

Everyone can achieve

Everyone can learn

Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 1

6th September 2019

In this week's newsletter:

- * Head's news
- * Welcome and welcome back...
- * Parent Governor Election
- * Summer Congratulations
- * Term 1 dates for your diary
- * Parent Questionnaire
- * Attendance expectations
- * Term Dates 2019/20
- * Year 5 Swimming
- * Job Vacancy
- * Communication
- * Who can I talk to?...
- * Flu Vaccines
- * Spelling Bee Lists
- * After-School Clubs
- * Messy Church
- * School Allotment
- * The big Circus countdown
- * Parent Questionnaire

Weekly Attendance

From next week, we'll list here all of the classes attendance for the week so you can see how we are doing towards our target of at least 97% attendance for all pupils...will your child's class come out on top?

Hello,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all enjoyed the summer holiday and were suitably ready for the children to return to Air Balloon on Wednesday morning. I am really excited about being back – yes, really! Partly because of all the work that has been going on around the school over the summer. There have been lots of improvements made around the school which will really enhance the children's experience of school.

These include:

The Year 6 terrace has finally been fully reinstated.

The Year 1 field has been resurfaced so can now be used all year round.

The playground has new markings on to improve the quality of playtimes.

All the school halls have improved IT and sound equipment and the flooring has also been improved in some of them.

We haven't quite finished everything we intend to do... the hall floor project will be completed in October half term. We are also still in the process of getting the children's artwork (from our competition last year) professionally printed and displayed around the school.

I was mostly excited about returning to school because of the changes we have made to our wider curriculum. I won't say too much about it now as we have our curriculum parent evenings scheduled for the week beginning 16th September. But I think the children are going to really enjoy getting stuck into their Air Balloon projects this year.

It's been lovely to catch up with the children and many of you this week. Enjoy your weekend and I shall see you all again next week.

Thank you,

Tim Browse

Welcome and welcome back...

We have loved welcoming the children back into school this week and welcoming all of our Reception new starters. We have also welcomed some new staff to the Air Balloon family -



Miss Turner and Miss Lambert have joined the Year 4 team and we are looking forward to working with them both over the coming year. We've also said hello to our new caretaker - Mr Harmer - who has joined the Site Team over the summer as well as Ms Mayger and Ms Weheliye who have joined our SMSA team

We're also delighted to welcome back Miss Huish, Miss Smith and Mrs Watton from their maternity leave

Parent Governor Election

You should have received your ballot paper/s this week for the Parent Governor election. The ballot closes at **1pm** on **Tuesday 17th September**. Ballot papers can be returned in an envelope to the school office.



The summer of congratulations...

It has been a summer of Air Balloon weddings this year - we'd like to congratulate all our staff who 'tied the knot' over the summer holidays...

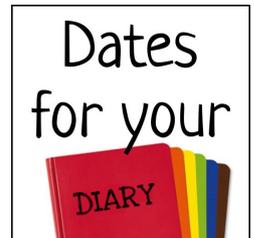


Miss Jones (now Mrs Webber), Mr Morton, Miss Clayphan (she's keeping her name) and Mr Adams. We've seen some of the wedding photos and it looks like they all had fantastic days.

We also have to congratulate Miss Jackson and Mr Barker who welcomed their baby Lamorna Mary into the world. Lamorna was born at the beginning of the holidays and weighed in at 6lb 12oz.

Term 1 Dates for your diary

Curriculum Evenings: These are important meetings where you can meet your child's class teacher and find out more about the expectations for the year ahead and the exciting changes that have been made to the curriculum this year. We really would recommend you making time to come along to the meetings—especially if your child is in Year 6 as we will be sharing vital information about SATs, camp and day trips.



Monday 16th Sept 6pm - Year 2

Tuesday 17th Sept 6pm - Year 4

Wednesday 18th Sept 5:30pm - Year 6
6:30pm - Year 3

Thursday 19th Sept 5:30pm - Year 1
6:30pm - Year 5

Monday 30th Sept 6:30pm - Reception

Year 6 Secondary School Application Information Meeting

Monday 23rd September at 3.30pm in the Year 2/3 Hall. Denisa Akuna from Bristol City Council School Admissions will be giving a presentation on the application process and will be available to answer any questions parents or carers may have. The application window opens on 12th September and all applications must be received by 31st October. A list of secondary school open days/evenings can be downloaded here: [Secondary School Open Evenings](#)

Reception Open Mornings

If you have a child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 they are due to start school in September 2020. This year we have open events planned for **Tuesday 1st October** (9.30am), **Thursday 7th November** (9.30am) and **Wednesday 27th November** (2pm)

Parents' Evenings

As with last year, these will be held with your child's class teacher to discuss how they are settling into the year and class. There won't be any formal report at this Parents' Evening but they are a great opportunity for you to have a conversation with the teacher about your child. These will be held on **Wednesday 2nd** and **Thursday 3rd October** for Years 1-6 only. Appointment booking will be via ParentMail and will be available to book in mid-September.

School Photos

Individual and sibling photographs will be taken on **Friday 4th October**

Harvest

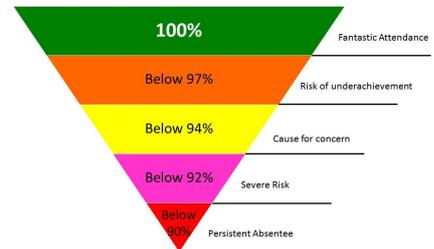
Our annual Harvest Festival assemblies will take place on **Monday 7th October** and we will once again be receiving your donations of food for the Bristol East Foodbank.

Attendance Expectations

It has been great this week to see so many children in school, and in on time but we wanted to take this opportunity at the start of the academic year to remind you all of our attendance expectations.

We understand that children are sometimes sick but would ask that all children aim for 100% attendance. Where attendance begins to fall below 97% for any reason, you may be invited in to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss our concerns. Where attendance continues to fall below an expected standard, further support may be put in place through our Pastoral leaders or Family Support Worker.

Please also be reminded that term-time holidays will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances - By exceptional we mean rare, significant, **unavoidable** and short. By unavoidable, we mean an event that could not reasonably be arranged at another time. As a general rule, you should not expect a term-time leave of absence request to be authorised and should be aware that any absences of 8 or more sessions (4 or more days) may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by Bristol City Council. A copy of the Education Welfare Service Penalty Notice information leaflet is available to download here: [PN Leaflet](#)



Please remember that 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 and then learning starts. After this time children arriving will be marked as late and must sign in at the school office. 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 or notify us via the ParentMail app.

School finishes at 3:15pm for Reception and KS1 and 3:20pm for KS2. Children who are late being collected will be taken to the school office to wait.

If there are any changes to your child's collection arrangements this must be communicated to your child's teacher or in the school office before 3:15pm

Term Dates 2019/20

Term 1 - Monday 2nd September to Friday 25th October 2019.

Term 2 - Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December 2019.

Term 3 - Monday 6th January to 14th February 2020.

Inset Day - Monday 6th January.

Term 4 - Monday 24th February to Friday 3rd April 2020.

Inset Day - Friday 13th March.

Term 5 - Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May 2020.

Term 6 - Monday 1st June to Monday 20th July 2020.

Inset Day - Monday 20th July.



Year 5 Swimming

Reminder that swimming for Year 5 pupils starts next Wednesday - 11th September. Children should bring their swimming kit and towel to school every Wednesday morning. The Swimming Gala will be on Wednesday 27th November.

Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a cleaner. If you are interested in finding out more about the position, please see our website for full details: [Vacancy](#) Application forms are available from the school office. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 16th September 2019



Communication

You might have noticed a change in the newsletter style this term - in response to feedback about the amount of communications you receive from the school, we are trialling a new format. We are aiming to send out **all** information to parents via the newsletter only on Fridays - this means that any class or year group communications will be in one place and you won't receive multiple messages during the week. This trial will be phased in over the coming weeks.



Our newsletter will contain important information for the whole school and individual classes and year groups so it is vital that parents and carers read the weekly newsletter to keep up-to-date with events and activities. In order to reduce the number of emails and messages you receive during the week, we will no longer be sending out ad hoc reminders about swimming kits or class events etc.

In order to be more environmentally-friendly and reduce our paper waste, we will also no longer be sending letters home in book bags - from this term, all letters will be attached to the weekly newsletter with trip and after-school club letters being sent as forms on ParentMail. Links to all letters will be contained in the newsletter and displayed on the year group pages of the school website.

So, please take a few minutes each week to read the newsletter and the attachments that are relevant to you and your child to make sure you don't miss out on vital information and add any key events or deadlines to your calendar/diary on a weekly basis.

At the start of each term, the newsletter will contain the key events coming up that term as well as reminders for events the following week.

If you have any feedback on our new-look newsletter and communications trial, please email the school at airballoonhillp@abhps.com and mark your email for the attention of Mrs King.

Who to talk to if you have any concerns

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in school, or wish to discuss any behaviour issues, your child's class teacher is always the best person to talk to in the first instance. It may be that they contact the **pastoral** or **achievement** leaders as well so that they can offer any support that is needed.

Our **pastoral leaders** are:

Y1/2: Dofu Jama
Y3/4: Hannah Webber
Y5/6: Abi Cassell

Our **achievement leaders** are:

Y1/2: Lisa Bush
Y3/4: Sarah Wilde
Y5/6: Mel Huish



Don't forget we also have our **family support worker**, Mrs Hennys, who can support with attendance and welfare and our **children support worker**, Miss James, who can support with any social or emotional issues that may be impacting on children's well-being.

Flu Vaccines

Please be reminded that the annual flu vaccination programme will be carried out in school for all children (Years R - 6) on 13th and 14th November. More information and consent forms will be distributed later in the term.



Spelling Bee Lists for Term 1

In the future, rather than sending each year group individual messages about Spelling Bee lists, this year they will be added as hyperlinks to the newsletter. You can also access the lists on the school website - they are available on each of the year group pages. This term we will send them out via ParentMail as well to make sure that everyone receives them however we would welcome any feedback on our change to communications as detailed above.



Some children may have personalised spelling lists from their teachers and if this is the case, they will bring home a list in their book bags.

The Year 5 Spellings can be found here: [Year 5](#)

After-School Clubs

We currently have the following after-school clubs running:

Monday - KS1 Choir (3.15pm - 4pm)

Tuesday - KS2 Choir (3.20 - 4.30pm)

Wednesday - Recorder Lunchtime Club (12.50pm - 1.20pm)

- Messy Church (3.15pm - 4.15pm)

- Netball Club (3.20pm - 4.15pm)



Thursday - Gymnastics with Futurestars for Years 1-3 (3.15 - 4.30pm)

- Netball Club (3.20pm - 4.15pm)

- All Music Clubs will start w/c 16th September and sign-up letters will be sent out via ParentMail on Monday.
- There are spaces available for Futurestars Gymnastics Club - to sign up go to their website: <https://www.futurestarscoaching.co.uk/>
- We have spaces available in both Wednesday and Thursday Netball Clubs for upper KS2. Letters will be sent home via ParentMail on Monday. For existing members of the Netball Club (i.e. those who attended last year), the club will start next week, for new members, it will start w/c 16th September.
- Look out for details to follow next week about a new sports club starting on Mondays

Messy Church

Messy Church will start again on Wednesday 11th September and currently have 10 spaces available to new children wishing to join. If your child is interested in joining Messy Church, please collect a registration form from Mrs Stone in the school office.



In addition to our after-school club, Messy Church also meets at St Aidan's, once a month on the first Sunday of the month from 9 - 10.15 am. If you are interested in finding out more about it, please ask at the school office for Sheila's contact details.

School Allotment

We've had a bumper crop of fruit and veg from our allotment this week - Mr Brookshaw and his team of volunteers have picked 2 buckets-full of pears from the trees, red onions, beans and giant courgettes. As you can see, these have been delivered to the school kitchen ready to be prepared and cooked!



The big Circus countdown...

It is just 2 weeks to go until Happy's Circus comes to Air Balloon. We still have tickets available which you can order through ParentMail or via a paper form at the school office.



The gates open at 5pm and the show starts at 6pm. The Circus will be on the school field - so look out for the Big Top going up during the day. Entrance will be via Marling Road.

Pre-booked tickets will be sent home via book bags next week.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the annual Parents' Questionnaire. The responses will be collated and analysed by the Governors who will share the results with you in due course.