

# HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 5 - 2017/18

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**Welcome** to our Newsletter.

We continue to be so proud of how well the children have settled into the new term. They are working incredibly hard and enjoying all the activities and experiences on offer.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Mrs K Schonau*

## Reading Rocket

To ensure the children are motivated to read five times per week we asked them to suggest this half terms prize.



The children voted within class and the overall consensus was for 'Flip Out' vouchers. We value the children's opinions and have agreed that this will be the prize for both key stage 1 and 2, but remember, you've got to be in it to win it!

## Staff News

Mrs Johnson has been at Hillside for 12½ years but at Easter we will be saying goodbye to her as she takes her retirement. Mrs Johnson is loved by every child she has taught and equally adored by their parents. We will be sad to see her go but wish her luck and lots of fun and adventure in her retirement.



We also say goodbye to Mrs Huxley who has supported children across the school for many years. She too will be missed and we wish her lots of luck for the future.



## Reading Challenge

Well done to those children who have accepted the reading challenge this term. Children from reception to Year 6 are expected to read five times per week and three times in nursery in order to achieve the reading rocket. We have noticed that many children already have five signatures in their reading diary for each week of this half term; this is an amazing achievement! Let's hope the children are able to continue this for the rest of the half term and to have the chance to win some amazing prizes.



## Mathletics

The children have enjoyed using Mathletics for the previous two years, but we now feel that it is time for a new and exciting challenge for the children. Our Mathletics subscription expires at the end of January and will soon be replaced with a new online programme to use at home and at school. The Year 6 children are currently trialling the new programme and this will be rolled out to the rest of the school after February half term.



## Handwriting

We are continuing to encourage children to write in cursive script and recognise that some children's writing often gets worse before it gets better. If this is the case for your child, do not panic! We are seeing the benefits of teaching this handwriting approach across the school and we would recommend that you continue to encourage your child to use lead in and lead out lines and for those children who are ready to join (often in year 2 onwards) promote correct letter joins and sizing.

If you require further information about the Hillside handwriting policy then speak to your child's class teacher or request a handwriting leaflet that outlines how handwriting is taught at Hillside.

## Important Reminder: Peanut/Nut Allergies

There are children and staff in school who have a severe food allergy to peanuts/nuts. It is important that we avoid this food as best we can to prevent serious allergic reactions. We are asking for your help to provide these children and staff with a safe school environment.

Any exposure to peanuts/nuts may cause serious allergic reactions that require emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring we are asking that you do not send any peanut or nut containing products to school with your child for the break time snacks, in their lunchboxes or at any other times.

We appreciate your support of these procedures. Please contact Mrs Schonau if you have any questions.



## House Team Winners

Well done to the Green Team for winning the Autumn term team treat once again. They were rewarded with an afternoon in the woods. They loved playing games, exploring the woods and creating with clay.

The session finished with juice and biscuits in the outdoor classroom. Thank you to Caron Thom, our Go Wild play leader for leading the afternoon.



## Head Lice

We know that this is a difficult problem but as a school we need everyone to be extra vigilant regarding head lice. If you notice any eggs or lice in your child's hair then please treat the lice immediately. You should check your children's hair regularly, ideally once a week.

We all need to work together to ensure that as a school we combat this difficult problem.



## National Holocaust Day

In recognition of National Holocaust Day on the 27th January, and in memory of all those who have died in genocides since the holocaust, children in Key Stage 2 have been learning about the holocaust in World War II. All classes in Key Stage Two produced some fantastic art work and years 4, 5 and 6 created a piece of writing - all have showed superb understanding of events and empathy. Well done to all children who took part and thank you to Mr Such for his support and knowledge.



## E-cigarettes/vapes

Following complaints from our children, any persons on school premises are asked to refrain from using any type of e-cigarette/vape devices. Thank you.



Well done to the pupils who were awarded in our 100% assembly for the Autumn term. They each received a certificate and were entered into a

draw to win a cinema voucher. Emily Y6 was the lucky winner.



## Book Donations

Many thanks to the following staff and pupils who have donated a birthday book to the school library — Archie Gordon, Zac Bancroft and Mrs Bailey.



## Sickness:

The School Nurse has advised us that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea then they should not return to school until 48 hours after their last episode.



**Nursery** have had a very busy month since Christmas, they have been learning new nursery rhymes, started learning to recognise and say letter sounds, taken home their very first reading book and continued to do fantastic learning in the classroom. The children have been particularly enthusiastic about our daily dough disco. We love having a little dance everyday and warming up our fingers makes us do the best writing we can, Miss Hewitt has been helping us to write our names and already we are doing amazing writing!

### **Computing in Year 1**

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about coding. They have been using a program on the iPads to create moving pictures.



**Year 3** have been enjoying their work on the Stone Age. So far we've investigated sources of evidence (although there aren't many Stone Age relics left!), studied and built Stone Age houses (they were even big enough to hold us albeit a little drafty!) and we've found out about food that would have been eaten many years ago (it would have been nutritious but not delicious!) As part of our work on the holocaust we reflected on how we could be better citizens and made pledges of how we would stand up if ever anything we didn't agree with happened. Our French is improving too and we can now greet and ask how you're feeling - ooh la la!



**Year 5** started their Ancient Egypt topic this term. They have looked at daily life in Ancient Egypt, the pyramids and even took part in some Egyptian dancing (there were some very interesting moves!)



**Reception** have been having a fabulous time during their Superhero Topic. Here they are showing the Superhero puppets they made this week. They are very much looking forward to their Superhero day on Monday 12th February .



**Year 2** are using the text of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as a basis for their English work this half term. So far they have read the story aloud, answered questions about what they have read, compared two versions of the same story and used a range of drama techniques to gain a deeper understanding of characters thoughts and feelings. Here is a picture of one group acting out a scene from the story!



During their PSHE lessons, Year 2 have been thinking about emotions and fairness. They were given a task to read out a statement and decide whether it was unfair or fair, giving a reason to support their answer.



**Year 4** have been using magazines and catalogues to practise their collage techniques in art. They have looked at the artist Megan Coyle who 'paints with paper'.



Miss McCann is looking forward to seeing the finished pieces of art work that should be completed by next week.

### **Year 6**

Whilst learning about the Holocaust, Year 6 have shown outstanding empathy to put themselves in the position of Anne Frank during the Second World War. They have written a diary entry as if they were in hiding and the quality of work they have produced has been amazing. In addition, Mr Such came in to help children create mobile doves, each with the name of a person who died in the Holocaust, in recognition of genocides both during and since World War II.

## Diary Dates—Here are reminders about forthcoming events:

### FEBRUARY

Thurs 1st	<i>Kids Moving Against Cancer</i> —non-uniform day (sportswear) min £1 donation
Thurs 1st	Reception Class Visual Screening
Mon 5th	Fire Safety Assembly
Tues 6th	Safer Internet Day
Wed 7th	Phonics Workshop—Nursery Parents 3.30pm
Mon 12th	Reception Class Assembly 9.15am and Superhero Day
Mon 12th	Y1 trip—Peak Wildlife Park
Wed 14th	PTFA Film Night ‘Paddington 2’ PG—entry by ticket
Fri 16th	School closes at 3.15pm for half term break
Mon 26th	School re-opens
Mon 26th	Reception Class Screenings
Tues 27th	Whole school performance of ‘Charlotte’s Web’



### MARCH

Fri 2nd	Y2 trip—Knowsley Safari Park
Mon 5th	Y4 Assembly 9.15am
Thurs 8th	Nursery Assembly (Mother’s Day theme) 11am— <i>details to follow</i>
Mon 12th	Y2 Assembly 9.15am
Wed 14th	Nursery trip—Hoo Farm
Mon 19th	Y1 Assembly 9.15am
Mon 19th	Y3 overnight residential visit—Shugborough OEC
Thurs 22nd	Y5 Showcase 2.00pm
Mon 26th	Y3 Assembly 9.15am
Thurs 29th	School closes at 3.15pm for Easter break

### APRIL

Mon 16th	School re-opens for the Summer Term
Tues 24th	Parent Consultation Meetings—by appointment

### MAY

Mon 7th	School closed—Bank Holiday
Thurs 24th	School closes at 3.15pm for half term break

### JUNE

Mon 4th	School re-opens
Mon 4th	Y6 - 4 night residential visit—Stanley Head OEC

### JULY

Fri 20th	School closes at 3.15pm for Summer break
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### COMMUNICATION:

- These diary dates are sent out monthly on the **newsletter**—please transfer them into your diaries.
- Prior to each event a **letter** will be sent with further details.
- All events are included in the **App calendar**.
- All events are included on the **website calendar**—you can download this from the calendar page.
- Website address: [www.hillsideprimary.org.uk](http://www.hillsideprimary.org.uk)

*Full details for specific events are provided in a separate letter. Occasionally dates/times may need to be changed so*