

Everyone can achieve  
Everyone can learn  
Everyone belongs

## Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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## Newsletter 2

15th September 2023

In this week's newsletter:

### Part 1

Key messages this week

### Part 2

Messages from classes  
and year groups this week

### Part 3

Relevant information  
shared in previous  
newsletters

## Part 1 - Key messages this week

### 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](#).



### Head Lice

Head Lice have been reported this week in year 1 and year 6. We would recommend that you check your child's hair & treat as necessary. Thank you.



### Well Done

Well done to Pete in Polaris class who came 2nd in his Tennis Tournament last weekend.



### Sarah's Top Tips

Hi Everyone, for those of you who don't know me, I'm Sarah Webb, Air Balloon Hill's Family Support Worker.

You'll often see me around in the playgrounds at drop off and pick up time and my office is the first door on the left as you come into the school building. You can find my photo on the school website by clicking [here](#)

I am parent-led which means that I work with you to help with what you need. I'm not like other Family Support Workers in that I am normally school based and will often refer you to an appropriate agency to help depending on what's going on for you.

These are examples of the issues I may be able to help with:

- Isolation
- Asylum Seekers
- Mental health- being referred to a service for support
- Daily living ie. Housing/bills/budgeting etc
- Debt
- Domestic abuse
- Adult courses and learning
- Parenting support



I also just love getting to know you guys and sharing a cup of tea! So please do say hi if you'd like to.

If you are struggling in any way with uniforms and school clothes, please get in contact. We have second hand uniform available at a small cost.

I look forward to meeting you.

### After-School Clubs

Raphael Burke Ltd are offering the following after-school clubs this term:

Year 1 and 2 Multi Skills on Mondays

Year 3 and 4 Football club on Thursdays

If your child is interested in joining, please collect a form from the main foyer.

## Parent governor vacancy

Dear parents,

Following a recent resignation, we currently have a vacancy for a parent governor and are seeking nominations for an enthusiastic and committed parent or carer to join the governing board.

The core functions of the governing board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation, its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The term of office for all governors is four years.

There are no particular qualifications or experience required for the role, but we are keen to ensure the board membership is representative of the school community. We would particularly welcome nominations from parents / carers in our under-represented or minority groups. Additionally, we would be keen to receive nominations from people with experience in human resources, communications, finance or property management.

At Air Balloon Hill Primary School we always aim for positive and purposeful partnerships with parents, which undoubtedly brings important benefits to the pupils. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor. The governing board's main tasks are to support the school, ensure that all pupils receive a high quality education and plan for future development and improvement. Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing board is aware of the views of parents and the local community. We are confident that there are parents prepared to volunteer to take on this key role and give their time and commitment to help us continue to develop and improve the school's performance.

Governors currently meet as a board up to six times a year and meetings, which are held in school, start at 6.00pm and finish around 8.00pm. If needed, additional meetings are planned with seven days notice. We also have a finance committee and quality of education committee, meetings for these are also held outside of school hours. All governors are invited to join the committee that their skills and experience match with or they have a particular interest in.

Governors are occasionally required to visit the school during the day for monitoring visits and are encouraged to support school events, where possible.

More information about being a governor can be found on the governor pages of the school web site - [www.abhps.com/governors/](http://www.abhps.com/governors/). Should you have any questions about the role please do not hesitate to contact myself through the school office, Mr Browse or any member of the Governing board listed on the school website.

We offer new governors a comprehensive and supportive induction, and each new governor is assigned a buddy. Full training for the role is also available via the local authority Governor Development service.

If you are interested in this important role you can be nominated or self-nominate on the attached form, which should be submitted to the school office by **12.00 noon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

When nominating yourself or someone else for the role of parent governor, you are nominating the person you believe has the skills and commitment to undertake the role, someone you trust to represent the views of parents when working with other governors and the headteacher, and to promote high standards and strategically develop the school. A parent governor's role is not to represent individual parents' views or to report back directly to parents, but to be representative of the parent body.

If there is more than one nomination, an election will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and all parents will be sent information on how to vote.

Yours sincerely,

*Nikki Jackson*

Chair of Governors ABHPS

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

### Reception

During the next couple of weeks, we will be carrying out the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your children's early literacy, communication, language and maths skills.

The RBA will provide an opportunity for your child to have valuable one-to-one with their teacher/EYP at an early stage, so that they can get to know your child better. Alongside our normal baseline practices this will provide a helpful snapshot to know where children are in their learning journey and to inform our teaching in the first term.

You do not need to do anything to prepare your child for the assessment. Your child is unlikely to even know that they are doing an assessment when they are completing tasks and activities.

[Reception Baseline Information for Parents](#)

### Year 3

#### Boom Reader

This year, year 3 are trialling the use of an online reading record called BoomReader. This will replace paper reading records. It can be used as an app on mobile phones or accessed as a website on a phone or computer. We are trialling an online reading record as a year group to see if it further encourages parent and student engagement and motivation with reading.

This week your child will bring home their new levelled reading book for the week and a letter with login details for BoomReader.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions with regard to this and as it is a trial any feedback you may have is especially welcomed!

<https://www.abhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Y3-Boom-Reader-Letter.pdf>

<https://www.abhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Parent-App-Information.pdf>

<https://www.abhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/home-reading-tips.pdf>

Also this week, Year 3 have sent letters home asking for information to support their Inquiry Project. If you've not yet completed the questionnaire, you can download a copy here: [Inquiry Project Questionnaire](#)

### Parent Presentations

If you were unable to attend the parent presentations this week, you can download a copy of the information slides from the year group pages of the school website by clicking on the individual links below:

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

## Part 3 - Key messages that you might have missed

### 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](http://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.

### 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](mailto: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.



### Term Dates

**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

### 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.



### **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.