Newsletter – 08

6th November 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 – Joan, Adam, Beau, Surayyah, Ariella, Jackie, Hazel and Yahya
Year 2 – Kikie, Marley, Rhys, Hector, Juan, Rainnie, Bodhi and Jeswin
Year 3 – Leo, Fred, Felix, Bella P, Nuuh, Eli, Aaliyah and Mira
Year 4 – Fahad, Delilah, Kamilah, Thomas, Ronnie, Moses, Othman and Kacper
Year 5 – Gabbi, Sylvie, Nora, Nyiah, Ena-Mai, Liesl, Nathan and George
Year 6 – Arya, Rafael, Owen, Erica, Mia T, Miles, Hafsa and Adam

Internet Update

As you will be aware, Bristol City Council's IT team is currently investigating a cyber-security incident which has impacted many schools across the city. Mr Browse wrote to parents and carers earlier in the week with a letter from the Council regarding the incident.

At this stage, Bristol City Council do not believe that Air Balloon was impacted by the data theft however, they are advising all parents and carers to be extra vigilant and have offered the following advice:

- Be cautious of unexpected emails, text messages or phone calls, even if they appear to come from a trusted organisation. Criminals may use information from a data theft to make their messages look genuine.
- Do not click links or open attachments in messages you are not expecting. If you need to contact an organisation, use contact details from its official website rather than those included in a message.
- Be particularly wary of messages asking you to:
  - Reset your password;
  - Verify account details;
  - Provide personal or financial information;
  - Claim compensation; or
  - Take urgent action within a short timeframe



Reporting suspicious messages

If you receive a suspicious message:

• Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk
• Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 (free of charge).
• If you receive a suspicious phone call, hang up and contact the organisation directly using trusted contact details.
• If someone claiming to be from your bank contacts you unexpectedly, end the call and contact your bank using the number on the back of your card, through your banking app, or by calling 159 to be connected safely to your bank

Contact

Air Balloon Hill Primary School
Hillside Road, St George, Bristol, BS5 7PB
0117 903 0077
airballoonhillp@bristol-schools.uk www.abhps.com

Our School

Everyone can achieve
Everyone can learn
Everyone belongs

Message from Mr Browse

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a really settled start to our second term. The half-term break has clearly helped us all to recharge and come back ready to learn and enjoy school. There are lots of events taking place this term – Term 2 is always busy – so please make sure you keep updated.

It is getting darker and colder now that the clocks have changed and we are all starting to bring in our big coats, hats, scarves and gloves. At this time of year our coat trolleys and class pegs get very full which is the reason why – at this time of year especially – children bringing in large bulky bags should be avoided. So, if your child is layering up for the journey to and from school please consider whether anything other than a book-bag and/or packed lunch is needed.

We will be talking to the children about road safety next week and keeping safe when crossing the road during the winter months. Most children's winter coats have some reflective patches on them to help children be seen on the pavements. Children coming to school on bikes and scooters should also take care to make sure that they can be seen by drivers to help keep them safe.

On Thursday – in time for Bonfire Night and Diwali – we also talked to the children about firework safety. We've included the key points in the newsletter so you can go through them at home to make sure that everyone stays safe while the fireworks are lighting up the sky.
I hope that you all have a lovely weekend and see you next week.





Tim Browse

Happy Diwali!

We would like to wish all our families a very Happy Diwali which is taking place on Sunday 8th November this year. As communities around the world celebrate the Festival of Lights, we hope this special occasion brings joy, peace, prosperity, and time together with loved ones.

Diwali is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the values of kindness, hope, and new beginnings. At Air Balloon, we are very thankful to our families for the support and positivity they bring to our school community throughout the year.

To our families celebrating on Sunday, may your homes be filled with happiness and light. We wish you all a joyful and safe Diwali.



Tim Browse

Free School Meals

Is your child eligible to Free School Meals? 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.



Times Tables Rockstars

Following the recent internet issues affecting Bristol schools, access to Times Tables Rock Stars is now back up and running in school. However, during the disruption, children have missed out on a considerable amount of valuable times tables practice.

To help children catch up and continue developing their fluency and confidence, Key Stage 2 children are expected to complete approximately 10 minutes of Times Tables Rock Stars practice at home each week.

Teachers will continue to set specific sessions each week. These sessions will be introduced and started in school, with approximately 10 minutes of practice to be completed at home each week. Teachers will monitor completion weekly to help ensure children are keeping up with their practice.

Regular times tables practice is essential for building confidence and fluency in maths. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children keep rocking their times tables!

Free School Meals

For families receiving Free School Meals, Bristol City Council have informed us that Christmas will be the last time vouchers are issued to families to support over the school holiday periods.

The council currently provides free school meal (FSM) supermarket vouchers during school holiday periods to families in receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM). This support is funded through the Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF).

The Crisis & Resilience Fund is a UK Government grant and comes with specific conditions. The grant guidance discourages ongoing blanket voucher provision, and Bristol is being encouraged to move towards more needs based assistance, targeted at households experiencing financial difficulty.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, further information is available through;
Cost of Living
https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/cost-of-living-support

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)
https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/find-a-holiday-activity-in-your-area

If you need support or advice, you can also speak to Sarah Webb, our Family Support Worker.

Remembrance Day



On Wednesday 11th November, children will observe a one-minute silence in school to mark Remembrance Day. This will be held at 11am. We will also be holding a special assembly on Wednesday morning.

Holiday Club

Advance notice that Space Cadets will not be open on the December Inset Day and will also be closed during the Christmas Holidays. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Winter Disco



DISCO TICKETS - On Sale NOW - Via School Shop in Arbor.
Please see the poster at the end of the Newsletter for times and more details.

If your child would like to request a specific song at any of the discos, please complete this form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/1H0ZeHUQw3

School Photo Day



School Photo day for individual and sibling groups will be on Friday 13th November.

All in-school siblings will automatically be photographed together during the day but if you would like to have any family groups taken with children who don't attend Air Balloon (i.e. older and/or younger siblings), you are welcome to come to the hall from 8.30am in the morning.

Children in Need

We are aware that next Friday is Children in Need and whilst we would love to be able to support as many charities as possible, we also recognise the financial burden this can place on families if we support all fundraisers throughout the school year.

This year, we have decided to once again support our local St Peter's Hospice with a Reindeer Run in December (more details to follow next week). Whilst this means we will not be encouraging children to dress up for Children in Need this year, we do recognise that some children may want to - if this is the case, children will be allowed to wear Pudsey ears or hair accessories, however as it is school photo day, any items do need to be easily removable.



If anyone would like to make a donation to Children in Need, we will have a bucket at the main office, for donations that we will pass on to the charity.



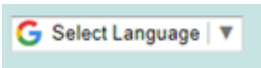
Year 6 Hoodies



Remider that the deadline to order hoodies for Year 6 leavers is Friday 13th November via the Arbor School Shop.

Hoodies are due to arrive at the beginning of January and will be ready for the children to wear straight away.

Accessing the 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.

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.

Message from Mr Browse - Term 2 Activities

Please see below details of our Term 2 activities that parents and carers can get involved in. Please add these important events and dates to your calendars – including the Reception Nativities, Rocksteady Concerts and some important Maths and Phonics Classroom visits and parent information sessions. **Note - events in blue are dependent on us having sufficient parent/carer support to enable them to run.**

For many of our events to be successful, we do need your help and support. If you can help with any of our Term 2 events, please let us know by completing the short form below. We will then be in touch to discuss in more detail, how you can help. We are especially keen to hear from anyone who can help to organise our Family Games Night, support with our Winter Raffle and help at the School Discos.





https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mV97H3Vrqs

We would like to create a Community WhatApp group of parents and Carers who would like to be more involved in helping us to arrange events at school. If you would be happy to be included, please let us know on the form.

Term 2 2 Nov – 18 Dec 2026				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
16 Nov	**17 Nov**	**18 Nov**	**19 Nov**	**20 Nov**
	3:30pm-4:30pm School Nurse Drop-in (classroom tbc)	9:00am Phonics **Y1** parent classroom visits and follow-up talk in Stratos Hall		
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
23 Nov	**24 Nov**	**25 Nov**	**26 Nov**	**27 Nov**
9:00am NumberSense **Y2** parent classroom visits and follow-up talk in Sombrero Hall		9:00am Phonics **REC** parent classroom visits and follow-up talk in Stratos Hall		6:00pm-7:30pm Family Games Night
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
30 Nov	**01 Dec**	**02 Dec**	**03 Dec**	**04 Dec**
		INSET DAY	**Non-Uniform Day** Winter Discos 2:30pm-3:00 REC 3:30pm-4:15pm KS1 4:30pm-5:15pm LKS2 5:30pm-6:30pm UKS2	
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
07 Dec	**08 Dec**	**09 Dec**	**10 Dec**	**11 Dec**
1.45pm - 3.15pm Rocksteady Concert for Parents			1.45pm - 3.15pm Rocksteady Concert for Parents	
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
14 Dec	**15 Dec**	**16 Dec**	**17 Dec**	**18 Dec**
9:00am: **Y4** Singing Performance (Stratos Hall) 9:30am: **Rec (Star Class)** Nativity (Messier Hall) 2:45pm: **Y1** Singing Performance (Stratos Hall)	9:00am: **Y5** Singing Performance (Stratos Hall) 9:30am: **Rec (Moon Class)** Nativity (Messier Hall) 2:45pm: **Y2** Singing Performance (Stratos Hall) 6pm Stories around the Christmas Tree	9:00am: **Y6** Singing Performance (Stratos Hall) 9:30am: **Rec (Sun Class)** Nativity (Messier Hall) 2:45pm: **Y3** Singing Performance (Stratos Hall)	Christmas Jumper Day 9:30am: Xmas Raffle Draw	Christmas Jumper Day



Donations Wanted



Christmas Jumper Donations.

Has your child outgrown their Christmas jumper? Rather than letting it sit unused, why not donate it to our Christmas Jumper Sale? Pre-loved jumpers are a fantastic way to save money, reduce waste, and help another family enjoy the festive season. Donations can be handed in to the school office.



Winter Raffle Hamper Donations.

We are excited to be putting together a selection of festive Winter Hampers as prizes for our Winter Raffle. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase from Friday 27th November until Wednesday 16th December.
To help make our hampers extra special, we would greatly appreciate donations of new items suitable for festive or winter-themed hampers. Whether it's a small treat or a larger gift, every donation is welcome and will help us create some wonderful prizes for our school community. Some suggested donation ideas are listed below. Thank you for your support and generosity.



- Selection Boxes
- Biscuit Selections
- Festive Treats
- Luxury food items
- Festive chocolates and sweets
- Christmas Crackers
- Hot chocolate, and Marshmallows
- New card games
- Non-Christmas food items
- New Beauty, Pampering or Toiletries items

REMEMBER, REMEMBER... BONFIRE NIGHT

Firework safety



1. **Grown-ups only** Only adults light fireworks.
2. **Stand well back** Watch from behind the rope or barrier.
3. **Never go back** Even if a lit firework hasn't gone off.
4. **Sparklers: gloves on** Hold at arm's length, one at a time.
5. **Sparklers stay hot** Put them in a bucket of water after.
6. **Think of animals** Pets get scared, so keep them indoors.

Mental health support.

On the next page you will find details of two parent/carer workshops being run this term by the Mental Health Heath Support Team. Please see the poster for details on how to sign up.
Please note that we do not currently have a MHST Practitioner allocated to Air Balloon however, if you are concerned about your child's mental health, please speak to your child's teacher or contact Mrs Knight, the school's Mental Health Lead, via the school office.

MHST
Tools to thrive

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Mental Health Support Team

Online Parent/Carer Workshop

What is it?

It is an hour long workshop aimed at parents & carers to understand your child, and gain some tips and tricks to use at home.

There are 2 topics this month:

INTRO TO LOW MOOD

Alternate *Mondays / Wednesdays 12pm-1pm*

Introduction to Low Mood: Learn how low mood can affect thoughts, feelings, and actions, and discover simple, practical strategies to break the cycle and improve wellbeing.

5 WAYS TO WELLBEING

Alternate *Mondays / Wednesdays 12pm-1pm*

5 Ways to Wellbeing: Discover five key areas that have been identified to boost wellbeing: Learn practical tips to help you bring these habits into everyday life.

What happens next? Once you sign up below, you will receive an email withoptions of webianrs and instructionsfor next steps.

Topics of workshops change termly

To sign up, please complete a registration form here: MHST Online Session

The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. MHSTs were established to support schools, helping them develop ways to look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) as well as the wider school community including school staff and parents/carers.To find out where we work, check out our webpage:
https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/mh-schools/mental-health-support-team-mhst-2

This leaflet is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.

MHST Tools to thrive

WINTER DISCO

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2026





Reception - 2.30-3pm (in school time)
Years 1 and 2 - 3.30-4.15pm
Years 3 and 4 - 4.30-5.15pm
Years 5 and 6 - 5.30-6.30pm

Tickets on sale NOW via School Shop in Arbor



Deadline to order tickets is 3pm on Monday 30th November...book now to avoid disappointment