Everyone can achieve

Everyone can learn

Everyone belongs

**Air Balloon Hill Primary School**

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# Newsletter 04

## 2nd October 2026

**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 - Lowen, Colby, Jakub, Georgie, Matthew and Ava



Year 2 - Zara, Josiah, Gurmehar, Archer, Cassius, Marnie, Kailani and Archie

Year 3 - Reggie, Esme, Dylan, Mira, Aadam, Hanna, George and Sophie



Year 4 - Great, Ola N, Isaac, Max, Moses and Arabella

Year 5 - Dot, Luca, Bella, Matilda, Nicholas, Sophia Ay, Jack and Cooper



Year 6 - Arya, Mia, Ellie, Leon, Ayman, Rio, Ibrahim and Ethan G

**Black History Month and National Poetry Day**

We celebrated the start of Black History Month on Monday which runs throughout the month of October. The theme this year is 'Honouring our Communities' so was the perfect opportunity to share with the children the story of the Bristol Bus Boycott in 1963 and how, among others, Paul Stephenson worked to bring about changes in equality laws to help make Bristol – and the entire country - a fairer place to live.

Thursday was National Poetry Day and each assembly hall studied a different Black Poet. Year 1 and Year 2 explored the poetry of Valerie Bloom, Year 3 and Year 4 learnt about the poetry of John Agard and Year 5 and Year 6 read poems by Joseph Coelho. The children really enjoyed the work of these poets and will help set the tone for our Poetry Slam next Wednesday afternoon. I can't wait to see (and hear) some of the children's performances!

As Black History Month continues, we will also be exploring influential figures from the Black Community who have helped make the world a better place linked to the children's Inquiry Projects. We have sought to make our curriculum diverse and representative of our community the whole year long – not just for one month of the year – but October is a great time for us to showcase the diversity of curriculum whilst also acknowledging the key themes of Black History Month.

**Parking**

We have received complaints from the local GP surgery and Residential Care Home about parents using their parking facilities during drop-off and pick-up times. Please be aware that only patients with appointments must use the GP surgery car park. It is not a public carpark and parents must not use the surgery carpark when dropping-off or collecting children from school. The GP surgery carpark is private property with CCTV and they will take the appropriate action if unauthorised vehicles are in the carpark and preventing patients from attending their appointments.

Similarly, the Residential Care Home is private property and their carpark must not be used, or their entrance be blocked, by non-residents or visitors. Doing so risks preventing the emergency services attending the care home which could prove fatal for residents.

Likewise, parents must not park on the yellow zig-zags outside of the school to help keep children and families safe as they walk to and from school.

We appreciate that parking can be a challenge at Air Balloon but using these unauthorised options is not acceptable. We kindly request that parents and carers respect our neighbours and park responsibly in the surrounding area during drop-off and pick-up times.

**Climbing Frame**

To help keep all of our children safe, we kindly ask parents and carers not to allow children to play on the climbing frame behind the ball court before or after school. The signs displayed on the ball court fence are a reminder that this equipment is only to be used when children are supervised by school staff. We know the equipment is tempting and that children are often keen to have one last play at the end of the day, but following this guidance helps us ensure everyone remains safe. We would also be grateful if families could leave the school site promptly after collection, as this allows our Site Team to secure the premises and lock the gates in a timely manner. Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation.

**The Children's Commissioner Survey**




The Children's Commissioner for England wants to speak to the Government about what children and young people want for their futures. To help her, it would be great if as many Air Balloon children completed this survey to share their views. https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture/

**Harvest**




Our Harvest celebrations will be taking place on Thursday 8th October and we are again collecting donations for the local Foodbank. You can find out more about the work they do in this short video: https://youtu.be/w6zP-b7jq8s.

It would be lovely if your child was able to bring in their donation on Thursday 8th October to bring into assembly but we will be collecting all week and will have table in the foyer for donations during week commencing 5th October if you would prefer to bring in items earlier. We would really appreciate donations of any of the following items:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Long Life Fruit Juice | Pasta | Tinned Meat or Veggie Meals | Crisps |
| Tinned Potatoes | Tea bags | Shampoo | UHT Milk |
| Deodorant | Instant coffee | Washing Up Liquid | Tinned soups |
| Soap | Tinned beans | Biscuits | Instant noodles |
| Nappies | Tinned Veg | Rice | Tinned Pasta (e.g. hoops) |

Before you gather your donations, please remember these important guidelines:

1. ****It has to be in date**** - Please check expiration dates and dispose of any items that are past their best.

2. ****It has to be unopened**** – Please only donate items that are sealed and unused.

3. ****It has to be long-life**** – The Foodbank can only accept items which don't require storing in a fridge.

If you can add one or two extra items to your shopping over the next couple of weeks to donate to our collection boxes, we would be very grateful.

Thank you for your support.




**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:

**Speech and Language**

We have received a grant to improve speech and language support at Air Balloon. TALK SLT will be working with staff to deliver training and practical classroom strategies. Please tell us what you think of our current provision by completing this brief form — your feedback matters.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd8OxIRY4HvqYakd3uyx4Zj1IO5gWCmPvuxuIm2eTQgXhh1A/viewform

**Class Fundraising 2026 Christmas Project**

## Reminder—Monday at 9am is the deadline to hand in your completed card templates to the school office

We will then collate them all and send them off to be scanned in with the printer. A few days later, you will receive a personalised order form which you can use to order your cards, wrapping paper, tea towels and many more items directly from the supplier. For every order placed, the school will receive a 25% commission which will be used to enhance some of our play equipment.

We have a limited number of stencils available if you would like one for your child to use as a template - Star, Tree, Stocking and Bauble - please ask for one at the school office. This may be useful for children in Reception and Year 1.

Top tips:

- Make sure the design is large on the template and in the centre (the template represents the whole of the front of the card)
- Make sure the design is bold - press firmly with crayons and pencils
- Try not to add writing or images too close to the edges (ideally keep a finger-space gap all around)
- If your child is sticking their design to the template sheet, that's fine but make sure it lines up with the edges of the sheet
- Do not photocopy your template - each sheet has a unique code at the top - if you need another template or a replacement, please ask at the school office.
- Don't use metallic or glossy paper, glitter, fluorescent colours, staples or cellotape
- If you are using pencil crayons, make sure to press firmly
- Try to keep the template flat to avoid creases!
- Designs need to be portrait (not landscape)

**The deadline for art-work to be returned to the school office / Class teacher is 9am on Monday 5th October.** We are unable to accept any designs handed in after this time due to the tight print schedule.

Design samples and order forms will be returned to you by Friday 9th October

**Deadline to place an order is 12 noon on Wednesday 21st October**

Orders will be delivered after half-term. If you have any questions about this fundraising opportunity or need an extra template or a stencil, please ask at the school office.

**Free School Meals - Reminder to Apply**




**UPDATE—All pupils who are eligible to Free School Meals will receive a £15 voucher to support with the cost of food over the October Half-Term holiday. Complete the form below now to check if your child is eligible so you don't miss out.**

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.

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

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.

**If you have not already completed the Free School Meals Application Form, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible so that if your child is eligible, we can provide them with a free meal.**

**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

**Key Dates for Term 1**

**Wednesday 14th 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

**Pupil Leadership**

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new Year 6 Pupil Leadership positions. These roles will give pupils the opportunity to step up and take on meaningful responsibilities, supporting our younger children whilst demonstrating their gem powers in the most positive ways possible. Pupils were invited to apply for either Pupil Guardian or Sports Leader roles and were subject to a rigorous section and interview process. We had a very positive response and we would like to thank all pupils who applied.

**Pupil Guardians**

We are pleased to announce the following Y6 pupils as being selected as Pupil Guardians. We know that they will be fantastic at promoting gem powers and providing peer support to our younger pupils. We can't wait to start their training and hearing their voice on key school issues, including our ongoing commitment to tackling bullying

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Peter | Sumaya | Mia | Olive |
| Tomasz | Ella | Maya | Paige |
| Taze | Kayden | Grayson | Ben |
| Aishmeen | Vaishnavi | Kamiah | Evelyn |
| Areej | Mia | Dolcie | Arthur |
| Mahtab | Aiden | Lola | Ethelyn |
| Mariana | Evelyn | Posey | Kyra |

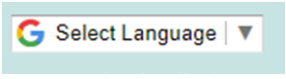
**Sports Leaders**

Our new Sports Leaders will be accessing our Commando Joes training program to deliver high-quality, engaging games and activities for our younger pupils. Full of energy and enthusiasm, our leaders are eager to develop their skills by drawing on their Ruby and Emerald Powers. Congratulations to all of them—we can't wait to see the positive impact they'll make!

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nskika | Lara | Phoebe | Annie |
| Darin | Miles | Abdihakim | Efa |
| Nieve | Ibrahim | Caitlin | Poppy |
| Bethany | Jago | Owen | Sonny |
| Rio | Angelina | Georgia | Reuben |

**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.

# Could you tell if your child was being **exploited online?**

Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

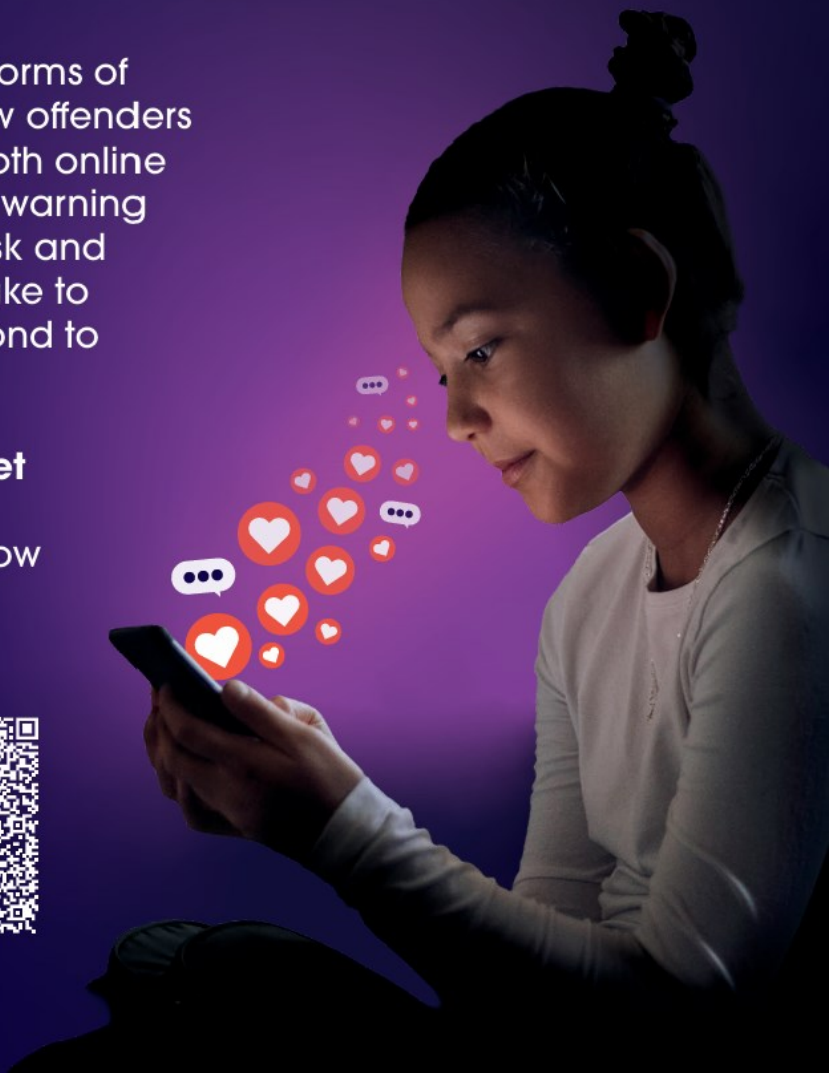
**29 September** 19:00 - 20:30pm **06 October** 13:00 - 14:30pm

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

**29 Sept**

**06 Oct**




30TH OCTOBER
FRIDAY
nyksnaks
PRESENTS
HALLOWEEN
NIGHT FEST
Trick or Treat
CHILDREN AND FAMILY WELCOME!
4PM - 7PM
EASTON
COMMUNITY CENTRE
KILBURN STREET,
B55 6AW
TICKET PRICES:
£6 CHILD
£3 ADULT
KIDS UNDER 2 FREE
£12 FAMILY TICKET
2 CHILDREN + 2 ADULTS
COSTUME COMPETITION
DRESS UP & SHOW US YOUR SPOOKTACULAR STYLE!
TUCK SHOP & REFRESHMENTS ON SALE
TREATS, PRIZES AND MORE!
Catering by
One Dinnerz
HOT FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
DM INSTAGRAM OR FACEBOOK TO BOOK!
Instagram: nyksnaks_
Facebook: nyksnaks
OR EMAIL TO BOOK AT
nyksnaksparty@gmail.com