

Everyone can achieve
Everyone can learn
Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

Hillside Road, St George, Bristol, BS5 7PB

0117 903 0077

airballoonhill@bristol-schools.uk



Newsletter 4

29th September 2023

Part 1 - Key messages this week

Inset Day – Wednesday 4th October

Please remember that the school is closed on Wednesday due to an Inset-Day for staff training.



Harvest

We have a collection point set-up in the main foyer for any donations for the Foodbank as part of our Harvest festival on 9th October. We would be grateful for any donations of in-date food but especially jars of jam and tins of rice pudding. All donations can be left in the foyer or brought into school on 9th October ready for us to deliver to the Foodbank.



Council Street Cleaning

It has been reported to us that this morning there is a lot of dog mess in the lane and surrounding pavements. If you notice any dog mess on the pavements and footpaths on your way to and from school, please report this to Bristol City Council Street Cleaning Team by logging it online <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/dog-fouling>.



Air Balloon Curriculum: inclusion and diversity

At Air Balloon, we have been reviewing and refining our curriculum over a number of years to make it more inclusive and diverse. Examples of this include:

Inquiry Projects: From Year 1 to Year 6, our wider curriculum is taught through a series of inquiry projects. These projects aim to show the children why the world is like it is and how we can make it a better place. These inquiries have been carefully constructed so that the curriculum content is logical and cohesive whilst enabling children to develop their social, moral, cultural and spiritual awareness.

Significant Lives: We have worked hard over the last two years to improve the levels of representation found within our curriculum. Through our carefully selected case studies, one for every inquiry project, we aim for our children to learn about the lives and achievements of some really incredible and inspiring people from around the world.

Reading spine: Every year group has a carefully curated set of books that the children read over the course of the year. These high-quality books showcase a diverse range of authors and tell a variety of stories about people from all walks of life. We think it's important for children to read stories about lives and experiences that are different from their own but it's also empowering for children to read stories about people who are just like them. Discover our reading spine [here](#).

The 6 Archetypes: We have considered six roles that people can play in life and how these roles help shape the world. Through exploring these six archetypes, our aim is for the children to develop their understanding of how human behaviour can change the world. Learn about the six archetypes [here](#).

Everyone belongs: Every term, we share a book that explores the idea of 'belonging' with the children. These books allow us to have quality discussions with the children about what it means to feel that you belong and how important it is to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Safe, Kind and Respectful Weeks: The school holds five 'SKR' weeks over the year. In term four, the focus is 'disability'. During the week, pupils learn about different types of disabilities, including 'hidden disabilities'. They have opportunities to explore what equity and inclusion looks like at school and in wider society. Pupils learn about the successes and achievements of different disabled people.

REspect curriculum: We explore the six main world religions through a series of questions that we ask the children. Each year group responds to the question through a chosen religion. Our REspect curriculum seeks to demonstrate how each religion is unique and special whilst also looking at what many of the religions have in common with each other.

As I hope you can see, we have put a lot of thought and consideration into our curriculum so studying it is an interesting and meaningful experience for the children. We will never be finished! There are always ways that we can improve it and although we are very proud of it, we're never too proud to think that it can't be improved somehow.

Over the course of the year, I would like to be able to share more examples of our curriculum with you and see how, with your help, we can make it even better. There will be a number of opportunities for parents to work with school leaders over the course of this year and I look forward to sharing these plans with you later in the autumn term.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month. Although at Air Balloon, we work hard to provide numerous opportunities throughout the year to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society, we always make sure that October pushes this to the fore.

During October, some of the work that will be going on in school as part of Black History Month includes:

Monday 2nd October: An introductory assembly that outlines the importance of Black History Month to the children.

Tuesday 3rd - Thursday 5th October: Age appropriate assemblies that introduce each year group's 'significant lives case study'. All of which are people – linked to the children's inquiry projects – from the Black community who have achieved great things in the field of expertise. (Each year group will also be making a display in the school halls which we will share with you at the end of the month.)

Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th October: A chance to explore one of our six archetypes, the pioneer, by looking at the individuals who led the Bristol Bus Boycott. This will also support some of the wider 'pioneer' questions that the children have as part of their inquiry projects.

Competition time

And talking of the Bristol Bus Boycott, a competition has been announced to rename one of the Avon and Somerset Police Horses after one of the Bristol Bus Boycott Pioneers. (There's also a chance for one lucky person to win a £100 shopping voucher to spend in Cabot Circus.) Voting closes at 5 pm on October 8. To cast your vote, click [here](#). To help you decide on who to vote for, watch this online [video](#) about the Bristol Bus Boycott.

FAB News

The autumn discos will take place on Thursday 19th October. Tickets are £2.50 each and are being issued on a first come, first served basis. Please follow the link to book your ticket. Please put the money in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class to the school office. Fancy dress is encouraged but **NO MASKS** are allowed. Cut-off for ordering and paying for tickets is 3:00pm Monday 16th October. <https://forms.office.com/e/NSby2XWb8v>



- Reception - 3.30 - 4.15
- Year 1 and 2 - 4.30 - 5.15
- Year 3 and 4 - 5.30 - 6.15
- Years 5 and 6 - 6.30 - 7.30



Some dates for your diary...

- Bag2school - 18th October
- Non uniform day - 20th October
- Christmas Fayre - 2nd December

All money raised at these events go towards supporting the school. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Space Cadets Contact

We have recently noticed a significant increase in parents and carers contacting Stacey, our Wrap-Around Care Manager at unreasonable times of the day and at weekends. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify Stacey's availability to respond to queries and phone calls.

Stacey is contactable from **7am to 12 noon** and from **2.30pm to 6pm Monday to Friday**. She does not work at the weekend. Please only phone or text during these hours. If Stacey doesn't answer, please leave a voicemail and she will return your call as soon as possible during her working hours. Please do not contact Stacey between 6pm on Fridays and 7am on Mondays.

Please can you also ensure that you notify Stacey if your child is booked in for After-School Club but isn't attending on any particular day – for example if your child is going to someone else's house for tea.

Thank you for your support.



Update on East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood Trial scheme - Sept 2023

On Wednesday a post was published on the [mayor's website](#) giving an update on the East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood proposed trial.

In the post, Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, explains how lots of community members have already given us thoughts and ideas for the trial, which they've been developing with the local community since January 2022.

They shared these co-designed plans for the trial scheme in May and June and have been going through the feedback since then.

Based on this feedback, they are considering a number of changes to the trial. You can find out more and see an updated map at www.bristol.gov.uk/eastbristolliveableneighbourhood.



CONNECT - ERIC Contenance, Bladder and Bowel Difficulties Some dates for your diary...

Please find below details of the first Connect session for this year. ERIC and JIGSAW Thornbury will be hosting two online sessions exploring continence, bladder and bowel difficulties. ERIC is the national charity dedicated to improving children's bowel and bladder health. Their mission is to reduce the impact of continence problems on children and their families. These sessions can be attended in isolation, however, attending both would be of benefit for many parents and carers. There will also be an additional opportunity to attend a face to face follow-up at JIGSAW Thornbury on Tuesday, 7th November if anyone wishes to discuss further support for their family.

If continence and toileting is of a concern for you, they hope you can attend. They have received funding from Early Help to subsidise these sessions. There are a limited number of tickets available. If booking please ensure you are able to log in and attend these LIVE sessions. Alternatively, attend and drop-in to their face to face session.

If you would like further support to attend these sessions please email events@jigsawthornbury.org.uk

JIGSAW Thornbury Training and Awareness Team

Connect: ERIC 
**Talking about the toilet!
and, night times!**

- For parents and carers
- Monday 30th October
- 4.00 - 5.30 pm
- Online
- FREE, donations welcome

www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk



Connect: ERIC 
**Talking about wee and
poo! - post potty training**

- For parents and carers
- Wednesday 18th October
- 4.00 - 5.30 pm
- Online
- FREE, donations welcome

www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk



Parent Governor Elections

The closing date for nominations for our parent governor vacancy passed at 12 noon today. **Three** nominations have been received. Unfortunately, there is only one vacancy currently available, so a ballot must now take place. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will secure the role of parent governor for a four-year term of office.

Each parent or carer with a child attending Air Balloon Hill Primary School is entitled to one vote regardless of the number of children they have in school. Please complete the online ballot form: <https://forms.office.com/e/HpCHXqtxJp> by **3pm** on **Friday 13th October 2023**. If you are unable to access the online form, paper copies of the ballot can be collected from the school office.

Each candidate has been asked to provide a statement of no more than **100 words** in support of their nomination and these statements are shown overleaf and on the ballot form. Please remember that you are voting for the person that you consider has the skills and experience to undertake the role successfully – it does not matter if you do not personally know the candidate whom you consider would be the right parent for the role.

Voting is secret, however, in order to ensure that each parent only casts 1 vote, we are asking for your email address - this will be seen only by the Returning Officer - Mrs King - and will only be used to verify your voting eligibility. Voter information will not be shared with anyone else and will be removed from the system as soon as the votes have been counted and verified.

Each candidate has confirmed they are aware of the reasons a person may not stand for election or appointment as a school governor and has confirmed they are eligible to stand for the role of parent governor.

Ballot papers will be counted by the returning officer, in the presence of the headteacher at 3.15pm on Friday 13th October. Nominees are welcome to attend at this time to witness the count.

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

Reception

We held our Reception Parent presentation on Monday – If you were unable to make it, you can find a copy of the presentations here:

[Moon](#)

[Star](#)

[Sky](#)

[Sun](#)

Also, Nits have been reported in Reception. Please check your child's hair and treat as necessary. Thank you.

Year 2

We sent Year 2 parents and carers a letter this week about a forthcoming trip to Bristol Zoo Project. If you haven't received the letter, please click here: <https://www.abhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Year-2-Bristol-Zoo-Project.pdf>

Part 3 - Key messages that you might have missed

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.

Apply now for
your child's
secondary
school place



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/>

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](#).



School Milk Services

School Milk Services have asked that when you enquire about ordering milk for your children, you do so by using their website: www.schoolmilkservices.co.uk/parents

They have had an influx of parents registering over the phone, however, registering online reduces time and ensures children's details are entered correctly (including their class).

They can take over the phone registrations when parents are unable to register online due to personal circumstances (such as no access to the internet), but best practice is for this to be done online.



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



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.