Everyone can achieve

Everyone can learn

Everyone belongs

Air Balloon Hill Primary School

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Newsletter 01

11th September 2026

Message from Mr Browse

Hello,

Welcome back to school! I hope you (and your children) have enjoyed the first week of the new academic year. I've really enjoyed seeing everyone and catching up with their summer tales. It has been an excellent start to the new year. The school has been lovely, calm and purposeful with the children getting stuck into their learning and playing nicely with all of their friends. If you are new to Air Balloon, I hope you have been made to feel welcome and are feeling settled into your new school – it's great to have you here.

As always, the newsletter will be your main source of what's going on in school so please do take the time to read it to stay updated. By the end of Term 1, we will have shared a school community events calendar and will be looking to start a parent community group who can volunteer and help with community events. Stay tuned for more information on this.

During the week beginning 21st September, we will be holding our year group open evenings for Years 1 to 6. These are an opportunity for you to meet the teachers for a formal introduction to the year and will include an invite into the classrooms to see some of the early work that is going on in class as well as to discuss key matters about the year ahead. I would strongly urge parents and carers to attend these sessions as, like last year, our first official parent evening will not take place until after Christmas. So, these open evenings are a great opportunity to get to know the staff working with your children early doors.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and see you next week.

Thank you,

Tim Browse

Gem Certificates



Celebration Assembly is to recognise pupils who have demonstrated exemplary use of their gem powers. Pupils from each class receive a gem certificate to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to the following pupils who were celebrated this week:



Year 1 - Maya, Jack Br, Amir Mo, Amir Mi, Ezra, Piper, Obaloluwa and Crue



Year 2 - Nahom, Natalia, Owen, Rawaan, Ella, Arlo, Dream and Dylan

Year 3 - Sophie N, Bertie, Robin, Abel, Georgie, Bruno, Alex and Renneyah



Year 4 - Eleanor, Anna, Josie, Charlie, Isaac and Kamilah

Year 5 - Khalief, Thalia, Sebastian CH, Daro, Jack, Emily, Verity, Jasper and Charlie P



Year 6 - Jasper, Ella, Georgia, Nsika, Mia N, Kaii, Annabel, Aneurin and Lola

Morning Timings

A reminder that children should be at their lining up locations by 8:40am - the time when teachers come out to meet and greet the children and parents/carers. We aim to get children into school, ready for registration, at 8:45am so please ensure your children are on time. Please also note that, apart from the office and foyer, parents are not permitted into the building (corridors, halls and classrooms) when they bring their child to school. This can really impact on us being able to start the day's activities and learning on time.

Free School Meals - Changes to entitlement



As you may have heard, eligibility to Free School Meals has changed. Now all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive free school meals.

There are now 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing income threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.

Expanded FSM, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

These changes mean that more pupils may be eligible to receive a free school meal and so we are asking **all** families to complete the eligibility checker form so that we can find out if your child is eligible.

You can complete the online form here: Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Checker Form 2026 – Fill in form and we will check your child's eligibility. Alternatively, you can complete a paper form which can be collected from the main foyer and returned to the school office.

You only need to complete the form once, and your child's eligibility will be re-checked every year.

If you have any questions about the Free School Meals Changes or the form, please speak to a member of staff in the school office.

Walking to and from school alone



Every September we know many of our Year 6 (and some Year 5) pupils want to start walking to and from school alone in preparation for going to secondary school. Ensuring that your child arrives at school safely and offering you peace of mind when your child walks to school alone is extremely important. To do this, we will always check their names in the register first and if they have not arrived, we will telephone you. We also ask that if they are absent for any reason, you leave a message on the school absence line before 9am each day, so that we know not to expect them and that they are safe.

If your child walks to school or home alone, we recommend that you talk to them about how to stay safe and what to do if they feel unsafe i.e. returning to school, going to a neighbour, or calling an adult.

Flu Vaccines



The annual flu vaccination programme is scheduled to be carried out in school for all children on the Monday 2nd November, for children who have consent for the vaccination. To sign up for your child to receive the vaccine please click: https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2026/consent?v=3 or scan the QR code below:

Have you updated your contact Information?



Have you changed or updated your phone number or address over the summer? If so, please remember to update us. You can either do this on the Arbor App or using a paper form which is available in the main foyer.

Mobile Phone Policy: a reminder

At the start of the academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of our school mobile phone policy. **No pupils are allowed to bring an internet enabled smartphone onto the school site.**

Pupils who walk to or from school alone may bring a **non-internet enabled phone** (a basic phone without internet or apps). These phones must be handed in each morning and will be stored in the school office.

Attendance

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.

Attendance Legislation includes:

- Fines for absences are £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days. This applies to absences of 5 or more days (10 sessions) in a rolling 10-week period. Only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. If a second fine is issued this will automatically be charged at £160. If there is a third period of absence which would previously have incurred a fine, alternative action would be taken – most likely prosecution which is a more formal legal action.
- Specific guidance on what constitutes an exceptional circumstance . The DFE states "Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance."

You can find a copy of the School's Attendance Policy here: Attendance-Policy-September-2024.pdf. For more details about Penalty Notices issued by Bristol City Council, please view their information leaflet here: PN-leaflet-2024-FINAL.pdf.

Reception Classes

We hope that our new Reception children have enjoyed their first days at school, and are looking forward to coming back next week. We will be sending out information next week on who your child's key worker is, and have sent information about the Reception Parents meetings taking place on the days that children stay for lunch (between 17th and 23rd September). Information on how to book your appointment was included in the email but if you have any questions or need help tp book an appointment, please speak to a member of staff in the school office.

Information has also been sent out about the Reception Baseline Assessments that wil be taking place in the coming weeks. More information can be found here: Reception baseline assessment: information for parents

Please remember during these first transition weeks, if you are dropping off, or picking up your child in the middle of the school day access to the Reception classes is via the green side gate in the lane that runs alongside the school.

Acceptable Break Time Snacks

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will continue to receive a piece of fruit or a vegetable for their break time snack. For children in Key Stage 2, we ask that they bring in a healthy snack for break (no crisps or chocolate).

Below are some ideas for healthier break time snacks:

- Whole or sliced fruit
- Vegetable sticks, e.g, celery, carrot, pepper and cucumber
- Plain popcorn
- Breadsticks
- Yogurt

No cereal bars, cake bars, crisps or items containing nuts please.



Year 6 - Important Information about Year 7 Applications



Although children are only just starting Year 6, we need to inform you that the deadline to apply for a secondary school place for September 2027 is **midnight on 31st October 2026**. Online applications are open from the Friday 12th September 2025 via the Council's website: Apply for a new year 7 secondary school place (or if you are a South Glos resident: South Glos LIFE | Apply online for a school place)

We have confirmed the key open event information for local school websites and have added this on to the Year 6 page of our school website: https://www.abhps.com/year-6/

Please take some time to look at the open event information for the schools - many of them are happening very soon, within the next few weeks. We would recommend that you look around as many schools as possible in order to help you and your child make an informed decision about where they would like to go after Air Balloon.

We will be holding a Parents' Information Session shortly (details to follow) to outline the admissions process and answer any questions you may have on applying for secondary school places. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs King in the school office.

Term Dates 2026/27

To assist parents/carers to book holidays and arrange other events please find detailed below the term dates and inset days for this academic year:



Term 1: Thursday 3 September 2026 to Friday 23 October 2026
Term 2: Monday 2 November 2026 to Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3: Monday 4 January 2027 to Friday 12 February 2027
Term 4: Monday 22 February 2027 to Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5: Monday 12 April 2027 to Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6: Monday 7 June 2027 to Friday 23 July 2027

Inset Days:
Thursday 3rd September 2026
Friday 4th September 2026
Wednesday 2nd December 2026
Thursday 25th March 2027
Wednesday 7th July 2027
School will also be closed on Monday 3 May 2027 for the Early May Bank Holiday

For details on 2026/27 term dates: BCC-school-term-dates-2026-to-2027.pdf

If you want to be really organised, you can find the term dates for 2027/28 here: BCC School Term Dates 2027 2028

Bristol Parent Carer Forum

Support for Families

Bristol Parent Carers - A charity that support families and provides free peer support, information and training for families and opportunities to contribute to the development of local SEND services. www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk

Bristol's Local Offer - A free online hub containing details of services, support, and advice available for children and young people with SEND in Bristol. www.bristol.gov.uk/local-offer

More information about what support is available during September care be found on Page 6



Key Dates for Term 1

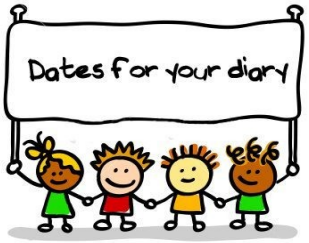
17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd September - Reception Parents Meeting (book via Arbor)

Wednesday 23rd September: SEND Coffee Morning at 9.30am

Thursday 24th September: Reception 2027 Open Event - 9:45am (to book a space, click here: Air Balloon Reception 2027)

Tuesday 22nd September: Year 1 - Welcome to Yr 1 Open Evening - 3:40pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 22nd September: Year 4 - Welcome to Yr 4 Open Evening - 4:30pm - 5:30pm



Wednesday 23rd September: Year 2 - Welcome to Yr 2 Open Evening - 3:40pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 23rd September: Year 5 - Welcome to Yr 5 Opening Evening - 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 24th September: Year 3 - Welcome to Yr 3 Open Evening: 3:40pm - 4:30pm

Thursday 24th September: Year 6 - Welcome to Yr 6 Open Evening: 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 1st October: National Poetry Day

Thursday 8th October: Harvest Festival (Tins and food donations for East Bristol Foodbank)

Tuesday 13th October: Reception 2027 Open Event - 9:45am (to book a space, click here: Air Balloon Reception 2027)

Saturday 31st October: Deadline to apply for Secondary school places (Year 6 pupils)

Other Key Dates for your diary:

Inset Day—Wednesday 2nd December

Winter Disco planned for Thursday 3rd December

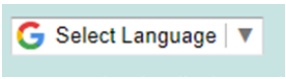
Year 6

Look out for letters coming home next week about how to book for Year 6 Camp and Day Trips. Also details about how to order Year 6 Hoodies (for delivery in December)



Accessing the school newsletter

Did you know that the school newsletter can be translated into 130 different languages on our website? To access the newsletter in a different language, visit https://www.abhps.com/newsletters/, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on this icon:



Choose the language you prefer and the whole page will be translated by Google.

Remember, you can view all pages on the website in a different language by clicking on this option at the bottom of every page.

In addition, if you would prefer to have any information on the website in audio-format, this is also now available (on desk-top or laptop computers only – not currently available on mobile devices). To hear any information, you currently need to access the website using **Google Chrome**. On the website, highlight any section of text then right-click on your mouse and select **Read Aloud Section** to hear the information.

If you are unable to access the email or website copies of the newsletter and need to receive a paper, please speak to the School office who will be able to arrange this for you.

Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

PRACTITIONER LED SESSIONS TERM 1

Supporting families who need extra help

At Bristol Parent Carers, we understand that parenting a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can sometimes feel challenging and overwhelming.

That's why we offer FREE sessions for families. Some are even recorded.

- UNDERSTAND your child's needs
- BUILD CONFIDENCE in supporting your child
- LEARN practical strategies and approaches
- CONNECT with professionals and other parents

We know that being a SEND parent comes with unique challenges, and we want to help lighten the load by giving you access to as many tools, skills and sources of support as possible.

You don't have to do it alone.

- **Sept 10** EHCP Phase Transfer Reviews — Online, 7-8:30PM
- **Sept 17** Navigating Support in School Without an EHCP — Online, 7-8:30PM
- **Sept 23** School Based Anxiety and School Trauma, incl EBSA — Online, 7-8:30PM
- **Sept 24** A Guide to Support, Services and Speaking Up — Greenway Centre, BS10, 10AM-12PM
- **Sept 28** Neurodiversity Without a Diagnosis — Online, 7-8:30PM
- **Oct 6** Understanding Autism, ADHD and AuDHD — Online, 6:30-8:30PM
- **Oct 12** Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and other Specific Learning Differences — Online, 7-9PM
- **Oct 19** School Transitions with Confidence and Calm — Online, 12-2PM

Scan here to book your FREE session

https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp

Need BSL or support with English? Just let us know when you book.

Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

Free support for parent carers this September

- **3** Navigation & Nurture — Peer Support Complex needs — St Anne's House, BS4, 10AM-12PM
- **10** Peer Support with SEND and You — Symes Centre, BS13, 12.30-2PM
- **10** EHCPs Phase Transfer Reviews — Gatehouse Centre BS13, 9.15-10.45AM



- **15** Hartcliffe & Withywood: Early Listening, Stronger Outcomes — Gatehouse Centre, BS13, 9.15-10.45AM
- **16** Peer Support — Bus fair refunded, Children welcome — Greenway Centre, BS10, 9.30-11AM
- **17** SEND together Peer Support Global Majority — Junction 3 Library, BS5, 10AM-12PM



- **17** Navigating Support in School Without an EHCP — Online, 7-8.30PM
- **21** Peer Support — Bus fair refunded, Children welcome — Fishponds Old Library, 9-11AM
- **23** School Based Anxiety & School Trauma — Online, 7-8.30PM



- **24** A Guide to Support, Services & Speaking Up for your Child — Greenway Centre, BS10, 10AM-12PM
- **28** Peer Support — Bus fair refunded, Children welcome — Inns Court, BS4, 10.30AM-12.30PM
- **28** Neurodiversity Without a Diagnosis — Online, 7-8.30PM

Book your free session scan here

https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp

Need BSL or an interpreter? Let us know when you book.

Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

Bezpłatne wsparcie dla rodziców-opiekunów we wrześniu

- **3** Nawigacja i pielęgnacja — Wsparcie rówieśnicze, Złożone potrzeby — St Anne's House, BS4, 10AM-12PM
- **10** Wsparcie rówieśnicze z SEND and You — Symes Centre, BS13, 12.30-2PM
- **10** Rercenzja fazowego transferu EHCP — Gatehouse Centre BS13, 9.15-10.45AM



- **15** Hartcliffe i Withywood: Wczesne słuchanie, lepsze rezultaty — Gatehouse Centre, BS13, 9.15-10.45AM
- **16** Wsparcie rówieśnicze — Zwrot kosztów biletu autobusowego, Dzieci mile widziane — Greenway Centre, BS10, 9.30-11AM
- **17** SEND razem Wsparcie rówieśnicze Global Majority — Junction 3 Library, BS5, 10AM-12PM



- **17** Nawigacja wsparciem w szkole bez EHCP — W sieci, 7-8.30PM
- **21** Wsparcie rówieśnicze — Zwrot kosztów biletu autobusowego, Dzieci mile widziane — Fishponds Old Library, 9-11AM
- **23** Lęk szkolny i trauma szkolna — W sieci, 7-8.30PM



- **24** Przewodnik po wsparciu, usługach i zabieraniu głosu w imieniu swojego dziecka — Greenway Centre, BS10, 10AM-12PM
- **28** Wsparcie rówieśnicze — Zwrot kosztów biletu autobusowego, Dzieci mile widziane — Inns Court, BS4, 10.30AM-12.30PM
- **28** Neuroróżnorodność bez diagnozy — W sieci, 7-8.30PM

Book your free session scan here

https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp

Need BSL or an interpreter? Let us know when you book.

Bristol Parent Carer Forum
Shaping the Future Together

KKulammo taageero oo bilaash ah, kuwa onleen ah iyo fool ka fool.

- Taageerada assgaa, Hagid iyo Daryeel — St Anne's House Khamiis 3da Sebteembar 10 subaxnimo - 12 duhurnimo; Xarunta SAY Symes Khamiis 10ka Sebtembar 12:30-2PM; Xarunta Greenway Arbacada 16ka Sebtembar 9:30-11 subaxnimo
- Dib u eegista Wareejinta Wajiga EHCP — Online, Khamiis 10 Sebtembar 7-8:30 galabnimo



- Hartcliffe & Withywood: Dhageysi Hore, Natiijooyin Xoog Badan — Xarunta Albaabka, Talaado 15 Sebtembar 9.15-10.45 subaxnimo



- Hagaajinta Taageerada Dugsiga iyada oo aan lahayn EHCP — Online, Khamiis 17 Sebtembar 7-8:30 galabnimo



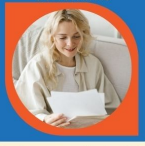
Halkan ka iskaan garee si aad u aragto faahfaahinta kulammadan iyo kuwo kale.

https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp

- Taageerad assaga — Bulshooyinka Kala Duwan, Junction 3 Library, Khamiis 17 Sebtembar 10 subaxnimo - 12 duhurnimo; Old library Fishponds Isniinta 21 Sebtembar 9-11 suzbaxnimo; Inna Court Talaadada 22 Sebtembar 10:30 subaxnimo - 12:30 duhurnimo
- EBSA & Dhaawaca Dugsiga — Online, Arbaco 23 Sebtembar 7-8:30 galabnimo



- Tilmaamaha Taageerada, Adeegyada iyo U Hadlida Ilmahaaga — Xarunta Greenway, Khamiis 24 Sebtembar 10 subaxnimo - 12 duhurnimo



- Kala duwanaanshaha neerfaha iyada oo aan la helin baaritaan — Online, Isniin 28 Sebtembar 7-8:30 galabnimo



Taageero BSL ama luqado kale ayaa la heli karaa, fadlan nala soo xiriir; info@bristolparentcarers.org.uk

BRISTOL FLYERS COMMUNITY HUB SESSIONS

VENUE: Hillfields Park Community Centre, BS16 4EH

DAY: Tuesday

TIME: 5pm - 6pm Primary, 6pm - 7pm Girls Only, 7pm - 8pm Secondary students

FROM SEPTEMBER 8TH 2026

Delivered by expert coaches. All abilities welcome.
Basketball focusing on developing skills, game play and fun.



BRISTOL Flyers COMMUNITY

STAY UP TO DATE

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Community@bristolflyers.co.uk

