

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 11

**24th November 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

Dear parents and carers,

As you know, we were visited by Ofsted on Tuesday and Wednesday to carry out an ungraded inspection of the school. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete the parent survey and those of you who spoke to the Inspectors during the two days and sent in emails for us to pass on to the Inspection team.

It was, as you can imagine, a pretty busy couple of days and the Inspectors spent a lot of time observing lessons, talking to a range of staff and governors as well as spending time with the children. I would like to thank all of the staff and governors for their hard work – not only over those two days but in the years leading up to the inspection – and their dedication to Air Balloon.

Thank you as well to all the children for their safe, kind and respectful behaviour and their enthusiasm when talking to the Inspectors about their experience of school.

The outcome of the investigation will be shared by Ofsted once they have completed writing their report. This may be before Christmas but could be in January but please be assured that as soon as I receive my copy of the final draft, I will share it with parents and carers.

I hope you all enjoy your weekend – especially staff... you definitely deserve a restful weekend.

Thank you,

Tim Browse



### Attendance

As we move towards winter, we know many people start to think about summer holidays. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that holidays during term-time are not authorised and will, most likely, result in a Penalty Notice being issued. Penalty Notices are £60 per parent, per pupil (rising to £120 each if not paid within 21 days).

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).

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

Details of our term dates for the rest of the year can be found here: <https://www.abhps.com/term-dates/> and if you want to be really organised, you can also find the term dates for 2024/25!



## Christmas Menu 2023

Sssshhhhhh!!! We're starting to talk about Christmas!! We are very excited to launch our Christmas Lunch Menu for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. In order for us to ensure we order the right amount of food (and don't waste any), we are asking **ALL** parents and carers to pre-order their child's lunch for this day using Arbor.



Please log into Arbor (either the App or the online Parent Portal) to tell us what your child would like for lunch on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. It's quick and easy to order...just follow the instructions below:

### Ordering on the Arbor App

1. Click the three lines to access your main menu, then click on Meals.
2. You'll be taken to the Meal Choices page, where you will be presented with a list of Meals that have available menus to choose from (Choose **Christmas Lunch Week** option)
3. You can then see the **Meal Choices** page. On the page you can see all future dates you can select a meal for.
4. When choosing a meal, click on the day (**Thursday 14th December**). In the slide over, you'll see when the deadline for making your choice is.
5. Select the meal choice from the drop-down list and click the green **Confirm Choice** button to save your order.

### Ordering on the Parent Portal (from a pc)

1. From the main Parent Portal page, click **Quick Actions** and select **Meals**.
2. You'll be taken to the Meal Choices page, where you will be presented with a list of Meals that have available menus to choose from. (Choose **Christmas Lunch Week** option)
3. You can then see the **Meal Choices** page. On the page you can see all future dates you can select a meal for.
4. When choosing a meal, click on the day (**Thursday 14th December**). In the slide over, you'll see when the deadline for making your choice is.
5. Select the meal choice from the drop-down list and click the green **Confirm Choice** button to save your order.

The cost of the Christmas Lunch is £2.40 per pupil - unless your child is eligible for Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals (all pupils in Reception, Years 1 and 2). Payment for the Christmas Lunch can be made via Arbor at the time of ordering or any time before 14<sup>th</sup> December. If you have a positive balance in Arbor for dinners, the cost of the meal will be deducted from your balance automatically on the day.

If you are unable to access Arbor, you can order your child's Christmas Lunch by signing-up at the school office. The deadline for all orders is **Wednesday 6th December**

If you have any questions, please speak to staff in the school office. Allergen information will be available on request but please note that the jacket potato option will not be available on this day.

Copy of the menu on page 6.



## Lost Property

Lucy in Sirius class has lost her prescription swimming goggles. If found, please hand in to the school office to be returned to the class.



Alexander in Aquila class has lost two coats, please see pictures for description. If found, please hand in to the school office to be returned to the class.

## Christmas Events and Dates for your Diary

### Reception Nativities

We are delighted to confirm that the Reception Nativity plays will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The children have already started to learn their songs and are getting ready for their performances and we can't wait – they are always the highlight of the Autumn Term.

**Sun and Moon Nativity will take place at 10am and Star and Sky at 2.20pm.**

Nativities will be held in the Messier Hall and entry will be via the gates in the front playground. This is a free event and you are welcome to take photographs and video recordings for your personal memories but remember, these must never be posted on Facebook or Social Media.



### Buggies

We appreciate that some parents may need to bring younger siblings in prams and pushchairs to watch the Nativity performances but we would ask that, as much as possible, buggies are left at home or collapsed down, as we have limited space to store them during the shows. Thank you.

### Stories Around the Christmas Tree

This annual Air Balloon tradition will be taking place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 6-6.30pm. Children can return to school in their pyjamas and dressing gowns for some festive stories, milk and biscuits. Spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment using the **School Shop** feature in Arbor. We will be using the main school classrooms for this and so entry to the site will be via the main entrance. Parents will be able to wait in the Messier Hall and enjoy a hot drink while they wait. This is a free event, we just ask you to book so that we know how many children we are expecting (and can buy enough milk and cookies!)



### Other Dates for your Diary

**Pegasus and Phoenix Trip** – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Weston Water Centre

**Year 6 Height and Weight Screening** – Re-scheduled date – now Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

**Reception Open Morning** – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – for Reception starters in September 2024

**Air Balloon's Got Talent** – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – more details to follow.

**Christmas Lunch** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – See information on page 2 for more details on how to book your child's meal.

**Christmas Jumper Days** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers to school each day.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – Last Day of Term and Class Parties – more details to follow

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024** – First Day of Term 3.



## FAB News

### Christmas Fayre

This is taking place on Saturday 2nd December 11am-2pm. To help us with the fayre, we are asking for donations of:

Wine, Chocolate, Too small/old but good condition Christmas jumpers, Teddy bears and Raffle prizes - Do you work for a business who may be willing to donate vouchers/items that could help towards our raffle? If so, please get in touch on the above email address.

Santa's Grotto tickets have been selling fast. If you would like a ticket to see Santa at the fayre, they will be on sale next week in the school foyer from 3:15pm . Tickets are £2.50 each for an assigned time slot during the fayre.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale from next week. Tickets are £1 each and the winners will be drawn at the end of the fayre.

- 1st prize - £50
- 2nd prize - £25.

Other prizes available:

- Family tickets for Oliver Twist at the Tobacco factory
- Family ticket to Aerospace museum
- Grand pier unlimited rides voucher
- Mendip activity centre Family voucher for disc golf
- Bristol Rovers tickets
- Voucher for the Lock Up on Church Road

Plus many more prizes. If anyone is interested in finding out more about FAB or would like to get involved, please send us an email. We would love to have you on the committee.





# CHRISTMAS FAIR

Entry  
on  
donation

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, FUN, STALLS,  
DELICIOUS TREATS, GROTTO & MORE!

SATURDAY 2ND  
DECEMBER 2023  
11AM - 2PM

AIR BALLOON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ST. GEORGE, BRISTOL  
BS5 7PB

[FRIENDS@ABHPS.COM](mailto:FRIENDS@ABHPS.COM)

# Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Traditional Roast Turkey with Pig in Blanket

Or

Halal Roast Turkey

Or

Vegetarian Cheesy Leek Christmas Parcel

Roast or New Potatoes

Carrots and Peas

Served with Gluten-Free Vegetarian Gravy  
and Cranberry Sauce

Christmas Shortbread

Mince Pies

Christmas Satsumas

Please note: Jacket Potato options  
will not be available on this date

## **Allergens:**

Vegetarian Option contains Wheat & Dairy

Pig in Blanket contains Wheat & Sulphur Dioxide

Shortbread contains Wheat

Mince Pies contain Wheat, Sulphur Dioxide and may contain nuts

**£2.40**





**The Air Balloon Breakfast, After School & Holiday Club**  
**Hillside Road, St George, BRISTOL, BS5 7PB**



require a

### **Lively and Committed After School Club Playworker**

**This is an exciting opportunity to work as part of a dynamic team in our extended school provision of breakfast, after-school and holiday clubs. The successful candidate will be employed directly by the school and will work under the guidance of the Wraparound Care Manager.**

**To work 15 hours per week (3pm - 6pm) during term time**

**Monday - Friday**

**Start date: December 2023**

**Salary to be paid on the Bristol Grade 4 Scale – currently £11.59 per hour**

**NVQ level 2 or experience of working with children within a play environment would be desirable.**

**Level 2 Food Hygiene certificate essential  
(training can be provided for the successful applicant if necessary)**

**To obtain an application pack, please email**

**[rachel.bowyer@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:rachel.bowyer@bristol-schools.uk)**

**or view our advert on the eteach website**

**The closing date for applications is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 12pm**

**Interview date to be advised.**

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

**An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check is required for this position.**

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

**Online checks may be performed on shortlisted candidates as part of the school's due diligence checks**

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



### Capella

Can you all please bring in your reading records and any benchmarking books I have given to practice reading in for tomorrow.

Also as a reminder, PE is on Monday, a few children were not wearing the appropriate footwear today.

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

### Reception Starters 2024

If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, they are due to start school in September 2024 and you must apply for a school place before midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. If you live in Bristol (and pay your Council Tax to Bristol City Council, click here to apply: [Apply for a new reception primary place \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/apply-for-a-new-reception-primary-place)

If you live in South Glos, you should apply here: [Apply online for a school place | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://www.southglos.gov.uk/apply-online-for-a-school-place)



### Christmas Tree

Could you or anyone you know, donate or sponsor a real Christmas tree for the school? If you can help, please speak to Mr Lea, our Site Manager, or leave your contact details at the school office.

### Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to everyone who has already donated items to our Reverse Advent Calendar for the East Bristol Foodbank at Kingswood. We hope to be able to collect at least 25 of each item that we can pass on at the end of term. You can donate items from the calendar at any time until the end of term – either to the collection boxes in the classrooms or to the boxes in the main foyer.



### 2023 Reverse Advent Calendar



13th November  Titan Class	14th November  Mars Class	15th November  Capella Class	16th November  Sun & Comet Class	17th November  Phoenix Class	20th November  Earth Class
21st November  Endeavour Class	22nd November  Saturn Class	23rd November  Venus Class	24th November  Aquila Class	27th November  Moon & Meteor Class	28th November  Polaris Class
29th November  Neptune Class	30th November  Apollo Class	1st December  Discovery Class	4th December  Pegasus Class	5th December  Sirius Class	6th December  Jupiter Class
7th December  Sky & Aurora Class	8th December  Mercury Class	11th December  Star & Asteroid Class	12th December  Orion Class	13th December  Voyager Class	



### 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

Tuesday 2nd January 20  
 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.