

Everyone can achieve
Everyone can learn
Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 8

3rd November 2023

In this week's newsletter:

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Key messages this week

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Relevant information
shared in previous
newsletters

Part 1 - Key messages this week

Parents' Evenings

Reminder that Parents' Evening appointments will be held on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November and can be booked via Arbor. Details on how to book your appointment can be found here: [Booking-a-Parents-Evening-Appointment-in-Arbor-2023.pdf \(abhps.com\)](https://www.airballoonhillp.co.uk/booking-a-parents-evening-appointment-in-arbor-2023.pdf)



Football Match

Good luck to our Year 5 and 6 Football Team who are playing an away match against Beacon Rise this afternoon. We'll update you on the result next week!



Reception Phonics Meeting

We are inviting all Reception parents to a Reading workshop on the 13th November at either 2:40pm or 5:30pm. Come along to find out how you can support your child at home using the techniques that we use in school.

Flu Vaccines

The school nursing team are in school on Friday 17th for the nasal flu vaccinations. The e-consent process for the Nasal Flu vaccinations will close at 9am on Wednesday 15th November. Please see the link to the consent form below:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23>



Exciting news about our new Climbing Frame

As soon as we received the generous donation last term for the final amount needed to pay for the new climbing frame, we were able to place the order. We are very excited to announce that installation will start next week. As a result, the top gate in the lane as well as the access route connecting the top and middle playgrounds (past the Snakes and Ladders) will be off limits from Monday morning, until the installation is complete. Barriers will be put in place to close the access routes and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but we are sure that the end result will be worth the short-term upheaval.



Sarah's Top Tips

Here at Air Balloon, we have a beautiful but rather overgrown allotment! We are looking for parents/carers who would like to get involved in helping us get it back under control and in maintaining it as well as planting and caring for what is already there. No experience necessary! We have run this as a group in the past and I have also done wellbeing sessions on a one to one basis. If you have any time and would like to help please let me know!

We can also offer after school sessions where your children can have some fun with you and learn about growing our own food and vegetables.

You can contact me on the main school line on 0117 9030077 or on my mobile on 07469029470



Key Dates

Reminder that next week we have the following events:

- Wednesday 8th – Endeavour and Voyager Trip to Bristol Zoo Project
- Thursday 9th – Year 1 visit from Zoolab
- Wednesday and Thursday – Parents' Evening Appointments



Week Commencing 13th November:

- Anti-Bullying Week
- Monday 13th – School Nursing Team in to see Year 6 pupils for height and weight screening
- Monday 13th – Reception Phonics Information sessions at 2.40pm and 5.30pm
- Friday 17th – Flu Vaccinations

Week Commencing 20th November:

- Thursday 23rd – Individual and Sibling School Photos (out of school siblings are invited to come in for family photos between 8.15 and 9am. In-school siblings will automatically be photographed during the school day)
- Friday 24th – Aquila and Orion class trip to Weston Water Treatment Centre

Foodbank Christmas Appeal

We are currently collecting Christmas food items for the Kingswood Foodbank – we would be grateful for donations of the following items before 23rd November:

Christmas Puddings (alcohol free)	Tinned Potatoes / Veg
Stuffing	Tinned meat (or Vegetarian alternative)
Cranberry Sauce	Chocolates
Christmas Cake	Selection Boxes
Gravy	Advent Calendars



Towards the end of November and throughout December, we will be organising a class-by-class Reverse Advent Calendar where we will be asking families in each class to donate a specific item for the Foodbank that we can pass on to the Foodbank to help replenish their stocks in January. More details about this will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Your support of this vital local service is always appreciated by us, the volunteers and the users of Kingswood Foodbank.

All donations can be left in the collection box in the main foyer.

If you need the support of the Foodbank, please speak to Sarah Webb, Sally King or Mrs Knight who can provide a Foodbank voucher for you.

FAB News

Thank you for your support with the discos and non-uniform days. We made approximately £1500 between the two events which is brilliant. A huge thank you to Mr DJ Harris for stepping up for us too, he was great!

This was the last week for Christmas gift orders. Any orders that have been placed will be handed out before the end of term.

Christmas Fayre

This is taking place on Saturday 2nd December 11am-2pm. We are looking for external stall holders so please share the date if you know someone who may be interested. It is £15 per table and can be booked by emailing friends@abhps.com

To help us with the fair, 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.

I would like to say a big thank you to the people who took the time to contact us in response to Mr Browse's letter. I look forward to meeting you soon.



Library Donations

The library welcomes any donations of unwanted books from home that are in good condition. We would particularly love to receive any Beast Quest Books, Tom Gates, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dogman and graphic novel books so if you have any of these titles that you don't want please send them our way.

Donations can be left with Mrs McDonald in the library.



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

Reception

Moon Class have emailed parents to say – “We always need material for junk modelling especially small cardboard boxes, toilet roll tubes and egg boxes. If you have anything in your recycling box each week we could use, please do send them our way!”

Year 1

New Spelling lists for Term 2 have been sent home this week – you can download a copy here: [Year 1 Spelling List - T2](#)

Also this week, Year 1 are asking for shoe boxes – “As you are aware, this term our inquiry has been 'What a Wonderful World'. As part of the showcase of our learning, we will be creating 3D installations. This involves lots of shoe boxes. If you have any spare shoe boxes, please could you donate these to your class teacher, as soon as possible.”

New – Friday morning Reading:

From **Friday 10th November**, we will be having a reading morning every Friday from 8:45-9:00 where you are welcome to come into class and read with your child.

As reading is such a high priority we thought it would be great to provide an extra opportunity to fit another one of those weekly reads in with your children.

We understand that life is busy and there is no expectation to come but please know that you are very welcome and we would love to have you in our classrooms. Also, if you are unable to make it on a Friday your child will read with a friend/LSA/teacher so will not be left out and you do not need to worry.

On **Friday 17th November** we would also like to invite you to stay for an extra 5- 10 minutes to watch the beginning of our phonics lessons so that we can share with you how we are teaching phonics and early reading.

Please can you make sure that you are reading with your child **at least 3 times a week**, I can't stress enough the importance of this and thank you for your continued support!

Please let your child's class teacher know if you have any questions.

Year 2

New Spelling lists for Term 2 have been sent home this week – you can download a copy here: [Year 2 Spelling List - T2](#)

Year 3

New Spelling lists for Term 2 have been sent home this week – you can download a copy here: [Year 3 Spelling List - T2](#)

Year 3 have also sent some additional information about reading at home:

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives. The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value of reading at home is equally important.

Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better across all school subjects and so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of.

You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read at least 3 times a week (for about 15 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary and comprehension, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books.

To help us track how much reading your child is doing at home, it is important that you or your child logs their reading on BoomReader every time you have listened to them read or they have read independently.

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Year 3

The expectation is that children read at least 3 times a week at home with an adult, so across a 7 week term the aim is for children to have read a total of 21 times. Teachers check the logs and data on BoomReader with the whole class at least twice a week and those children who are hitting their home reading targets get rewarded gems on BoomReader, as well as rewards related to our class reward system for using their diamond power to read at home. The children are also trying to work as a team to be the class with the most amount of children reading at home in Year 3 so that they can win their class a new book to read together.

We understand that life is busy and it can sometimes be difficult to keep up with regular reading and logging of this but please try and create a routine of at least 3, 15 minute slots per week to listen to your child read (if you are able to more this is amazing!) and remember logging reading through BoomReader is a simple couple of clicks on your mobile phone. The app can also be accessed via computers and tablets so your child is also able to log their reading instead if you don't have time.

There are a couple of aspects of using the app that are a little confusing:

- Reads must be logged using the log read button for reading to be logged. Adding a book or clicking to say that a book has been finished does not show up as a read.
- A child's account can be accessed via the info button on the parent app or alternatively children can log in separately via the website (pupil login) or by downloading the pupil app.
- Both parents and children can log reads on the parent or pupil app.
- Children are randomly assigned gems every time they read. The idea is that this adds extra motivation for them as they never know how many they will be given for each read and these gems can then be used to collect cards and add accessories to their 'Boomer'.

[Parent's Guide](#)

[Pupil's Guide](#)

Please do not hesitate to speak with the child's class teacher if you have any queries about reading or are having any difficulty with BoomReader.

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home

Year 4

New Spelling lists for Term 2 have been sent home this week – you can download a copy here: [Year 4 Spelling List - T2](#)

Year 5

New Spelling lists for Term 2 have been sent home this week – you can download a copy here: [Year 5 Spelling List - T2](#)

Year 6

New Spelling lists for Term 2 have been sent home this week – you can download a copy here: [Year 6 Spelling List - T2](#)

Part 3 - Key messages that you might have missed

Space Cadets - Holiday Club

Following a recent financial review of our Holiday Club provision, Governors have agreed the following amendments to our pricing structure from the beginning of January 2024.

- A space in Holiday Club will continue to be charged at £30.00 for a full day. The option to book either an am or pm session has been removed.
- The sibling discount has been reduced to £5. Therefore, each space for an additional child will now cost £25.00.

These decisions are never easy ones to make. However, these changes are necessary in order to secure the financial stability of holiday club. We hope that these adjustments will be manageable for those families who use our holiday club.

Parking

We understand that parking near the school site can be challenging especially when more parents choose to drop-off / collect their children by car. We have had another complaint from the local GP surgery that parents are regularly using the car park to drop off and collect children from school. Many of their patients are elderly and disabled and therefore need to be able to park in the car park as close to the surgery as possible. Parents and carers must not use the surgery's carpark in order to drop off/pick-up children from school. The surgery have informed us that they are going to ask Parking Eye to start to manage the car park again which will mean unauthorised users will be fined £60.00 if they are caught parking in the surgery car park.



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 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.