

Everyone can achieve

Everyone can learn

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 1

9th September 2022

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Hello,

Welcome back to school. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to Air Balloon this week and from my many conversations with children in and around the school, it seems as though the start of the year has been a positive one.

I hope that many of you are able to attend next week's parent presentation evenings. If not, we will make sure that all the information shared is available on the school website or sent home.

I am really looking forward to this year and all the exciting things that we have planned for the year ahead. Please make sure you keep updated with all of our news by taking the time to read our weekly newsletter. It really is the best way of staying informed.

I hope that you all enjoy the weekend and I will see you next week.

Thank you,

Tim Browse

Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)

I am sure I speak for many when I say how deeply saddened we are by the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Her death brings an end to the longest reign of any monarch, not just in the UK but the world. As we learned during our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen always took her duties seriously and her death is an important moment in our country's history.

We spoke with the children this morning about the news and shared with them some photos of the Queen during her reign. In the following days we will reflect on how we, as a school, can observe her passing and pay our respects. We will keep you updated with any plans we have in addition to any national observances that may affect school life.

In the meantime, I think this portrait of the Queen – by a Year 6 child last year – is the perfect way for us to remember the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II.



Arbor

We are now using Arbor for payments and Breakfast Club bookings as well as all communications. If you do not have the Arbor App or access to the online Parent Portal, please speak to Mrs King in the school office who can send you a new password. We will be using Arbor more over the next 12 months so we recommend getting your account set up now if you don't already have one.

Information on using Arbor and the new features is available on our website - www.abhps.com



Walking to and from school alone

Every September we know many of our Year 6 (and some Year 5) pupils want to start walking to and from school alone in preparation for going to secondary school. Ensuring that your child arrives at school safely and offering you piece of mind when your child walks to school alone is extremely important. To do this, we will always check their names in the register first and if they have not arrived, we will telephone you. We also ask that if they are absent for any reason, you leave a message on the school absence line before 9am each day, so that we know not to expect them and that they are safe.

If your child walks to school or home alone, we recommend that you talk to them about how to stay safe and what to do if they feel unsafe i.e. returning to school, going to a neighbour or calling an adult.

If you would like your child to walk to school or home from school without an adult, please complete the consent section on the Arbor App or Parent Portal or email the school office - airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk

Mobile Phones in school

Please remember that if your child brings their mobile phone to school, these must be handed in to the class teacher (Year 6) or the school office (other year groups) for safe keeping during the day. Phones **MUST** be turned off or switched to silent and **MUST NOT** be kept in bags or pockets.



Year 6 - Important Information about Year 7 Applications

Although children are only a week into Year 6, we need to inform you that the deadline to apply for a secondary school place for September 2023 is 31st October 2022. Online applications are open from the 12th September 2022 via the Council's website. A link can be found on the Year 6 page of our website.



We have found information on local school websites about their open events and have collated this on the Year 6 page of our school website: <https://www.abhps.com/year-6/>

Please take some time to look at the open event information for the schools - many of them are happening very soon. We would recommend that you look around as many as possible in order to help you and your child make an informed decision about where they would like to go after Air Balloon.

We will be holding a Parents' Information Session on Tuesday 27th September at 3.30pm to outline the admissions process and answer any questions you may have on applying for secondary school places. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs King in the school office.

Start and Finish Times

School start and finish times are as follows:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: Start time: 08:45 - Finish time: 15:15.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: Start time: 08:40 - Finish time: 15:20

It is important that children arrive on time so that they don't miss out on key messages and information at the start of their lesson. Arriving late not only impacts on their learning but causes disruption to the rest of their class and the teacher. Children arriving after 8.40/8.45am will need to sign-in at the school office.

Arriving late every day does add up to a lot of lost learning:

Minutes late per day	Equivalent of Missing... per week	Equivalent of Missing... per year
5	25 minutes	More than 2 ½ days
10	50 minutes	5 ¼ days
15	1 hour and 15 minutes	More than 8 ½ days

Harvest

We will be holding our annual harvest assemblies on Monday 26th September and will be collecting donations of food and toiletries for the Kingswood Foodbank. We understand that the current situation of increasing energy and food costs is impacting everyone, but if you are able to add an extra tin or packet of food to your shopping in the next week or so to donate to the Foodbank, we would be very grateful. We know that the Foodbanks will see an increase in visitors over the coming months, so anything we can do to help others in our community will be appreciated.



Acceptable Break Time Snacks

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will continue to receive a piece of fruit or a vegetable for their break time snack. For children in Key Stage 2, we ask that they bring in a healthy snack for break (no crisps or chocolate).



Below are some ideas for healthier break time snacks:

- Whole or sliced fruit
- Vegetable sticks, e.g. celery, carrot, pepper and cucumber
- Plain popcorn
- Breadsticks
- Yogurt

No cereal bars, cake bars or crisps please. **Please can we also remind you that we are a nut free school.**



Term Dates

To assist parents/carers to book holidays and arrange other events please find detailed below the term dates and inset days for this academic year:

Term 1: Thursday 1 September 2022 to Friday 21 October 2022

Term 2: Monday 31 October 2022 to Friday 16 December 2022

Term 3: Tuesday 3 January 2023 to Friday 10 February 2023

Term 4: Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 31 March 2023

Term 5: Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023

Term 6: Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023



In-Set Dates

Friday 2nd December 2022

Monday 20th March 2023

(One additional date to be confirmed)

If you would like to be extra-organised, the term dates for 2023-24 are also available on our website - www.abhps.com/term-dates/

Attending school every day throughout a term helps children and young people maximise their learning in the classroom and enjoy the benefits of their educational experience. A week out of school may not seem much, but for some areas of the curriculum, that can mean that children miss the key building blocks for their learning – particularly in maths, phonics or when starting a new text in English – leaving children behind their peers or returning to school and not understanding what the class is working on. Attending every day really does make a difference.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that any leave will be authorised by the Headteacher. However, any request should be put in writing. Term-time Leave Request Forms are available from the foyer, please contact us on 0117 903 0077 or email airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk if you have any questions. Every application for a term-time absence is reviewed on an individual basis – taking into account specific reasons for the absence and individual circumstances – we don't have a 'blanket policy' of automatically declining requests for absences and would encourage anyone considering a term-time holiday to give us as much information on their Leave of Absence Request as possible so that an informed decision can be made.

When completing a Leave of Absence Request, please ensure it is handed into the school office at least 4 weeks before the intended absence and remember that we cannot authorise absences retrospectively. All requests will be responded to in writing and you will be informed if the absence has been authorised or not and whether any further action will be taken (i.e. if you will receive a Penalty Notice).

Parents/carers are reminded that any unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice or prosecution. However, every attempt to resolve parent and carers' concerns and improve a child's attendance will be made before any formal action is considered. It is important that if you have concerns regarding your child's attendance you speak to your child's teacher or a member of the school's Attendance Team - Mrs Knight, Mrs Stone or Mrs King.

A copy of the school attendance policy can be found here: www.abhps.com/policies/ and information on Penalty Notices can be found here: [PN-leaflet-2020.pdf \(abhps.com\)](http://www.abhps.com/PN-leaflet-2020.pdf)

Dates for your Diary

Parents' Information Evenings:

Monday 12th September

17:30 - Year 1

18:00 - Year 2

Tuesday 13th September

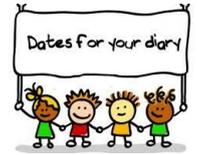
17:30 - Year 3

18:00 - Year 4

Wednesday 14th September

17:30 - Year 5

18:00 - Year 6



FAB News

If you have any suggestions or ideas for future FAB events or if you would like to get involved, please contact us at friends@abhps.com



Sarah's Top Tip

Hi everyone and welcome back! I hope you've all had a great summer.

We as a school are being gifted by local organisation United Response, weekly food boxes. They will contain home grown fruit and vegetables along with dried and canned goods. If you would like one please feel free to let a member of the office team or myself know and we will arrange a time for collection. (Please bring a bag!)

If you or anyone you know would like some help/advice around your gas and electric bills please contact WHAM the Warm Homes And Money Advice Service or click [here](#). Please also do feel free to pop in to see me or make an appointment either with myself or at the office if I can help in any way.

If you have any tips that you think other parents and carers would find helpful, please let us know about them and we can share them with the school community. Email - airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk or let Sarah or the school office know.



Online Autism Courses for Parents and Carers

Do you live in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire and is your child on the waitlist for a diagnosis for Autism?

Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos (BNSSG) Parent Carer Forums have joined together to provide and host a range of online information sessions and face-to-face workshops delivered by a SEND professional and an experienced SEND parent carer.

These sessions will provide tips on recognising needs together with practical ways to help your child. Even if your child does not receive a diagnosis of autism following assessment, the strategies you learn in this course are likely to still prove helpful.

Please click below to book:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bristol-n-somerset-and-s-glos-parent-carer-forums-41027867683>

To keep up to date with all the courses from Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos Parent Carer Forums, please click "follow" on the Eventbrite page.



The Clean Air Zone

Do you want to know more about the Clean Air Zone?

The team will be at Sainsbury's (St Philips Causeway, Arno's Vale, Bristol BS4 3BD) to talk to people face to face from 11am-3pm on the 14th of September.

Find out where else we will be here: [EVENTS - Clean Air for Bristol](#).

