



Confidential

Parent copy



Balfour Junior Academy

Proud to be a part of the Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academy Trust

Friday, 8th June 2018

Dear Parents and Friends

Firstly, I must sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused by the lack of electricity on Monday and Tuesday, the late cancellation of the Year 4 performance and the subsequent closure on Wednesday. As you know we never take the decision to close the school lightly and it is always made jointly by the Trust and the Governing body to ensure the safety of all our children.

The incident was totally the responsibility of the Electricity Company who have provided the generator and emergency equipment and who will make good our losses. If it had not been for the skill and quick thinking of James Silcock's builders, who are currently on site, the incident would have been much worse and the school closed for an indefinite period. Ongoing work is now anticipated including the digging up of the gateway and the grass banks so care will need to be taken when dropping off or picking up your children, especially if you have younger ones with you.

To address some of your main concerns and the misconceptions that have been published on social media:

- ✚ We do not have a back- up generator of any type and would not be allowed to use candles in school as a form of emergency lighting.
- ✚ Our heating is by gas fuelled boiler in the winter so there is no power generator that could also power the electricity.
- ✚ Our phones are part of Microsoft 365 system which uses electricity and the internet so we cannot use them if the power is down
- ✚ We could not serve cold food for lunch as the freezers and fridges were off for so long that the food defrosted and had to be disposed of. We could not accept further deliveries until power was restored.
- ✚ Under new data protection laws unnecessary paper records are not kept and the electronic system was unavailable so we could not contact anybody in the event of an emergency once our personal mobile phone batteries had lost power.
- ✚ We could only access 'school comms.' or the website from home
- ✚ We cannot reimburse parents for any loss of earnings due to unforeseen school closures.

Once again, we all apologise for the inconvenience this caused you and hope we are back on track now.



On Thursday 24th May, it was a pleasure to take 10 children from across the school to the Orchard Theatre to see a performance of David Walliams' 'Gangsta Granny' as a reward for the exceptional progress they have made in their reading since September. They all enjoyed the performance and even joined in with the dancing at the end! As always, the children were incredibly well-

behaved and did themselves and Balfour proud. A huge 'well done' goes to all involved.
(Mrs V. Kirk)

Congratulations go to three of our very talented and generous students: Caitlin K. has achieved Distinctions in all three Grade 2 dance exams (ballet, tap & modern) and this has now allowed her to take part in the Imperial Ballet Dance Awards in Oct 2019.

Eve O. in Year 3 decided to have her long hair cut off and donated the locks to the Little Princess Trust who make real hair wigs for young people.

Some friends kindly sponsored her for this event and she has so far raised £165. If you would like to support Eve in this amazing gesture please do contact the school office.

Ella B. has also achieved amazing standards in her dancing recently, beating girls in competition who have professional sponsorship. We are very proud of all of them.

SUMMER fayre



We will be having our annual Summer Fayre on Wednesday 11th July between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Our Fayre is only for the pupils of Balfour Junior Academy and they should be collected at normal time.

We would appreciate donations of cakes, unwanted gifts, good condition toys, teddies and games etc. We will send out a letter nearer the time requesting donations of these items, **please don't send them in just yet as storage space is limited.**



Our Sports Day will be on Monday 16th July, weather permitting. This is an all-day event and parents/carers can arrive from 9.30am. Hot dogs, ice creams and drinks will be available to buy and you are welcome to bring a

picnic to enjoy on the field.

Children should wear shorts, trainers and t-shirts in their house colours (red, blue, yellow or green), or they can wear their white P.E. t-shirt. Please ensure they have a water bottle, hat and sun cream on the day.

Our award winners for this week

<i>Isabella Williams</i>	<i>Samir Miah</i>
<i>Picasso class</i>	<i>Kaden King</i>
<i>Sophia Ryan</i>	<i>Lily Ann Lay</i>
<i>Emre Biner</i>	<i>Param Randhawa</i>
<i>Ethan Martin</i>	<i>Emily Carrick</i>
<i>Bradley Spore</i>	<i>Aaryan Attra</i>
<i>Jaden Jasad</i>	<i>Ayse Ozcan</i>
<i>Shyla Patel</i>	<i>Tavisha Patel</i>
<i>Ryanjosh Randhawa</i>	<i>George Spillett</i>
<i>Tomwa Adetula</i>	<i>Congratulations and well done!</i>

With very best wishes

Kim Parnell

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