

Everyone can achieve
Everyone can learn
Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 14

15th December 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,

Before we begin our school holidays, we need to say some sad farewells to some very special members of staff.

Mrs Monk is leaving Air Balloon after teaching here for ten years. During her time here, she has taught across Reception and Key Stage 1. I know that the Year 1 team and especially Mars class children and parents will really miss her as will everyone at Air Balloon. I am sure you all join me in wishing Mrs Monk all the very best for her future and thanks for being such a great member of the Air Balloon team.

Mrs Szost is also leaving us after working at Air Balloon for 21 years. Mrs Szost is known by most of the children here and she has supported a great number of them through her role as LSA and First Aider. Thank you for all of your work at Air Balloon Mrs Szost and we wish you all the very best.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Leonard who, after 28 years, is retiring from her role as First Aider and Mrs Llewellyn who is also retiring from her long-standing role as SMSA. Mrs Llewellyn has worked at Air Balloon for an incredible 36 years although she tells me that these years have flown by. Thank you both for all of your work at Air Balloon over the years.

And finally, Christmas is nearly here. It has been a very busy term with lots going on and lots to celebrate following the hard work that has been going on. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope that you all have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Thank you,
Tim Browse



Christmas Lunch

Thank you to all of the Stratos Galley Staff for another fantastic Christmas Lunch – over 640 lunches served to the children and over 70 to staff. That's an awful lot of turkey and iced Shortbread!!



Back to school

We would like to wish all our families who are celebrating, a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing all of the children back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024!



Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our appeal. We will be delivering all of your donations to the Kingswood Foodbank on Monday and we know they will be incredibly grateful for your generosity.

So far we have counted over 275 items that have been donated!



Sarah's Top Tips

My Family Coach - A lot of children struggle with anxiety. This free webinar will cover the following topics:

- Why some children feel anxious and worried
- Signs that your child may be feeling anxious
- How you can boost their confidence and self-esteem
- When to seek further support and advice



For more information please click [here](#)

Your Holiday Hub Bristol - are offering fully and partly funded play sessions for families who are on means tested benefits. Please see website here www.yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk to book your place.



Bristol Family Blog - records and advertises all of the events going on in and around Bristol. There is also a section with free events which is always useful! For more information please click [here](#)

The Big Ambition Campaign – Have your say!

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England. The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 19th January. Click here for further information and link to the survey: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>



Flu Vaccination Catch-up Clinics

Flu vaccination catch-up clinics are available for all who did not receive their vaccination at school. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/book> to book either nasal or injectable flu vaccinations. If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net



Reception visit to St Georges

On Tuesday some of our Reception children were invited to St Georges Care Home on Kenn Road to sing some of the songs they had sung in their Nativity on Monday. The staff and residents were delighted to see them and joined in with Jingle Bells!



Update on East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood

Councillor Don Alexander, Cabinet Member for transport, has published a guest blog post on The Bristol Mayor's website outlining an update on [Bristol's Liveable Neighbourhoods](#).



People will be aware that Bristol City Council temporarily moved tenants from Barton House on Tuesday 14 November, following a survey which showed that if there was a fire, explosion or large impact then the structure of the building would be at risk.



The council is awaiting the results of an in-depth building survey to make a long-term decision about the future of Barton House and how this might impact the people who live there.

It was originally their plan to run a statutory Traffic Regulation Order consultation on the proposed changes to the roads within the [East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood](#) trial before Christmas, to get further feedback on the proposals.

However, while they – along with community groups, agencies, and volunteers in the area - continue to work to support Barton House residents through this difficult and unsettling time, they have pushed back the consultation until there is more clarity for a long-term decision on Barton House.

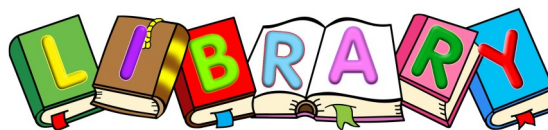
Barton House is in a key area within the Liveable Neighbourhood's proposed boundary. Residents would be impacted by the proposals for trial measures on nearby streets, including two bus gates on Avonvale Road and Marsh Lane.

The Council appreciate that this will be disappointing to many of the residents and organisations who have suggested changes and improvements to the area, but know that they will be understanding given these unique circumstances.

In the meantime, they will continue to work with residents across east Bristol to finalise where to install around 10 new cycle hangars. More details on the cycle hangars will follow in the new year. [Sign up to project news](#) for the latest updates on this.

Library News: This Festive Holiday

Lots of children have chosen books to take home for the holiday. Please can any books that go home be kept in book bags when they are not being read. We do tend to lose a lot of books over the holiday as they get misplaced at home.



If your child comes home with a note about an overdue Library book, please can you let the teacher or the Librarian know if the book is lost / damaged or missing so that we can update our records. It is really appreciated when a lost book is replaced. We have suggested that any book donated from home that you are no longer reading is a great way to replace a lost library book.

The Library is currently looking for donations of any past Football Annuals that you may no-longer want. We still have a shortage of comics and graphic novels, due to so many of them being lost! such as Dog Man, Big Nate and Adventure Time.

A big thank you for all the wonderful books that have been donated to the Library since September. It really is appreciated and it does help to replenish our stock of the most popular books that have not survived being read and re-read by all the children at Air Balloon.

Things to do this holiday?

Stories and recommendations from the Air Balloon Hill YouTube page:

'How the Grinch stole Christmas' read by Mr Browse

Mr Browse reads the festive favourite: How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss. As part of the Air Balloon collection of Stories around the Christmas tree

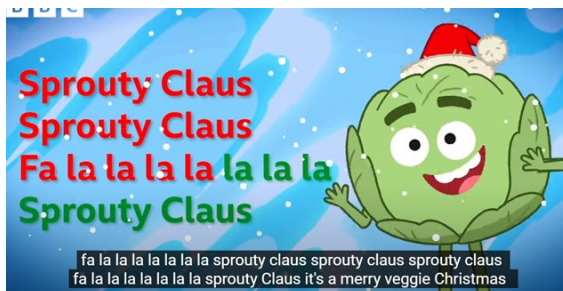
<https://youtu.be/S3VWuUGmu2s?si=myhEe6kqVHbwrEf9>

Check out **Children's Author Christmas Special - Mr Dilly Meets**

https://www.youtube.com/live/mUtt8C190y0?si=Xr_qze1oi7UMwzKv

Have fun with **Supertato Christmas Song, Sprouty Claus**

<https://youtu.be/373nUzQWho8?si=5uQSIP85N3TwwKkq>



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

No news this week

Part 3 - Key messages that you might have missed

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/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)



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.