



Air Balloon Hill Primary School

Newsletter No: 1 7th September 2018

School Telephone No. 0117 903 0077

Website: www.abhps.com



Hello,

Welcome back to school, I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It's been a very calm and settled start to the new academic year which suggests to me that you did all have a lovely time and that everyone is more than ready for the children to come back to school!

The staff were back on Monday for two inset days (one on safeguarding and the other on curriculum development). Although it is great to have the time to work together on important things, it's great to have the classes, corridors and playgrounds full with children again.

On Wednesday's assembly, after a quick game of 'Linkee', we spoke to the children about what makes Air Balloon a great school. The children were full of reasons: the learning opportunities, GEM power, friendships, the school's multiculturalism and mostly, the people. I couldn't agree more. We reminded ourselves about how at Air Balloon we believe that everyone can learn, everyone can achieve and that everyone belongs.

Most importantly we remembered our vision: we look to the stars... The children were full of plans and aspirations about what they would be achieving this year: a really positive start. Next week, you have the opportunity to attend a 'welcome evening' from your child's year group. This is a great way for the staff to update you on what to expect during the year ahead. We will also be using that time to share with you some of the key members of staff who can help you throughout the year. Please check the newsletter for the specific dates and times.

In the meantime, have a great weekend and I'll see you next week.

Thanks,

Tim Browse

Next Week in school

Monday

~ Year 1 Welcome Evening—6:30-7:30

~ Year 3 WOW event—Children only

Wednesday

~ Year 2 Welcome Evening—5:30-6:30

~ Year 6 Welcome Evening—6:30-7:30

Thursday

~ Year 5 Welcome Evening—5:30-6:30

~ Year 3 Welcome Evening—6:30-7:30

~ Year 4 Welcome Evening—6:30-7:30

Friday

~ Meteor and Aurora raft building trip to Bristol Harbour



Future Dates for your Diary

Welcome to the year group evenings:

Next week we have our 'Welcome to the year group' evening where you can come along and meet your child's teacher, find out about the expectations for the year and what your child will be learning as well as key events, PE days etc.



Year 1 - Monday 10th September 6:30pm

Year 2 - Wednesday 12th September 5:30pm

Year 3 - Thursday 13th September 6:30pm

Year 4 - Thursday 13th September 6:30pm

Year 5 - Thursday 13th September 5:30pm

Year 6 - Wednesday 12th September 6:30pm

Individual School Photos and Sibling Groups

Friday 28th September

Class Assemblies

Don't forget to look out in the newsletter for details of class assemblies and WOW events - we can't guarantee to send text reminders so when you see it in the newsletter or on the termly topic letters, please make a note of the dates on your calendar!

Secondary School Applications

Information meeting about application process being held on Monday 24th September 3:30pm

Deadline for applications for secondary schools is 31st October 2018

Term Dates for 2018-2019

Term 1 Monday 3rd September - Friday 26th October 2018

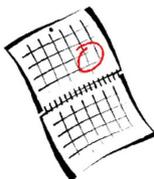
Term 2 Monday 5th November - Friday 21st December 2018

Term 3 Tuesday 7th January to Friday 15th February 2019

Term 4 Monday 25th February - Friday 5th April 2019

Term 5 Monday 23rd April - Friday 24th May 2019
closed on Monday 6th May 2019 for the Bank Holiday

Term 6 Monday 3rd June to Tuesday 23rd July 2019



In-Service Closure

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

5th In-service day to be confirmed



Bus Bay

Polite request—Please remember that the bus bay is there for the safety of the children when they are going on trips (including Swimming every Wednesday). Please DO NOT Park there - the Parking Patrol Officers have been asked to increase their circulation of the area at the beginning and end of the day and will issue tickets to anyone parking in the Bus Bay.

FAB News

FAB (Friends of Air Balloon) is a registered charity made up of parents, carers and staff volunteers who organise fundraising and community events for the school.



If you are interested in becoming a member of FAB, please pop along to one of our meetings (dates to follow), or e-mail us at friends@abhps.com

We have lots of exciting events planned from now until Christmas, here are a few dates for your diary... more details to follow

Friday 5th October - Bingo Night

Thursday 25th October - Autumn Discos

Friday 30th November - Wreath-Making Workshop

Saturday 8th December - Christmas Fair

Ice-Cream Fridays will start again today, in the front playground from 3.15pm and will run throughout September weather permitting. Prices start from 60p.

Clarinet Lessons—KS2

We have one place available with Miss Sadler in school time, Instrument provided, at a cost of £6 per week, payable in advance for Terms 1 and 2 (£72.00). Please see Mrs Gladden in the school office if your child is interested.



Flu Vaccinations

Parents with children in years R to 5 will receive an email from us over the next few days about the annual flu vaccination programme.

Individual letters will come home to the children in the coming weeks for parental consent with more information.

Flu Vaccinations will take place on Wednesday 24th October.

Tuck Shop

This year, Tuck Shop is more popular than ever, with Stacey offering a huge range of delicious and healthy snacks for KS2 children during morning break. Please remember that any money for tuck must be in a purse or wallet labelled with your child's name. It is really helpful if you send your child in with the right money.



Lost Property

If your child loses anything whilst at school, the lost property area is situated outside of the library. Alternatively, if your child is in Reception or Year 1, there is a lost property box in the corridor of the new building, so it is worth having a look in there as well.



We are happy to include lost property messages in the weekly newsletter but regret that we cannot send out texts for lost items.

To help us return found items to their owners, please ensure that all of your child's clothes and belongings are labelled with their name.

Term-time Holidays

Please remember that term-time holidays can not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances and may result in Penalty Notices being issued.



The law does not grant parents the automatic right to take their child out of school during term time, therefore all requests for term-time absences **MUST** be made in writing to the Headteacher **in advance** of the absence. Retrospective requests will not be considered. Any unauthorised absences totalling 4 days or more in any 10 week period may result in a Penalty Notice being issued.

A copy of the Education Welfare Service leaflet on Penalty Notices is attached for your information and a copy of the full Attendance Policy can be viewed on our website - www.abhps.com/policies. Penalty Notices are issued as an alternative to prosecution and may not be issued if prosecution is considered to be more appropriate response to a child's irregular attendance. The initial fine is £60 per parent, per child but if they are not paid within 21 days, this doubles. Fines that remain unpaid do result in parents being taken to court and can result in County Court Judgements being recorded against you.

Full details of the school's Attendance Policy can be found on the school website: www.abhps.com/policies

Payments to the school office

Please ensure that all payments are put into an envelope with your child's name and class and a note of what the payment is for. Rather than wait in a long queue at the office, we would encourage parents/carers to put their envelopes into the Post Box situated in the main entrance. This is emptied daily and you can use it for anything that you need to hand-in to the office.

If you would like details of how to pay online, please ask Mrs Mann for a copy of your online access code.

Resilient Readers

This year our resilient readers club is changing slightly...We've introduced bingo challenges.



Whenever your child completes 3 reading bingo challenges every week for a whole term, they will be invited to our resilient reader cinema treat at the end of the term.

Children will be bringing home a permission slip today for any films which we may show that are PG rated, these should be returned to the class teacher by 14th September.

Messy Church

We are delighted that our friends from St Aidan's will be returning to school this term to run their popular Messy Church sessions.



Messy Church will start on the 12th September. It will run approximately fortnightly throughout the term. Messy Church begins after school and finishes at 4.15 pm. It is a time of fun and learning. Children are told a Bible story and they do a related craft. Parents are expected to collect their children promptly at 4.15 pm. **You need to register your child even if he or she attended Messy Church last term.** Children who have attended previously have been sent letters—these must be returned by 10th September, after which, any remaining spaces will be opened up. Children need to be in Years 1 - 5 inclusive and there are only 28 places.

If you would like to register your child, please text Sheila McKay 07977 546952 or email sheilajmckay@freemost.co.uk after Saturday 8 September. The Messy Church Team expects children to be well behaved and motivated so please make sure your child really wants to come to Messy Church.

Attendance

This year, we have streamlined the start times for school to make it easier to remember.



The school site opens at 8:30am to allow children to enter the playground and socialise with their friends before lining up.

Doors into the school open at 8:40am. Children should line up between 8:35am and 8:45am, when teachers will be available to talk to parents/carers, at 8:45 teachers will take the children into class.

Registers are taken at 8:50am—after this children arriving will be marked as late and must sign in at the school office.

Learning starts at 9am, any children arriving after 9:20am will have an unauthorised absence mark for lateness.

If your child is unwell, please call the school before 9.30am on the first day and leave a message on **0117 903 0077 - Option 1** to tell us the reason for the absence.

We've started the term on a very positive note with great attendance and very few lates - lets keep this up!

Reminder that school finishes at 3:15pm for Reception and KS1 and 3:20pm for KS2.

Where to line-up in the mornings

Just a quick reminder about where to line-up in the mornings:

- Reception and Year 1 go into the classroom through the external classroom doors
- Year 2 line-up in the front yard (by the main entrance)
- Year 3 - In the middle playground
- Years 4 and 5 - Front Playground
- Year 6 - on the Terrace

From 8.30 until 9am and from 3pm - 3.30pm, you can access the school by all of the external gates. After 9am the only way in is via the main entrance.



Don't forget to follow us on
Twitter: **@ABHPSchool** and
Facebook at www.facebook.com/ABHPSchool



Music News

Music clubs are starting during week commencing 17th September. If you are interested in joining one of them please collect a letter from the foyer next week. Please note, if you were a member of one of these activities last year, you will still need to hand in a reply slip to secure a place; some clubs do have limited places.



Monday lunchtime:

Recorder Improvers - Years 3 - 6

Tuesday 3.20pm - 4.30pm

KS2 Choir for children in Years 3-6

Wednesday lunchtime:

Recorder Beginners, years 3 - 6

Friday 3.20pm - 4.15pm:

School Band, For children in Years 3-6 who are established in playing instruments.

Once you have returned your slip, you will get a text to confirm if your child has a space.

Looking forward to another year of music making. We are planning on having a bigger Key Stage 2 choir this year, so look out for letters next week.

Our first event will be a performance at St Georges Brandon Hill at Christmas. The Key Stage 1 choir will still be on Mondays but based at the Beehive Centre in St George instead of the school, it will be open to children from other local schools, also look out for letters next week..

Articles for the Newsletter

We are always happy to include information about children's achievements and celebrate their out-of-school successes in the newsletter. If you would like us to include anything, please email Mrs Stone at sharon.stone@abhps.com. If you send us a photograph, we will take this as your consent for the photo to be published in the newsletter and on the school website.

After School Activities

After School Clubs

Lots of After-School Clubs are starting over the next 2 weeks. Please keep an eye out in the newsletter each week for any changes or cancellations. Letters for all clubs can be collected from the foyer and payments can also be made to the school office.

In addition to the Music Clubs listed on page 3, we also have the following clubs confirmed for Term 1:

Tuesday:

- **Gardening Club** - Date to be confirmed next week

Wednesday:

- **Netball** - Spaces still available—Letters available from the school office
- **Messy Church** (see page 3 for more details on how to apply for a place)
- **Mad Science**—Places still available

Thursday:

- **Gymnastics** - Years 1-3. Run by Future Stars - £54 for terms 1 and 2. Letters can be collected from the office or you can sign-up and pay online at <http://www.futurestarscoaching.co.uk/book-online>
- **Netball** - Spaces still available—Letters available from the school office

We are also hoping that Boxing Club and Street Dance will start again this term—More details to follow next week.

We do our best to offer a variety of free and payable after-school activities to as many children as possible and are very grateful to staff and volunteers who run and support the clubs. Look out for more details over the coming weeks of other clubs which may be starting. We hope that KS2 Street Dance will return in Term 2.

Doctor or Dentist Appointment?

If your child has a Doctor or Dentist appointment we are grateful if these can be made at the beginning or end of the school day to minimise disruption to their learning.

We do ask that for all appointments where children are either late for school, collected during the day or early from school, that you provide us with a copy of the appointment letter or slip. This is to ensure that the absence can be correctly recorded in the register. Where confirmation of the appointment cannot be provided, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.



Secondary School Admissions

Applications for Secondary School places for September 2019 can be made via the Bristol City Council website from mid September: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/secondary-admissions> The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 31st October 2018**.

A full list of secondary school open days/ evenings we know about can be found on page 5 and as an attachment to this newsletter, copies are also available from the school office

Supplementary form for **St Mary Redcliffe & Temple CE School** must be submitted by 31st October—this can be found on their website.

For more information please contact the secondary school directly or look at the details on their website.

On Monday 24th September from 3.30-4.30pm, Denisa Akuna from School Admissions will be in school to give a short presentation on the secondary school application process. We urge all Year 6 parents to attend as this will be a very informative session. This year, all applications must be made online.

If you need assistance to complete the application or, if you don't have access to a computer and would like to use a school one, please speak to Mrs King in the school office who will be happy to help you.



Baby News

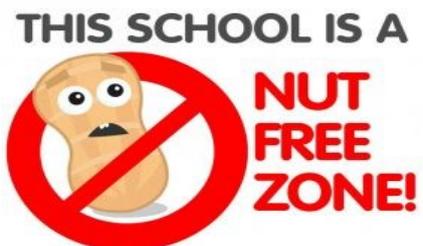
We are excited to announce that Miss Huish and her partner are expecting their first child in December. This is an exciting time for her and we wish her all the very best. As 6 year is such an important year, we are doing everything we can to ensure a smooth transition for them as their new teacher takes over the class.



Reception Parents

As snacks are supplied at school and we have some severe allergies among our new children, you don't need to provide anything for your child to eat during the day.

Can we please also remind you that we are a 'Nut Free' school



Children walking to or from school alone

There may be times when you are happy for your child to walk to or from school alone. Ensuring that your child arrives at school safely and offering you peace of mind when your child walks to school alone is extremely important to us. To ensure their safety, we will always check their names in the register first and if they have not arrived, we will telephone you.



Please complete the slip below and return it to the school office with your up-to-date contact details and confirmation that your child may sometimes walk to school alone (even if you have filled it in last year.). We would also ask that you leave a message on **the school absence line (0117 903 0077 - option 1) by 9am** at the latest, every day that your child is absent from school - that way, we know they are safe and will not phone you.

In addition, there may be times when you are happy for your child to walk home from school alone - either on a regular basis or as a one-off. To give permission for the class teacher to release your child from the playground if there is no adult there to collect them, please also complete the slip below.

My child _____ (name) of _____ (class)

Walks to school alone. If they do not arrive at school

please call me onor

Is allowed to walk home from school alone

Signed: _____

Date: _____