

Everyone can achieve

Everyone can learn

Everyone belongs

## Air Balloon Hill Primary School

Hillside Road, St George, Bristol, BS5 7PB

0117 903 0077

airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk



## Newsletter 22

4th March 2022

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Hello,

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you all enjoyed your half-term break and are ready to enjoy the spring term.

Our first week back started in style with World Book Day 2022 which took place on Thursday. Throughout the week, the school's senior leaders shared some of their favourite books with the children during assembly. This supported our school entrance display where lots of people have shared and written about the children's books that are important to them.

It was great to see many children dress up as one of their favourite book characters and learn about the stories and characters that they love. Although World Book Day is more than just a dressing-up day. It is about celebrating and promoting a love of reading. That is why every child is given a £1 book token that can be used to buy one of many books that have been especially priced as, you guessed it, £1! I hope that every child is able to spend their token and, who knows, maybe discover their new favourite book.

A big thank you to Miss Giles, our reading leader, for co-ordinating the event along with Ms McDonald, our school librarian. I should also take this moment to thank Mrs Nichols, our school kitchen manager, and her team for their amazing effort in creating a Roald Dahl inspired menu and decorating the dining halls so brilliantly.

You can also watch our special ['James and the Giant Peach'](#) movie that is available on our YouTube channel. (Viewer discretion advised!)

I hope you enjoy your weekend, I intend to spend mine lost in a book.

Tim Browse



Here are some of our costume winners

### FAB News

#### Special Person Presents

With Mother's Day fast approaching, FAB will once again be organising gifts for mums, grandmothers and other special adults. It's a perfect way for children to say thank you to anyone who plays a special part in their life.

All gifts cost £2.50 (you can purchase multiple gifts) with the choice of either chocolates, a bunch of flowers (usually daffodils or similar) or a non-edible gift (candle, mug or similar). FAB will then deliver the wrapped gifts to classes on Friday 25th March to be brought home in time for Mother's Day on 27th March.

If you would like to purchase a gift for someone special, please hand the correct money into the office in a clearly marked envelope with the child's name and class and choice of gift(s) written on the front.

The deadline for orders is **Wednesday 16th March at 3.00pm**, unfortunately we can not accept orders after this date.

#### Bag2School

We will be running Bag2School again on Friday 8th April. Bags will be sent home with the children next week, but they will also accept donations in any carrier or black bags. The donation point on Friday 8th April will be under the shelter in the top playground. Reminder that Bags2School don't accept school uniform, but we're hoping to resume the second hand uniform sale soon so keep hold of what you've got and carry on bringing those donations in separately.



## Ukraine

I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say how upsetting it has been to see the events unfold in Ukraine over the last couple of weeks. Times such as these serve to remind us how fragile peace and democracy can be in some places around the world. Our thoughts and hopes for the safety of the many families affected by this crisis go out to the people of Ukraine.

The Air Balloon community is a caring community who value kindness, respect and safety for everyone. It has been extremely moving to see the bags and bags of supplies and resources – donated by the members of our community – build up in our school reception area ready to be collected and sent to those families in Ukraine who need our help and support. Mini mountains of kindness that we hope will find their way to those that need it most.



Thank you to everyone who has donated. We are currently unable to accept any more donations, however, we will update you if this changes.

As a school, we have thought very carefully about how to approach this issue with the children. We are aware that every parent and carer will be making a conscious decision about how to do the same at home. Whilst it is important that children understand why the world is like it is, we have a duty to ensure that this happens in a way which is age-appropriate, proportional and considers individual experiences.

For this reason, we will be exploring the broader issues that the current situation in Ukraine has brought to our attention. These include, looking at the displacement cycle, learning about refugees and why people are forced to leave their country. We will also take this opportunity to look at some inspirational stories of refugees who have gone onto live extraordinary lives that contribute and enrich our society. We will also be looking at how we receive news and information about the world and explore the things that we can do to check if the information we see or hear is reliable.

I am sure you will agree that these are important things for children to learn about considering the backdrop of current world events. It is not our intention to explicitly cover the on-going events in Ukraine. However, it is inevitable that some children will have an awareness of what is going on and some children may find this news upsetting. We are always here to support children who might be feeling sad, worried or scared about anything they see or hear in the news or events they are aware of. We will be reminding children about their trusted adults and identifying these adults that they can talk to if they need to. If you are worried about your child, please do contact your child's class teacher, or Mrs Knight who is our Assistant Head for pastoral and safeguarding. We also might be able to suggest some age-appropriate resources for you to share with your children such as this online [article](#) from BBC Newsround about what to do if your child is upset by the news.

## COVID

Here are some important updates based on national guidance for schools on managing COVID in their settings:

### Facemasks

- Masks are no longer required to be worn outside of the school building. (Please respect those who choose to continue to wear a mask and social distancing is still recommended where possible.)
- Masks are still required to be worn inside the school during busy times of the day.
- Parents/carers are required to wear a mask if attending a meeting in school.

### Suspected cases

- Anyone displaying the three classic COVID symptoms should book a PCR test and isolate until the test result is returned.
- Children who develop any of the three COVID symptoms should not come to school and will be sent home if their symptoms develop during the school day.

### Positive cases

- Whilst it is not a legal requirement for anyone who tests positive to self-isolate, children and/or staff who test positive for COVID must not attend school for the recommended ten-day period if they test positive.
- During this ten-day period, lateral flow tests can be taken from day 5 onwards. After two negative test results, 24 hours apart, children/staff can return to school. Individuals can order their own LFT testing kit [online](#).
- We ask that parents continue to report to the school if their child tests positive for COVID.
- The school will only inform parents if there is an outbreak of COVID within a school specified bubble.
- Following an outbreak of COVID within the school, leaders will review the school's risk-assessment and inform parents of any changes.

### Library News



What an amazing World Book Day week we have had, with author visits and fantastic costumes showing off who our favourite book characters are.

It's not too late to get involved with the Air Balloon Sponsored Read or our Virtual Book Fair. This weekend you could still read and get sponsored for it, or go online and choose a new book to read. Here is the link to the Facebook group for the virtual book fair.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1192149504862251/?ref=share>

And here is the just giving page for payments to the sponsored read.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/abhpsponsoredread?utm\\_term=Ydq63V4eX](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/abhpsponsoredread?utm_term=Ydq63V4eX)

Please fill out and bring your sponsorship forms to school on Monday, there will be prizes! If you prefer, please bring your sponsorship money in a sealed envelope.

If you are having trouble choosing a book, you can find inspiration here:

[www.usborne.com/gb/partner/katebc](http://www.usborne.com/gb/partner/katebc)

With thanks to Usborne Publishers who sponsored this event.

### Bristol Energy Network

Bristol Energy Network are running Energy Help Desk training sessions in basic energy knowledge and advice, to support families who are in/at risk of fuel poverty.



The zoom meeting runs on Monday 14th March, 9.30am. The link to sign up is below if anyone is interested in attending.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/energy-help-desk-training-tickets-272192985547>

### Morning Drop Off

To ensure the safety of your children in school, please keep your child with you at all times. Accidents can happen if children are running around the playgrounds before school. Thank you from The Site Team.

### Employment Opportunities at Air Balloon Hill Primary School

Please visit the vacancies section of the school website to view our current job opportunities. [www.abhps.com/vacancies](http://www.abhps.com/vacancies)

We are currently recruiting for cleaners and School Meals Supervisory Assistants amongst other jobs.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check is required for these positions.

### Year 6 SATS - IMPORTANT

Children will need to be in school for the week commencing 9th May 2022 for their formal assessments. Please do not arrange for any planned absence during this time.



### Up-to-date contact details

Please make sure to keep us updated with any changes to your contact details. It really is essential that we are able to contact you if we need to. This is especially important if we need to close a class at short notice.

