads within the city.

Training includes roundabouts, traffic lights and filtering. You must have completed Levels 1 and 2.

Day 1 is an assessment of Level 2 activities. Progression to level 3 is subject to achieving level 2 standard

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.

To book your place, please visit

<https://cycling.envelope.host/courses/>

or email: east.central@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Brighton & Hove
City Council

HANGLETON & KNOLL LABOUR PARTY

TABLE TOP SALE



RAISING FUNDS FOR
HANGLETON & WEST BLATCHINGTON FOODBANK
HOUNSOM MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL,
NEVILL AVENUE, BN3 7NG



**SATURDAY 4
NOVEMBER**



10AM-12PM

FREE ENTRY



(FOODBANK DONATIONS WELCOME)

*First 30 people
through the door get
a FREE hot drink!*

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

*Face painting for
kids*

**TO DONATE ITEMS
(CLOTHING/ HOUSEHOLD/ TOYS)
OR TO BOOK A TABLE**

PLEASE CONTACT KATHRYN ON 07748611689





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](#)



Raise FREE donations for

Friends of West Blatchington
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