



## Balfour Junior Academy

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

*Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017*

Dear Parents and Friends



As part of our duty of care to all of your children we regularly practise things like fire drills. Recent safeguarding advice strongly advises us to also have a practised procedure for both evacuation of the school and also 'lockdown' or 'lock ins' even though we hope we would never need to use them. Yesterday we carried out a very successful fire drill with the whole school

being evacuated to the far side of the playground and accounted for in 2.5 minutes. Before Christmas we will be practising an evacuation procedure whereby all the children will be walking, suitably accompanied, to Fort Pitt and, after a short break and registration will be walking back. Similarly we will be simulating a lock down procedure whereby children will, on the sound of a whistle be led to sit quietly in the nearest safe space, usually their classroom and the doors and windows will be closed for a short time. The school will be locked and the phones will not be manned during this practise. To make these procedures as realistic and effective as possible we will not be giving notice of the dates they will occur but would be very grateful if your child could always come to school wearing a coat and sensible shoes so that they will be able to walk in comfort. Please do not hesitate to pop in and have a chat with me if you would like to discuss any of these events in more detail.

Please don't forget that Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November is "Spotacular" tag day in aid of children in need. Each child not wearing school uniform will need to pay £1 please. Your support will be very much appreciated

*With very best wishes*

*Kim Parnell*

Dear Parents

It seems that time flies in schools – at the start of Term 2 and with Christmas beginning to loom it seems like no time since the excitement of a new year in September. We have rearranged our link governor system; from being linked to individual years to being linked to either lower or upper school phases. I met some of you at the Year 3 and 4 parents meeting, with my phase link ‘hat’ on, and look forward to meeting more of you at special events. I’m delighted that we have a new parent governor – Rachael Blackledge, but we need at least one more! As a reminder, here’s what some of our current governors who are parents say about being a governor

When my daughter started at the Junior School I wanted to be able to understand how the school worked, how decisions were made, and generally to improve my knowledge of the education system, which has changed so much since I was at school. What better way than becoming a governor and getting to know it from the inside out? I never cease to be impressed by the enjoyment and engagement of the children.

Being a governor at the Juniors has been stimulating and I have been able to gain a privileged insight into primary school education as well as making a valued contribution to the continued development of our school

During my time as a governor I have learnt a great deal and hope that I have been able to make an active contribution using my skills and expertise from my work profession as well as a parent with two children at the school. I hope through my input and support I have been able to support the continued progression of the school and provided encouragement, support and challenge to the school management to ensure that every child at Balfour gets the very best that the school can offer.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please ask for an expression of interest form from the office, or contact Mrs Parnell and ask for a visit to talk to us about what the job entails.

Meanwhile, we work with the staff to ensure we have a broad and balanced curriculum that gives our children not just the skills of reading, writing and maths, but also opportunities to be excited about learning, and to prepare them for the next stage of their life journey.

*Patricia Daniels - Chair of Governors*