

Everyone can achieve
Everyone can learn
Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 1

8th September 2023

In this week's newsletter:

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and year groups this week

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Relevant information
shared in previous
newsletters



Part 1 - Key messages this week

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer – the weather is certainly making it feel as though the summer hasn't stopped. It has been lovely to welcome back all the children this week and it has been a very settled start to the year with the children all enjoying their time in their new classes.

As it's the start of a new year we are taking the time to revisit our school values and expectations. Lots of emphasis on being safe, kind and respectful and looking how, at Air Balloon, we all work together to make sure that everyone can learn, achieve and belong.

I hope that many of you are able to attend next week's parent presentations. They will help provide an overview of your child's year ahead. If you are unable to make it then the presentations will be available on the website.

I hope you all enjoy the weekend – try to stay cool – and we will see you all next week.

Thank you,

Tim Browse

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 2024 is **midnight on Tuesday 31st October 2023**. Online applications are open from the 12th September 2023 via the Council's website. A link can be found on the Year 6 page of our website.



We have confirmed the key open event information for local school websites and have added this on to 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, including John Cabot next week. We would recommend that you look around as many schools 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 26th 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.

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.

If your child does bring a phone to school, this should be because they need it for their safety when walking to or from school. Please be aware that the school cannot take any responsibility for mobile phones that are brought onto site.



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—and ask for them to be added to the walking alone registers.

Bags and Rucksacks

This year we would kindly ask that children stop bringing large bags and rucksacks to school. Our coat trolleys only have space for coats and a school book bag. Packed lunches are stored in a separate trolley. When children bring large bags to school they take up so much space and often end up on the floor causing trip hazards during PE. Children don't need to bring in pencil cases as we provide everything they will need for school. Thank you.

Harvest

We will be holding our annual harvest assemblies on Monday 9th October 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 few weeks 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.



This year, the Foodbank are asking specifically for donations of **Jam** and **Tinned Rice Pudding** from Air Balloon. They are asking different schools to donate specific items each, so that they can build their stocks of their essential items. Any items you can donate would be appreciated but if you can include Jam and Rice Pudding as well, that would be a huge help.

Free School Meals - Year 3 children

If your child is now in Year 3, they will no longer be eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please visit the Bristol City Council website for information on eligibility: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals> or [click here](#) to apply.



Dates for your Diary

Parents' Information Evenings:

Monday 11th September

17:30 - Year 1
18:00 - Year 2

Tuesday 12th September

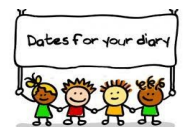
17:30 - Year 3
18:00 - Year 4

Wednesday 13th September

17:30 - Year 5
18:00 - Year 6

Monday 25th September

17:30 - Reception



Payments

This year we are working towards going cash-less in the school office and are now able to accept payments by card for school dinner money. You can still use the Arbor App or Parent Portal to top-up your accounts (meals or Space Cadets) and also to pay for school trips but we can now accept card payments at the office for school meals.



Term Dates and Attendance

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: Friday 1 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

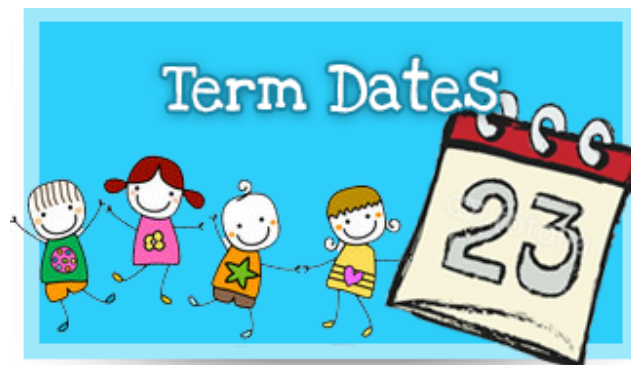
Term 2: Monday 30 October 2023 to Friday 15 December 2023

Term 3: Tuesday 2 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024

Term 4: Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024

Term 5: Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024

Term 6: Monday 3 June 2024 to Tuesday 23 July 2024



In-Set Dates

Wednesday 4th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Thursday 28th March 2024

If you would like to be extra-organised, the term dates for 2024-25 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, this 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 \(abhps.com\)](#). Also, this website [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) is helpful if you have any concerns about your child's health and whether they are well enough to attend school.

Start and Finish Times

School start and finish times are as follows:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: Arrival 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 ¾ days
15	1 hour and 15 minutes	More than 8 ½ days

Flu Vaccines

The annual flu vaccination programme is scheduled to be carried out in school for all children on the **17th November** for children who have consent for the vaccination. To book your child's flu vaccination please click [here](#).



Bus Bay

Now that Hillside Road has reopened please can we remind you NOT to park in the bus bay. Please remember that the bus bay is there for the safety of the children when they are going on trips or attending swimming lessons and is regularly used throughout the term.



Have you updated your contact Information?

Have you changed or updated your phone number or address over the summer? If so, please remember to update us. You can either do this on the Arbor App or using a paper form which is available in the main foyer.



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.



Part 2 - Key messages from classes and year groups this week

Reception

Please look out for an email with information on how to book your meeting with the class teacher during week commencing 18th September to discuss how your child is settling into school.

We also have our Parent Information Presentation at 5.30pm on Monday 25th September

Year 1

Earth and Mars have outdoor PE on Mondays

Venus and Mercury have outdoor PE on Tuesdays

All of Year 1 have indoor PE on Wednesdays

Year 1 will have their library time on Tuesdays.

Year 2

For information on what Year 2 are learning this term, along with a copy of their Spelling Bee words, please look at the Year 2 page of the school website - <https://www.abhps.com/year-2/>

PE days are confirmed as:

Discovery and Apollo – Monday Indoor, Wednesday Outdoor

Endeavour and Voyager – Tuesday Indoor, Thursday Outdoor

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have sent out their Spelling Bee lists - you can download a copy here: [Y3-Spelling-Bee-Letter-Term-1.pdf](https://www.abhps.com/Y3-Spelling-Bee-Letter-Term-1.pdf) ([abhps.com](https://www.abhps.com))

PE days are confirmed as:

Jupiter - Monday and Wednesday

Titan - Tuesday and Wednesday

Neptune - Tuesday and Thursday

Saturn - Monday and Thursday

Library Lessons are:

Jupiter - Thursdays

Titan - Wednesdays

Neptune - Wednesdays

Saturn - Wednesday

Year 4

PE days are confirmed as:

Aquila and Orion - Tuesday and Thursday

Pegasus and Phoenix - Monday and Thursday

Year 5

For information on what Year 5 are learning this term, along with a copy of their Spelling Bee words, please look at the Year 5 page of the school website - <https://www.abhps.com/year-5/>

PE days are confirmed as:

Polaris - Tuesday (outdoor) and Wednesday (swimming)

Capella - Thursday (outdoor) and Wednesday (swimming)

Sirius - Tuesday (outdoor) and Wednesday (swimming)

Year 6

For information on what Year 6 are learning this term, along with a copy of their Spelling Bee words, please look at the Year 6 page of the school website - <https://www.abhps.com/year-6/>

PE days are confirmed as:

Aurora - Indoor- Monday and Outdoor- Wednesday

Comet - Indoor- Monday and Outdoor- Thursday

Asteroid - Indoor- Thursday and Outdoor- Wednesday

Meteor - Indoor- Thursday and Outdoor- Friday

Part 3 - Key messages that you might have missed

Job Vacancies at Air Balloon Hill Primary School

Please visit the vacancies section of the school website for our latest job opportunities, or visit

<https://www.eteach.com/schools/air-balloon-hill-primary-school-24934>

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 are required for these positions.

We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups including, ethnicity, gender, transgender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

Purchasing School Uniform

School jumpers, cardigans, Polo-Shirts, T-Shirts and school-logo book bags can be ordered from AWS-workwear. Please visit their website www.aws-ltd.co.uk and select Schoolwear and Air Balloon Hill Primary School from the menu (or click the blue button below). Uniform can be delivered free of charge to the school for collection. All other items of the school uniform are readily available at supermarkets and other high street stores. The uniform is simple to avoid unnecessary expense for parents and the only items that need to include the school logo, are our jumpers or cardigans. This has always been our policy and we acknowledge that the government have now provided statutory guidance for schools to support parents in the cost of school uniforms – more information on this legislation can be found here: [Cost of School Uniforms](#)



If you would like to purchase second-hand uniform items, please ask at the school office, collect an order form from the main foyer or look out for details of our 'pre-loved' sales in the newsletter.