

Everyone can achieve

Everyone can learn

Everyone belongs

**Air Balloon Hill Primary School**

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## Newsletter 15

5th January 2024

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

Hello,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school in 2024! I hope you all had a lovely holiday and didn't find the first morning of the school day too early an awakening!

I am very pleased to be able to share with you our latest Ofsted report following their visit last November. It was a positive – yet rigorous and thorough – experience and I am very happy to report that Air Balloon Hill Primary School continues to be a **good** school.

The report may not be very long but we all feel that it accurately captures the spirit of our school

and recognises what we do well and what it is like to be part of our school community.

Thanks to everyone – staff, children, governors, FAB, parents – who help to make Air Balloon the school that it is. We should all feel very proud that our hard work has been recognised. That said... the work never stops, so, enjoy the weekend and see you all on Monday.

Thank you,

Tim Browse

### Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our Christmas appeal – we delivered an entire car-full of boxes on the Monday before Christmas and the volunteers were overwhelmed by your generosity. In total, we delivered 462 items – including 31 tins of potatoes, 21 cartons of milk, 44 tins of vegetables, 28 tubes of toothpaste and 49 tins of Rice Pudding.

We continue to collect food throughout the year and donations can be put in the black box in the main foyer.



### Medical Conditions

If your child develops a new medical condition or allergy or has a change in their current one, please make sure the school is updated as soon as possible. You can do this by emailing us - [airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk) or by speaking to the office or Miss Nash in the Welfare Room.



### SEND Coffee Morning

We will be holding a SEN Coffee Morning on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 9am in partnership with Bristol Parent Carer Forum. Everyone is invited to come along and meet other parents, carers and support staff to find out more about support available locally for children with special educational needs and disabilities.



### Emails

Can we ask that when emailing the school, you include your child's name and class in the subject title. This helps us to direct the email to the most relevant member of staff. Thank you.



## Attendance

We know that in January, many families start to think about summer holidays and we know that with the current cost of living, some families may be tempted to make use of cheaper holidays during term-time. We therefore wanted to take this opportunity to remind all of our families of our attendance policy.



Our school attendance policy is clear that the cheaper cost of holidays in term-time is not a reason for absence that can be authorised, and as for any absences from school which have not been authorised, penalty notices may be issued.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that any leave will be authorised by the Headteacher. However, any request should be put in writing. Term-time Leave Request Forms are available from the foyer, please contact us on 0117 903 0077 or email [airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk) if you have any questions. 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).

Parents/carers are reminded that any unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice or prosecution. However, every attempt to resolve parent and carers' concerns and improve a child's attendance will be made before any formal action is considered. When an absence is initially reported as an illness but we subsequently discover that the absence was for a term-time holiday, penalty notices will be issued. It is important that if you have concerns regarding your child's attendance you speak to your child's teacher or a member of the school's Attendance Team - Mrs Knight, Mrs Stone or Mrs King.

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 \(abhps.com\)](#)

Term dates for the rest of the year can be found in Part 3 of the newsletter and also on our website: <https://www.abhps.com/term-dates/>

### Sarah's Top Tips



Foodcycle is a local service run by lovely volunteers who collect unwanted food from various local sources. They then turn it into three course cooked meals, twice a week. If you are looking for something to keep you busy they are always looking for volunteers. It is also a really lovely way to spend time with your family, 'eating out' in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. You won't be asked for any proof of income or asked any personal questions. All family members welcome.

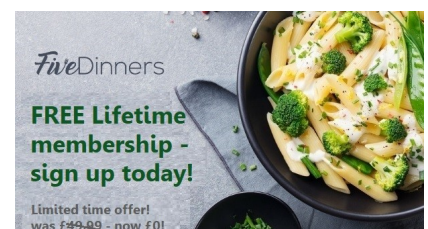


We receive free weekly food bags from a local organisation called United Response and can also issue food bank vouchers. Please speak to a member of staff or call me on the main school line on 0117 9030077 or text me on 07469029470 if you would like any more information or support for your family.



A very useful app for sharing (not just food!) is Olio. If you're not already using it, why not have a look! For more information please click [here](#)

Five Dinners is a programme on Channel Four with TV chef Theo Michaels. He recently got in contact to offer free lifetime membership to his website where you can access recipes and meal planning. Planning ahead for the week/two weeks or a month can help use up all food in the house and prevent buying more than we need as well as saving money.



If you would like any support around any of these topics, please get in touch.

Sarah Webb



**VOLUNTEER**

# BOOK BUDDIES

Could YOU be a reading volunteer?

We are looking for dedicated and motivated parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, who can commit to an hour a week to read with our Book Buddy children. We offer full training, support and sometimes tea and biscuits!

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact:

Becky Cox

[bookbuddies@abhps.com](mailto:bookbuddies@abhps.com)

01179030077 ext.258

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.

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

**AN ENHANCED DBS CHECK  
IS REQUIRED**



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

### Whole School

Reminder that the Community Policing Team have sent a letter to all parents and carers regarding parking outside of the school – particularly on the zig-zags:

*We have had an increasing number of reports of drivers parking on the yellow zig zags outside of the school. By parking on these lines, you can incur points on your licence and a fine. You are also posing a danger/risk to children leaving the school premises as by parking on these lines you are obstructing the view for children crossing the road.*

*This is a polite reminder/warning not to park inconsiderately. The local neighbourhood policing team will be patrolling at school drop off and pick up times to issue any tickets if deemed necessary.*

*Further issues have been raised regarding parking in the doctor's surgery and care home. These car parks are not to be used by parents during school pick up and drop off times. They are for use only for those using the service.*

Yours faithfully

St George Neighbourhood Policing Team

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

**Year 1**

This week, Year 1 have sent out their Spelling Bee lists - you can download a copy here: [Year 1 Spelling Bee](#)

**Year 2**

This week, Year 2 have sent out their Spelling Bee lists - you can download a copy here: [Year 2 Spelling Bee](#)

**Year 3**

This week, Year 3 have sent out their Spelling Bee lists - you can download a copy here: [Year 3 Spelling Bee](#)

**Year 4**

This week, Year 4 have sent out their Spelling Bee lists - you can download a copy here: [Year 4 Spelling Bee](#)

## 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 \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)

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



**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**

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.