

West Blatch News

Head's Corner



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another incredibly busy and productive half term at school, filled with opportunities for our children to showcase their talents, resilience and enthusiasm for learning. It has been wonderful to see so many examples of our pupils demonstrating our school values both in and out of the classroom.

As always, strong communication between home and school is an essential part of helping every child thrive. When a member of staff gets in touch, it is always because we care about your child's wellbeing, progress and happiness in school. We understand that it can sometimes be difficult to hear concerns about your child. Please be assured that school and home are not on opposite sides, we are working together with a shared aim of supporting your child in the best possible way.

Children may sometimes come home with their own perspective on events. As with all situations, there can be different viewpoints. We kindly ask that, where possible, you take time to listen, ask questions and speak with us so we can work together towards a clear and balanced understanding.

Supporting children to learn appropriate behaviour is an important part of their development. At times this may involve having honest conversations or putting guidance in place to help them make positive choices. These moments, although sometimes challenging, are often where the most important learning happens. By working together, we can help our children to grow into respectful, responsible, honest and kind individuals.

A particular well done must go to our Year 6 pupils for the way they approached their SATs this half term. They showed great resilience, determination and maturity throughout the week, and we are very proud of the effort they put in.

Over the half-term break, we encourage our Year 4 children to continue practising their times tables in preparation for their multiplication check, and our Year 1 children to keep up with their phonics practice. Regular reading and short, frequent practice sessions can make a significant difference in building confidence and fluency.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. It truly makes a difference to the success and wellbeing of every child in our school.

Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to an exciting and successful final half-term of the year.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Brentnall
Headteacher

Goldcrests visit from Fire Fighters!

In year 1, we've been diving into our IPC unit, 'People Who Help Us'. On Wednesday 15th April, we were lucky to welcome our local fire fighters, who came to visit and share important information with us. We asked many questions about their job, including what their day looks like and how it feels to be a firefighter. They shared lots of information about how they help others and use their equipment. They even let us have a turn! Take a look!



Little Princess Trust!

The wonderful Amalia from Starlings' Class had 14 inches cut off her hair so that she could donate it to The Little Princess Trust. The Trust uses the hair to create free, real-hair wigs for children and young people who have experienced hair loss due to treatment for cancer or other conditions. We are all so very proud of her and we think she looks fantastic with her new, shorter hair.



Donate Hair

We use lovely long hair donations from our supporters to make our beautiful wigs.

Here you can learn about the lengths of hair we need - and the best ways to cut and send your lovely locks to us!

[Find out more](#)

Healthy Playtime Snacks

We would like to remind all parents and carers that the snacks you provide for your child's playtime **MUST** be healthy. For example, fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, a cereal bar, dried fruit, rice cakes, breadsticks.

Please **DO NOT** provide chocolate, items containing chocolate, doughnuts or crisps. In particular, no Takis or high sugar cakes.

Healthy snacks are essential for the children to maintain steady energy levels and support their learning. Thank you



Reptylers!

Wrens, Owlets, Jays and Falcons had an amazing time with Reptylers!

Jem brought a selection of animals with her including a Chameleon, Gecko, Tarantula and 11ft Python!

The children learnt lots of super interesting facts and were amazed by being able to touch, stroke and hold such amazing animals.



Children's Parade!

The sun shone on Saturday 2nd May as over twenty children, parents and staff from West Blatch helped launch the Brighton Festival with over 5,000 other children from the city!

In collaboration with Moulsecoomb Primary our school community brought to life the Julia Donaldson story of the Smeds and the Smoos. Our amazing rocket looked glorious marching along the streets of Brighton with many spectators stopping to comment on West Blatch's green wigs!

A huge thank you to our amazing samba band who kept a steady rhythm and led our section with style, and to all the children, parents and staff who came out to support us. An extra thank you to Nicky and Mark Bryce-Sharron for making us our amazing alien ear headbands using their 3D printer!



Owlets trip to Blackberry Farm!

Owlets had an AMAZING trip to Blackberry Farm. We met cows, sheep, deer, llamas, goats, pigs, rabbits, rats and so many more! We had the opportunity to gently stroke and feed many of the animals.

Once again the staff at the farm commented on how engaged, polite and enthusiastic our super nursery children were and although the children had a brilliant time, I think we can all agree that the person who had the most fun was Mrs Jackson!

An extra big thank you to FoWB who funded our coach journey and helped us keep this trip affordable for our families.



Blatch Patch!



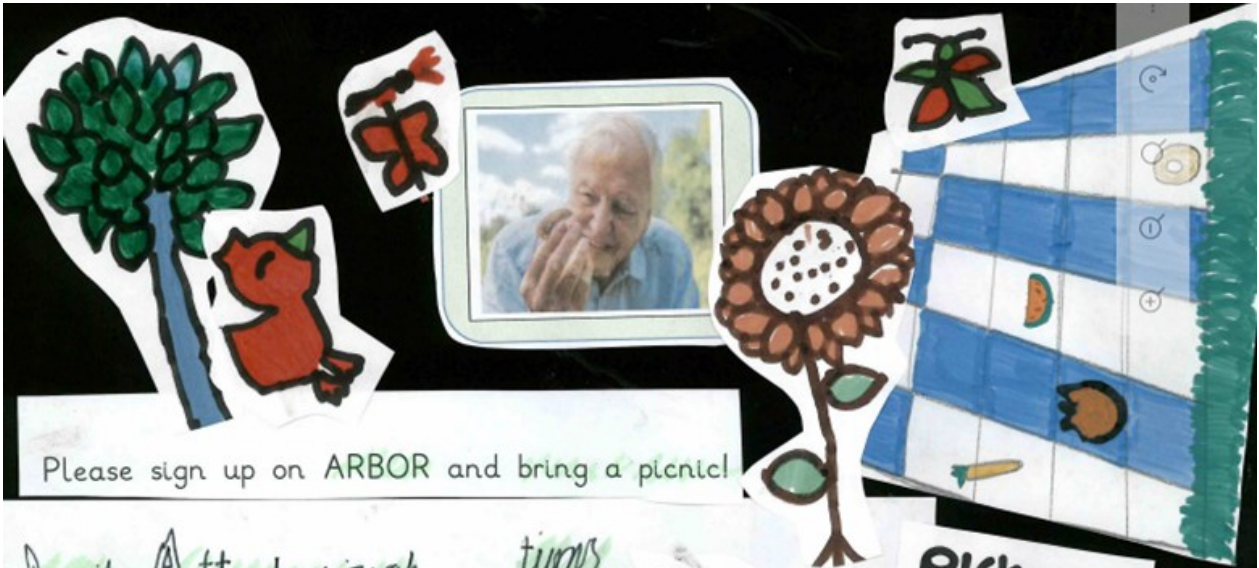
THANK YOU SO MUCH TO FOWB, WHO HAVE GIVEN FUNDING TO IMPROVE THE GARDEN AREA AND BUY LOTS OF NEW PLANTS AND VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS!



A huge well done to Ruby and Thalia in Year 5, who won the Brighton and Hove competition to name and design the art work for the new food trucks. B&H are now collecting over 100 tonnes of food waste every week and have collected over 1700 tonnes since they launched.



Blatch Patch!



Please sign up on ARBOR and bring a picnic!

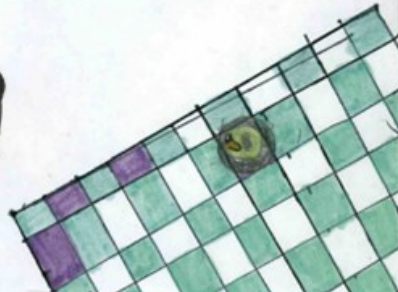
David Attenborough turns

SCHOOL COMMUNITY PICNIC
CELEBRATING DAVID
ATTENBOROUGH'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY!

Where? School playing field
When? FRIDAY 22ND MAY
2.30-3.30

See our incredible outdoor 'Art from Waste' exhibition; make a collage flower for a giant school bouquet; share some wonderful nature books with your child; and have a lovely relaxing time together!

PICKNICK
DAY!



(In the event of rain, we will postpone until summer 2- a text message will go out by Thursday 21st May.)

Free Breakfast Club!

Give Your Child the Best Start to Their Day!

Did you know we offer a **FREE Breakfast Club every morning**? It's a brilliant way to help your child start the day feeling **calm, happy and ready to learn**.



Time: From **8:10am every morning**



Location: Dining Hall



Cost: Completely **FREE**

Why sign your child up?

Our Breakfast Club is more than just breakfast, it's a chance for your child to:



Settle into the school day in a relaxed, positive way



Enjoy a healthy breakfast with friends



Build confidence and social connections



Arrive in class feeling focused and ready to learn

It also plays a key role in supporting **excellent punctuality and attendance**, helping children start every day on time without the morning rush.

Getting started is easy!

- Simply **sign up once on Arbor**
- Your child will be automatically booked in for the **rest of the term**



Spaces are open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6, so don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to support your child's wellbeing and learning from the very start of the day!

If you have any questions, please do contact Natalie Bellis at nataliebellis@wblatch.brighton-hove.sch.uk

After School Club!

Here at After School club, we have been enjoying the lovely sunshine. This issue brings you a quick overview of recent activities. We're excited to share photos and celebrate the new season!

We would like to thank our wonderful children who bring such enjoyment to our club – and also we would like to thank our amazing parents for their continued support.

Please be advised that we have very limited spaces available, so remember to book early as we are extremely busy.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Club soon!
Miss Haslam, Miss Muna and Miss Martin



Mental Health Champions Update!



Our Mental Health Champions have been incredibly busy this term and continue to make a real difference across the school.

One of their latest projects is the creation of a new wellbeing noticeboard, which is now available for all children to access. The board provides helpful advice and simple strategies to support children in managing big feelings, as well as clear guidance on trusted adults in school who they can talk to if they need support. It has already become a valuable resource and reflects the group's commitment to supporting others.

There are also some exciting developments happening in The Hive, with new ideas being explored to further support children's wellbeing. In addition, we are looking forward to something special taking shape outside next year, which will provide even more opportunities for children to feel calm, supported and connected.

Such is the success of the group that they were recently invited to contribute to a city-wide training event focused on child anxiety. Our Mental Health Champions represented the school brilliantly, speaking with maturity, confidence and kindness. They were an absolute credit to West Blatchington, and we are incredibly proud of them. We look forward to seeing their fantastic work continue to grow!

SCIENCE CLUB



Science Club has had another fantastic half term packed full of exciting experiments and brilliant discoveries! Our junior scientists have been busy exploring biology, physics, chemistry, and engineering through lots of hands-on fun.

This term, we investigated real sheep's hearts to learn how this amazing organ works, created simple circuits and even powered bulbs using fruit and vegetable batteries! We also explored the sweeter side of science by building colourful candy DNA helices and carefully growing sparkling crystals.

The fun continued as we designed and raced rubber band-powered physics cars, testing whose could travel the furthest, and we all worked together to build an incredible marble run from recycled materials.

Well done to all our enthusiastic junior scientists for their curiosity, creativity, and teamwork this term, and we can't wait for even more scientific adventures next time in Science Club!





Science Club's Science Challenge!

Want a fun and safe experiment you can try over the half term break? Try making Elephant Toothpaste for an exciting exothermic reaction!

ELEPHANT TOOTHPASTE



SUPPLIES

- 1/2 Cup of Hydrogen Peroxide
- A Packet of Dry Yeast (one packet is approximately 1/4 oz)
- 3 Tablespoons Warm Water
- Food Coloring
- A Cylinder (at least 500 ml)
- A Tablespoon of Dish Soap
- A Tray
- A Funnel
- Safety Goggles

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 With safety goggles on, place your cylinder in your tray. Have an adult pour the hydrogen peroxide into the cylinder.
- 2 Add two pumps (or about one tablespoon) of dish soap into the cylinder.
- 3 Add several drops of ONE color of food coloring. If you want to create those classic toothpaste looking stripes, add the same color to various sides of the cylinder.
- 4 Mix the yeast with the warm water for at least 30 seconds.
- 5 Pour the yeast into the cylinder, step back and watch the foamy magic happen! **DON'T TOUCH THE FOAM AS IT'S AN EXOTHERMIC REACTION AND IS HOT!** After several minutes, it does cool down.

What's the Science?

Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) is composed of water and oxygen. The yeast is a catalyst that takes the oxygen away from the hydrogen peroxide and in turn forms water and oxygen.

The oxygen then gets trapped by dish soap and forms lots of bubbles which is the foam you see that looks like elephant toothpaste!

The resulting experiment produces oxygen, gas, water and iodine so you may notice a brown or yellow tint to your foam. This reaction is exothermic which means it produces heat, so do not touch the foam right away.

School Council



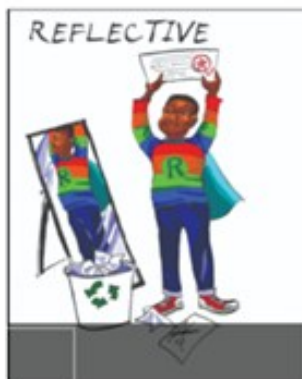
Thank you to everyone who took part in the Spring holiday art work activity.



These were the winning pieces of artwork

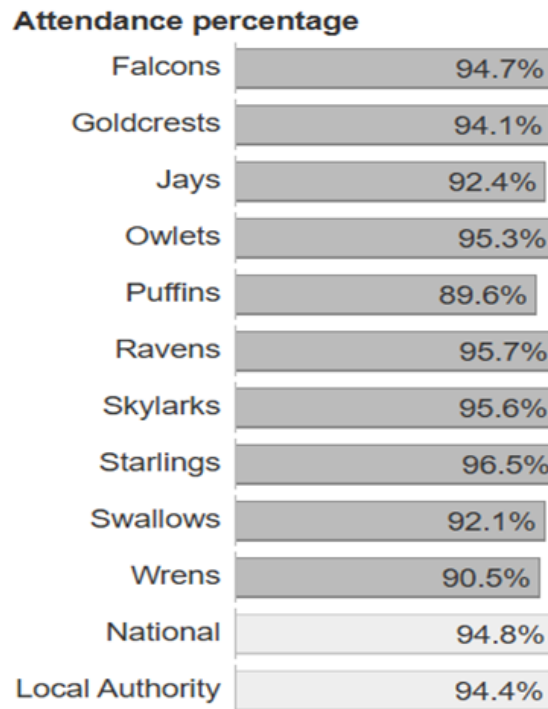


A super well done to Sophie in Goldcrests, Lorelei in Starlings and Kumba in Falcons.



Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!

At West Blatchington, we want every child to feel happy, safe, and ready to learn. One of the most important ways you can support your child's success is by ensuring they attend school **every day and on time**.



Every day REALLY does matter to ensure our children are able to learn and achieve to the best of our ability. As we move further into the Summer term, it is even more important to continue with the school routine and keep our attendance as high as possible.

Why is attending school every day so important?

Regular school attendance has a direct impact on your child's learning, wellbeing, and future success.

- Children who attend school regularly **make better academic progress** and achieve higher outcomes
- Being in school helps children **build friendships, confidence, and social skills**
- School provides a **safe, supportive environment** where children can learn and thrive
- Missing school can quickly add up - **just 2 days off each month equals nearly 3 weeks of missed learning each year**

Every lesson counts. Even small absences can affect your child's confidence and understanding of new learning.

Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!

We are here to support you

We understand that sometimes children feel slightly unwell or worried about attending school.

In many cases:

- Children with **minor coughs, colds, or mild illness** are well enough to attend school
- Being in school can help maintain routine and wellbeing

We will:

- Monitor your child carefully throughout the day
- Contact you if your child becomes too unwell to remain in school

If you are unsure, please speak to us, we are always ready to listen

Working together for your child

At West Blatchington, we believe that **strong attendance is built through partnership.**

If your child is finding it difficult to attend school:

- Please talk to us as early as possible
- We can offer support, guidance and practical help

Together, we can ensure every child:

- Feels confident coming to school
- Builds positive routines
- Achieves their full potential

If you have any questions or comments relating to attendance, please contact Natalie Bellis, our Welfare Manager at nataliebellis@wblatch.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Half Term Fun



Half-Term Fun: Let's Make Time to Play!



Half term is a wonderful chance to **slow down, reconnect, and enjoy time together**. We encourage parents and carers to set aside a little time to **play with your child** during the break. Play doesn't need planning or special equipment - what matters most is being present and enjoying each other's company.

Why play together?

- Strengthens relationships
- Boosts children's confidence and happiness
- Helps children learn through curiosity and creativity
- Creates special memories they'll treasure

Simple ideas for half-term play:



Play in the park or garden



Share a board or card game



Draw, build, bake, or create together



Join in your child's imaginary play

Even **10 - 15 minutes a day** of uninterrupted play can make a big difference. Thank you for supporting your child's wellbeing and learning - not just at school, but at home too.

We hope you have a **happy, playful half term**



Suzy Prebble

Certified Play Therapist at West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School



What's coming up at West Blatchington...

Fri 22nd May: Community Picnic to celebrate David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

Mon 25th - Fri 29th May: Half Term

Mon 1st June: Inset Day

Fri 5th June: Dress Down Day (in exchange for a Tombola Prize - a bottle or some sweet treats)

Sat 13th June: Summer Fayre

Wed 1st July: Reception & Year 2 Drusillas Trip

Thurs 2nd July: Year 6 Chessington Trip

Fri 3rd July: Year 6 transition day

Tues 21st July: Last day of Summer Term

Wed 22nd July: Inset Day

School Communications

It is really important that you check your email and Arbor app regularly to ensure that you don't miss any communications from the school.



When clubs have to be cancelled on the day an email and in app message will go out to parents/carers.

Letters for trips go out in advance, so can you please provide consent and any payment, on Arbor, before the deadline date.

We really appreciate your support with this. Thank you

Year 6 Sats!

Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the year 6 children during Sats week. The children all worked incredibly hard and should be proud of themselves.



School Access & Arrival Times

We would like to remind all parents and carers that **access to the school car park is strictly limited to vehicles displaying a valid permit.** If you do not hold a permit, please refrain from using the car park.

Additionally, **the car park and pedestrian gates will open at 15:00.** We kindly request that you **do not arrive before this time**, as early arrivals have led to increased traffic congestion on the road outside the school. This has prompted several complaints from local residents and poses a safety risk to our school community.

We appreciate your co-operation in helping us maintain a safe and orderly environment for all.

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.



Aiming high, Nurturing all
Ofsted Rated Good - 2019



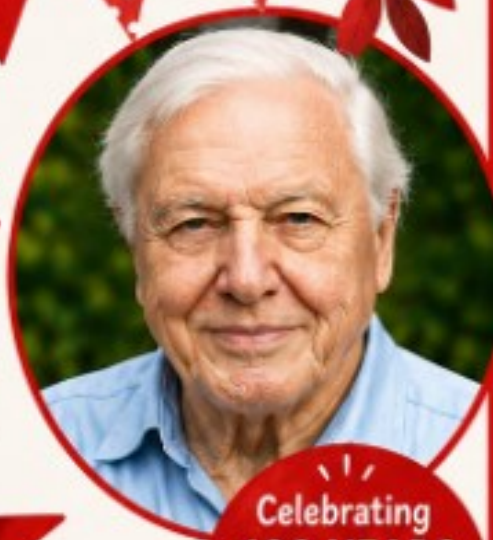
West Blatchington
Primary School

PICNIC

TO CELEBRATE

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S

100TH BIRTHDAY!



Celebrating
100 YEARS
of an amazing
life and legacy!



THIS FRIDAY

2:30 TO 3:30

FRIENDS OF WEST BLATCH

will be selling:

CANNED DRINKS



**£1
EACH**

**ICE LOLLIES
AND ICE CREAM**



**VARIOUS
PRICES
50p TO £2**

Let's come together for a picnic
to celebrate an extraordinary life! ♥





THE HOLIDAY SKATE CLUB

AGES 6 - 13YRS

BRIGHTON ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY (BACA)



EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
MOBILE SKATEPARK
ARTS AND CRAFTS
GAMES AND ACTIVITIES




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TAX-FREE
CHILDCARE
+ VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED

TUES 26TH - FRI 29TH MAY 9AM-3PM | £45 PER DAY

BOOK: [THESKATECLUB.COM/HOLIDAYSKATECLUB](https://theskateclub.com/holidayskateclub)

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.

Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May

Course 1 -10am – 12.30pm each day

Course 2 – 13.15 – 15.45 each day

Ages 9 –15

Levels 1 & 2 together is £50 per person.

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

Level 1 – Riders must be able to ride independently with confidence and without stabilisers.

Progression to Level 2 training is depended on meeting all level 1 modules to National Standards Level.

To book your place visit:

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

or contact Emily Tester on 01273 293847

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



Brighton & Hove
City Council

MAY HOLIDAYS

FOOTBALL CAMPS



Russell Martin Academy Football Camps offer children aged 5-12 the opportunity to learn and develop key football skills through fun games, exciting challenges, and engaging activities in a positive and friendly environment. Our experienced coaches are dedicated to inspiring young players, building confidence, and encouraging teamwork, all while having plenty of fun on the pitch!



AGES 5-12 | BOYS & GIRLS | 10AM-3PM

📍 HOVE PARK 3G

TUESDAY 26TH MAY
THURSDAY 28TH MAY

- 9am Early Drop off - £3
- 10% Sibling Discount
- £15 for RMA Academy Members

£20



- ✉ info@rmfoundation.co.uk
- 🌐 russellmartinfoundation.co.uk
- 📍 Hove Park 3G - BN3 7BF

 RUSSELL
MARTIN
FOUNDATION





BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!
Summer Course (7weeks)
1st June - 17th July 2026

Term Time & Crash Course

Kids + Adult Swimming Lessons

Learn to Swim with Confidence!

Hangleton School Pool

Monday - Wednesday

NEW Eastbrook School Pool

Monday - Thursday


Herons Dale School Pool

Friday

We're on a mission to empower children with the lifelong skill of swimming while nurturing their confidence and love for the water.

Group lessons
&
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lessons
Available

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 Email
hello@dolphintails.co.uk

 Website
www.dolphintails.co.uk

Professional swimming lessons in Sussex delivered locally by passionate and dedicated swim instructors.



SWIMMING LESSONS



Patcham
Water Survival Group

**Swimming Lessons held at
Patcham High School
Term Time Only**

📱 Rebecca Constable

☎ 07554 373607

✉ rebeccapwsg@yahoo.com

🌐 www.patchamwatersurvivalgroup.co.uk



SUMMER PICNIC

TOMBOLA | STALLS | BBQ HOT DOGS

COME JOIN US FOR THIS YEARS
SUMMER PICNIC
SATURDAY 13th JUNE
12.30 - 2.30pm





SUMMER DRESS DOWN DAY!

Bring a bottle and/or some sweet treats in
exchange for dressing down

FRIDAY 5th JUNE

All in date unopened bottles welcome -
alcohol, bubble bath, squash etc

Family Hubs



Childcare support
for children aged 9 months
to 4 years



Find out what
childcare
support you
can get

Supporting children, young people
and families in Brighton & Hove



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Find the right offer for you

Use the government eligibility checker to find out how you can save money on your childcare:

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

To search for Ofsted registered childcare in Brighton & Hove:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/brighton-hove-childcare-directory

30 hours childcare support for children from nine months to four years old

Eligible working parents* of children from nine months to four years are entitled to 1140 hours of childcare.

15 hours childcare support for two year olds

Families receiving some additional forms of government support, are entitled to 570 hours of childcare.

Find out if you are eligible and apply online

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/twos

Childcare support for three and four year olds

All three- and four-year-olds, are entitled to 570 hours of childcare. There's no need to apply, just speak to your childcare provider.

Eligible working parents* of three- and four-year-olds are entitled to an additional 570 hours of childcare.

* To be eligible, each parent, or the single parent in a lone parent household, will need to expect to earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage rate.



Help for students

Care to Learn is paid to parents aged under 20 at the start of their course in school or 6th form college.

The Childcare Grant is available for students in higher education who are eligible for student finance.



Tax-Free Childcare

This is an online account for working parents to help pay for childcare.

For every £8 that you put in, the government will make a payment of £2 to a maximum of £2,000 per child, per year, or £4,000 if your child is disabled.

You can have an account for each of your children up to age 12. You cannot claim both Tax Free Childcare and Universal Credit.

Universal Credit

As part of Universal Credit, parents may be able to claim up to 85% of their childcare costs.

If you are returning to employment, your job centre work coach will be able to advise you about funding for childcare deposits and upfront fees.

You can find the main Family Hubs at:



Ivory Place, BN2 9QE



Hodshrove Lane, BN2 4SE



178 Whitehawk Road, BN2 5FL



Harmsworth Crescent, BN3 8BW

To contact Family Hubs: Telephone: 01273 293545

Email: familyhubs@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/family-hubs



To search for childcare and services for families:

Website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/brighton-hove-childcare-directory



For information about how we will use and store your personal details, visit: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/family-hubs-privacy-notice



Use the government eligibility checker to find out more information about all childcare support funding mentioned in this leaflet: www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

SAMA

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WEST BLATCHINGTON PRIMARY

Fridays 5.30pm



register your
child here

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SUMMER 2026

KIDS MUD CLUB

FOR
AGES
6-16



JOIN US FOR CREATIVE FUN!



HAND SCULPT!



THROW ON THE WHEEL
& MORE!

DATE!

EVERY TUESDAY + THURSDAY
JULY 28TH - AUGUST 27TH
AT 10AM + 2PM

TIME!

SESSIONS AT
10:00AM + 2:00PM

COST!

£50 PER SESSION OR
£180 FOR 4 SESSIONS



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DECORATE!

THE MUD HOUSE

hello@themudhouse.co.uk
www.themudhouse.co.uk
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SCHOOL
LOTTERY



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- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our Pioneer Passport
- Local cash prize every week
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To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: The Pioneer Academy

GambleAware 



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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



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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