

Nursery

Nursery have settled in beautifully to their first year at Hillside. The children are all independently leaving their carers, hanging up their coats and bags and engaging in play in the classroom with their friends. We have spent the first few weeks of the Autumn term learning the rules and routines of the classroom which are now becoming embedded through our daily routines. We have begun our Phase One phonics- the children love this time of the day! The children have particularly enjoyed learning through small world and messy play- paints and crazy soap are clear favourites! Well done Nursery- you are all amazing!



Reception

What a fantastic 3 weeks Reception have had settling in. We have made lots of new friends and tried lots of new activities. Here we are celebrating the end of the week learning about methods of transport by having a story on our school bus!



Year 1

Year 1 have settled brilliantly so far! They have impressed their teachers with how brilliantly their brains work and are showing super attitudes towards their learning, working hard and having a go at lots of new activities! Using the story of 'Not Now Bernard', the children have created their own versions with themselves as the main character and it has been very interesting hearing what their mums and dads get up to at home! In Maths they have worked hard with number recognition, counting and ordering and in Science, they have loved finding out about the seasons and are determined to find more signs of Autumn in the school woods! During our walk to Milton we found out lots about our local area and enjoyed exploring our local geography as well as showing fab behaviour throughout our time out of school! Well done Year 1, keep up the hard work!



Year 2

Year 2 have made a fabulous start to the year. With each passing day, they are showing more and more of the qualities needed to be a success in year 2! Their first topic has been Around The World. They have made a great start to learning about the continents and should be able to name all 7. They have thought about why it is important to care for everybody and have considered the positives and negatives of the world wide web. Mr Mellor and Miss Pinnington have been so impressed and are looking forward to seeing how the year progresses.



Year 3

The children have made a fantastic start to their learning in Year 3. They have all worked extremely hard over the past few weeks and have risen to the challenges set for them. They have also enjoyed being able to play on the Key Stage 2 playground especially the football pitch. Over the past couple of weeks in Science, they have been enjoying investigating what plants need to stay healthy. Each day they have observed how their plant has changed and are making predictions for the next day based on their knowledge of plants.



Year 4

Year 4 have settled in very well and are showing Miss McCann that they are ready for the exciting challenges of the year ahead. They have already set their own targets of what they would like to achieve, been busy as archaeologists in unearthing Celtic artefacts, been involved in various drama activities and learned how to talk about the weather in French, as well as starting their new swimming lesson, which we hope will produce some fantastic swimmers. What a lot we've managed to squeeze in already!



Year 5

Year 5 have fully immersed themselves in the new academic year! They have responded to different challenges with determination and excellence. All of the teachers have been impressed with the resilience and growth mind set they all clearly have in abundance. Using the story, 'Who let the Gods out?', the children have been comparing themselves to the main character 'Elliot'. In doing this, the class have completed a drama based activity to increase their understanding of the emotions that the main character is experiencing. With the knowledge the children have developed from these activities, they have completed a diary entry from a particular day in the narrative. In Maths, year 5 have just completed their place value learning. During this phase the children have studied Roman numerals alongside rounding and counting in powers of 10. Within science, we have begun to study Earth and Space, which has led to the children creating their own 'Solar System in their pocket' (as pictured). This enabled the children to visually represent the distances that the planets orbit the sun alongside the relative sizes of each planet. Well done Year 5!



Science Homework

The monthly science homework will continue this year, with certificates being given out for the most age related 'scientific thinker', as chosen by the Science Ambassadors. Miss McCann would also like to receive any photos of any science that the children are involved in at home. This could include activities/experiments at home, science construction kits, woodland walks, photos of signs of changing seasons etc. etc. Photos will be put onto the Science homework display and changed monthly. Thank you for supporting your child with their scientific discussions and ideas.

Number of the Week

Our new maths ambassadors: Imogen, Grace and Bella (Y5) are going to be leading the 'Number of the Week' initiative on both KS1 and KS2 playgrounds at lunch time. The children must answer mathematical facts about the number of the week and the maths ambassadors will award a certificate to one child per class for their efforts in this challenge.

Year 6

Year 6 have settled well into the new year. This month they have visited the Safe&Sound event at Hanley fire station where they learnt about safety both inside and outside of the home.

This month has also had a large focus on having a growth mindset. We have created treasure maps in school to map out our goal for the end of the year. We considered the barriers in the way and how we would overcome these barriers over the year.



Book Club

The Hillside Book Club is continuing for Year 4 and Year 6 children. Mrs Schonau is reading the much-loved classic 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis and Mrs Wainwright is reading 'Boy Under Water' by Adam Baron, a heart-breaking story about family, friends and secrets. The children meet each Wednesday morning before school and take part in group discussions based on the chosen text; explore similar and differences of opinion and find common interests.

Rock Stars

Times Tables Rock Stars is continuing to engage and motivate children to learn their times tables. The online programme is being used from Y3 to Y6 and there is a club currently running in school for year four children twice a week. Year 2 have recently received their log ins and will hopefully feature in our leader board over the next term. We hope they are enjoying this fantastic resource.

The leader board for the most correct answers during the first three weeks are as follows:

1. Albie (Y3)
2. Lilly B (Y6)
3. Gracie A (Y3)
4. Mika (Y5)
5. Matthew (Y3)
6. Imogen (Y5)
7. Lucy (Y6)
8. Ellie D (Y6)
9. Charlie (Y6)
10. Morgan (Y5)

Please find attached an additional Times Table Rock Star help sheet, which explains the games modes, the Rock Star Statuses and how to review your child's statistics. The heat map is a useful way of finding out which times tables your child is competent with and which they need to continue to practice.

What's On Here are reminders of forthcoming events (please transfer them into your diaries)

OCTOBER

Thurs 3rd	Whole school performance by Key Strings
Fri 4th	Y5/6 EFL Kids Cup mixed 5-a-side football competition—am
Fri 4th	Dougie Mac 'Bring-a-Pound—Wear something yellow' non-uniform day
Tues 8th	Y4 visit to DEWA Centre, Chester
Thurs 10th	Class Group Photographs
Tues 15th	Democracy Event at Kings Hall—am
Mon 21st	PTFA AGM 6pm—all welcome
Thurs 24th	Y4 Harvest Assembly 9.10am
Fri 25th	School closes at 3.15pm for the half term break



NOVEMBER

Mon 4th	School re-opens
Tues 5th	Y6 visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town
Thurs 7th	Y6 Showcase 2pm
Thurs 7th	Y1/2 to Cineworld Hanley –am
Mon 11th	Remembrance Service at Carmountside Memorial (<i>selected pupils</i>)
Wed 13th	Y3 Showcase 2pm
Thurs 14th	Y5 Showcase 9.30am
Fri 15th	Children in Need Day
Mon 18th	Reception Showcase 2pm
Tues 19th	Parent Consultations from 1.30pm (<i>by appointment only</i>)
Wed 20th	Y3/4 visit to Odeon Cinema—am
Fri 22nd	Final return date for flu immunisation consent forms Rec-Y6
Tues 26th	Y3 visit to Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Thurs 28th	Y1 visit to Brampton Toy Museum
Thurs 28th	Y2 Showcase 2pm

DECEMBER

Thurs 5th	Y1 Showcase 2pm
Fri 6th	Whole school visit to Mitchell Arts Theatre—Panto 'Jack & the Beanstalk'
Tues 10th	Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long am
Tues 10th	Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long pm
Tues 10th	Christmas Production—Key Stage 2 evening
Wed 11th	Christmas Production—Key Stage 2 am
Wed 11th	Nativity Performance Rec, Y1, Y2 pm
Thurs 12th	Nativity Performance Rec, Y1, Y2 am
Wed 18th	Reception to Y6 Immunisation Visit
Thurs 19th	School closes at 3.15pm for Christmas break

JANUARY

Mon 6th	School re-opens for the Spring Term
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Details for specific events will follow in a separate letter. Occasionally dates/times may need to be changed so please keep an eye on the newsletters and other correspondence from the school.

Book Donations

Many thanks to the following pupils who have donated a birthday book to the school library —

Freya (Y3) and Oscar (Reception).



School Uniform

Reminder to ensure that all items of clothing (including PE kit) are clearly labelled.

To reduce the occurrence of items being misplaced children are encouraged to put clothing in bags, rather than on pegs, when they are not being worn.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

At Hillside, we use Times Table Rock Stars to support children with their multiplication and division facts, both online and in class. The following leaflet will remind you about the available game modes, the Rock Star statuses and how to review your child's statistics using the heat map. If you need any more information about TT Rockstars then don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Wainwright.

Game Modes

Single Player

Garage - the questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. It will include multiplication and division questions. As pupils start to answer questions, TT Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.

Studio - the questions in the Studio can be anything from 1×1 up to 12×12 . TT Rock Stars calculates the mean response time from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates that time into a Rock Status.

Less than 1 second per question = **Rock Hero**
Less than 2 second per question = **Rock Legend**
Less than 3 second per question = **Rock Star**
Less than 4 second per question = **Headliner**
Less than 5 second per question = **Support Act**
Less than 6 second per question = **Breakthrough Artist**

Less than 7 second per question = **Unsigned Act**
Less than 8 second per question = **Gigger**
Less than 9 second per question = **Busker**
Less than 10 second per question = **Garage Rocker**
Less than 11 second per question = **Wannabe**

If you don't play in the Studio you don't get a Rock Status.

Players earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

Soundcheck - When you play Soundcheck, you get 20 questions each with a 5-second time limit. The questions are multiplication only and evenly weighted in terms of difficulty each time you play. Players earn 5 coins per correct answer.

Multiplayer

Rock Arena - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together). A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. In the Arena, questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week, similar to the Garage. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

Rock Festival - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from 1×1 to 12×12 . Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

Stats

If you click on your child's avatar icon in the top right of the screen and then click 'My Stats,' a heatmap like the one below will load. It shows how successful your child is at each of the facts.

