

Everyone can achieve
Everyone can learn
Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 9

10th 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

Arbor Updates

This week, Arbor have updated some of the features on their App and Parent Portal around payments and visibility of outstanding balances. You can find out more by watching this short video: [Arbor Updates](#)



Reception Phonics Meeting Reminder

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.

Football Match

Well done to our Year 5 & 6 Football Team who won 3-2 against Beacon Rise last Friday!



Flu Vaccines

The school nursing team are in school on Friday 17th November 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>



New Climbing Frame

Thank you to Mr Lea and Mr Murphy (Mr Tom!) for all their hard work in removing the old climbing frame at the beginning of this week. We have really enjoyed watching the new climbing frame take shape and can't wait for the children to start using it next week.

A special thanks to FAB for their fundraising that has allowed us to purchase the new climbing frame.

Mr Browse promises that he will let the children play on it eventually!!



Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

Starting on Monday, we are running a reverse Advent Calendar to support our local Foodbank. We are asking pupils from each class to donate one specific item on a specific day that we can donate to the Foodbank to boost their stocks for January. Each class will display a poster of the item we are asking them to collect and a copy of the full calendar can be found on page 3.



We hope to be able to collect at least 25 of each item that we can pass on at the end of term. Classes will each have a collection box for their donations (items can be donated at any time from Monday until the end of term).

In addition, if you are able to support with any festive items, we would be grateful for donations of the following items which can be left in the main foyer before the 23rd November:

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

Reception Starters 2024

If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, they are due to start school in September 2024 and you must apply for a school place before midnight on 15th 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/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/schools)



Times Table Rockstars England Rocks Event

Air Balloon Hill Primary has enrolled on the Times Table Rockstars England Rocks event! This is a nation-wide competition to find England's most skilled Times Table Rockstars. The top 3 primary classes in the country will each receive an Amazon gift card (1st place is £100!). The event will take place from the **14th to 16th November** from 7.30am to 7.30pm each day. Children can earn points through any game on the website (soundcheck, garage, Rock slam etc). To limit screen time, there is a limit of 60 minutes per day per pupil.



Last year we were 1st in the South West and 7th in the whole country, so we're hoping to beat this achievement this year!

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.



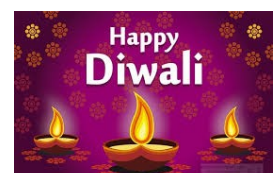
SEN Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to our SEN Coffee Morning on Wednesday. If you were unable to make it but would like a copy of the slides and information that was shared, please click here: <https://www.abhps.com/send-and-inclusion/>



Happy Diwali

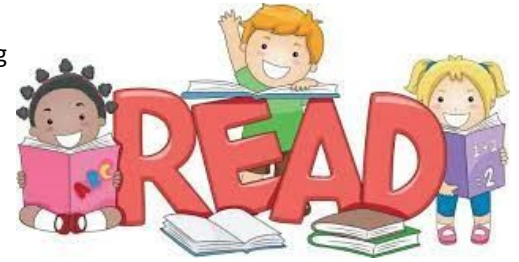
We would like to wish everyone celebrating on Sunday a very happy Diwali.



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 logs are made in reading records every time you have listened to your child read or for children in KS2, they have read independently.

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 reading logs on a weekly basis and children who are hitting their reading targets receive rewards related to class reward systems for using their diamond power to read at home. Each class are also trying to work as a team to be the class with the most amount of children reading at home in their year group 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 with your child of at least 3, 15 minute slots per week for reading (if you are able to do more this is amazing!). Remember reading logs in records don't have to be detailed and children can log their own reading as long as an adult signs their logs at least once a week or lets the class teacher know that they have been reading.

Please do not hesitate to speak with the child's class teacher if you have any queries about reading or you need any extra ideas to get your child motivated to read at home.

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home

Miss L Giles

(Reading Leader)



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	



FAB News

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 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 will go on sale on the 20th November. Tickets are £2.50 each and it will be a first come first served basis. 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.

Speed Limit

Polite notice to parents and carers that Hillside Road has a 20 MPH speed limit. Please adhere to this limit, especially at drop off and end of school time.



Lost Property

Jovi in Sky class has lost his clear framed glasses. If found please return to the school office to be returned to class. Thank you.



Donations wanted

Reception teachers are asking for any donations of spare trousers/skirts and boys/girls pants. (aged 3-4 or 4-5). Please leave any donations at the school office. Thank you.



School Photos

Individual and sibling photographs will be taken on Thursday 23rd November. If your child has PE on Thursdays, please send them into school in their normal uniform on this day. All children should wear their jumper or cardigan as well (and, obviously, their best hair styles and smiles!!).

Out-of-school sibling groups can be photographed from 8.25am in the Messier Hall (access from the top playground). In-school siblings will automatically be called during the day to have their photos taken together (unless you inform the office that you don't want the sibling photo to be taken).



Safeguarding Update

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, which is one of our 'Safe, Kind and Respectful' Weeks. The children will be having a special assembly on Monday to introduce this year's theme, which is 'Make a Noise About Bullying'. Our pupils will be thinking about why it is important to report concerns about bullying. We will also be reflecting on when jokes and 'banter' become bullying.



On **Monday 13th November**, pupils are invited to wear odd socks for the day. This is an opportunity to encourage pupils to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us unique.

If you have any concerns about bullying, you can report this to your child's class teacher. Mrs Knight, our Assistant Head for Pastoral and Safeguarding, oversees our anti-bullying work. You can also contact her via the school office if you are concerned that your child may be being bullied. Pupils are encouraged to speak to a trusted adult or can use the worry box to share a concern with the safeguarding team. Miss James, our Children's Support Worker, is also available to talk to children who have any worries, including those about bullying.

Is it bullying?

What is bullying?

We sometimes call unsafe, unkind, or disrespectful behaviour **bullying**. But, how do you know if it is bullying, or not? Just because someone called you a rude name, it doesn't mean they are a bully.

We know it can seem complicated. That's why we use **STOP** to help us decide if behaviour is bullying or not.

STOP stands for:

Several
Times
On
Purpose

If someone is being unsafe, unkind or disrespectful towards you **several times on purpose** and they know they are hurting you, then it's bullying.

If concerns are raised about unkind, disrespectful or unsafe behaviour, this is investigated to determine if the behaviour is bullying, in line with the definition in our policy (also see above). When incidents of bullying have been identified, several actions will occur. Support will be provided for the person who was the target of bullying. The instigator of the bullying will be subject to consequences/sanctions judged appropriate by the school including support so that his/her behaviour changes. If the behaviour is not determined as bullying, this is responded to using our school behaviour policy. Please contact Mrs Knight if you have any further questions.

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

Reception

Star Class - This week your child has come home with a common exception word matching game. These are high frequency words that will start appearing in their reading books. We call them CEW's because some parts are tricky and we cannot sound out and blend the whole word.

Please play this game as often as possible and any other games that you can think of. This might include hiding them around the house as a treasure hunt. Make it as fun as you can!

We have also introduced the word 'subitising' this week in maths. This is when we say what we can see without counting, e.g. dot patterns on a dice. We have only looked at patterns up to 3 but the children have all been amazing.

Year 1

Earth - From next week, our PE days will be on a Monday for indoor and on a Wednesday for outdoor. This is only a slight change but wanted to make you aware so that the children wear suitable clothing for these sessions. Our library slot will be on a Thursday from next week. Please ensure that the children have their library books to swap.

Year 2

As part of our Inquiry Project children in Year 2 will be designing and creating their own T shirt to advertise our art sale and will also be thinking about how they can be Guardians of animals and their habitats.

To do this, children will need a plain white (or as close to white) t-shirt. This could be an old t-shirt turned inside out or an old polo shirt (or similar). Please can you send your child in with a t-shirt to use by Monday 20th November.

Discovery

Starting from next week, Monday 13th November, PE days will be different.

Tuesday - Indoor PE

Thursday - Outdoor PE

Voyager

From next week, our PE lessons will change to:

Outdoor PE Monday

Indoor PE Thursday

Our Library time will change to a Wednesday.

Year 3

Saturn - As of next week, Monday our class timetable will be changing.

Library Session: Monday

PE: Wednesday- Indoor, Friday- Outdoor

ICT: Thursday

Year 4

Phoenix - Our PE timetable will be changing slightly: Outdoor PE: Tuesday and Indoor PE: Thursday. The children should come into school in PE kit on these days.

Year 6

Aurora: Due to whole-school timetable changes, Aurora's P.E slots are changing dates.

From next week onwards, our slots are:

Outdoor P.E- Tuesday afternoon

Indoor P.E- Thursday afternoon

Aurora class' library slot will remain as Wednesday so continue to please remind children to bring in any books they would like to return on Wednesdays.

Part 3 - Key messages that you might have missed

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.