

Nursery's First Half Term!

The nursery children have settled in really well to life at Hillside. The children have been making lots of new friends, learning the school rules and exploring all of the exciting activities we have in the classroom and outside area. They have particularly enjoyed our sensory tent, doing dough disco and lots of artwork – the classroom is filling up nicely with their beautiful creations!



Reception

As part of our R.E. work this term, Reception have been learning about special books. We talked about and brought in our own favourite books. We then looked at the Bible and some stories out of it. We chose to focus on Noah's Ark for our classroom display. After reading the story, we created the story using a range of art skills including painting, collage and printing. We also enjoyed retelling the story using our Noah's Ark small world toys.



Year One have had a fantastic start to the term and have been fully immersed in their learning! In Maths they have been working on number, using apparatus to practise key skills and have been amazing at writing number sentences too! In English they have written their own versions of 'Not Now Bernard' as well as creating their own rhyming, number poems and everyone is trying extremely hard to learn tricky words and sounds in phonics - well done! Parents, thank you for your support with spelling practise at home! Year One have ventured in to Milton as part of their topic work on Travel and Transport and have mapped routes as well as drawn maps of their school and used a key to label. In RE they have enjoyed learning about other faiths, sampling food and in PSHCE they worked hard as a team to stop just one person dressed in a hat and gloves, who had to use a knife and fork from eating a chocolate bar! What a busy term, well done to all of the children for settling in to Key Stage One so brilliantly - we are very proud of you!



Autumn 1 in Year Two

It has been a very exciting start to Year Two with lots of fun activities going on. We have focused our English writing around, 'A Piece of Cake' by Jill Murphy where we created our own delicious fruit salads! We enjoyed eating these during our playtime, and we wrote a fabulous set of instructions for it too! We have had a special visit from Mr Such who came in to work with us on the importance of Remembrance Day. We created autumnal leaves and placed them on to a tree, and we are extremely excited to see them displayed in Milton Parish Church. A big thank you to Mr Such for his hard work, and for giving the children these special experiences. It has been a busy half-term, and we would like to thank all of the parents for their fantastic support throughout as it really makes a difference to all. It was lovely to meet you all at Parents' Evening, and to be able to discuss how fantastic your child/children are getting along.



Year Three have made a super start to life in KS2! To help settle into Year Three, the children all thought about something they were passionate about and devised a lesson to teach the class. Since that first week, they've taken part in a Taekwondo taster, a workshop with Ian Billings and many more exciting opportunities. Mr Mellor and Mrs Pope are very much looking forward to next half term!



Year Five

Everyone in Year Five has made an excellent start to the new school year, showing that we are determined to face the challenges that upper Key Stage 2 will bring. We have already shown our acting and singing talents during our Harvest Assembly last week.



We also had a fantastic morning attending the RAF science fair at Staffordshire University, participating in a range of science activities from flying planes, handling some unusual invertebrates and experiencing a journey through space.



Year Five Playground Leaders

Our new playground leaders are now fully qualified after embarking on a full afternoon of training with Mr Edwards from Excel Academy. They have taken on their roles maturely and are doing a fantastic job so far. Well done!



Science in Year Four

Year Four have enjoyed learning about the digestive system as part of their science. They worked in teams to produce t-shirts showing the different parts of the digestive system and created labels and definitions to go with them.



Year Four trip to Chester

Year Four had a fantastic time visiting the DEWA Roman experience in Chester. They went on a soldier patrol around Chester, the soldier showed them the equipment Roman soldiers used and they even got to try out some Roman formations. After dinner, they had a tour of the museum and impressed the staff with their knowledge and learnt lots of new facts as well.



Year Six have had a number of visitors this month:

The British Red Cross delivered their Youth Education Workshop to Year Six aimed to give children an increased awareness of crises all around the world. They also taught children life skills such as CPR and First Aid.



Excel visited Year Six to deliver their Maths, English and Science projects. More information about these can be found in the Excel booklets that were handed out on the 19th October.

Year Six were visited by Mr Bishop of Excel to give children an insight into life as a Year 7 pupil at Excel Academy. Open days for a number of Secondary schools have taken place this month and children are beginning to make their decisions about which schools they will choose.

Rock Stars



The children from Y2-Y6 have been busy practising their times tables through the TT Rockstars online programme and we are seeing amazing progress from the children as they work hard to learn this crucial skill.

A new feature on TT Rockstars is the 'Sound Check' player mode. The children are given twenty questions to answer and have a maximum of five seconds to answer each question. Your child's score is then plotted on a score history graph and they can challenge themselves to beat their last score each time they play. Encourage your child to practise their times tables often, even for a few minutes each day, as this knowledge will impact on all of their mathematical learning from fractions, to measures, to finding the area of shapes.

Reading Rocket

We are excited to see how many of our children have achieved the Reading Rocket this half term. The children have come back from the six weeks break with a greater determination and passion for reading than we have seen in the past. The children have voted within their classes and decided that the prize draw treat for achieving the Reading Rocket will be:

KS1 and Reception: Cinema Voucher
KS2: Flipout Voucher

The children have until Sunday 28th October to complete the Reading Rocket and the prize draw will be drawn week commencing 5th November, 2018. Please make sure your child's reading diary is up to date to ensure they are entered.

Hillside Librarians

The Hillside Librarians would like to introduce themselves by telling the children and parents their favourite childhood book (so far).

Amy: Little Manfred by Michael Morpurgo
Summer: Bed Knobs and Broomsticks by Mary Norton
Zac: Shapeshifters by Ali Sparkes
Maddison: Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Evie: Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Earrings



Thank you to the children and parents who have ensured that their children's earrings adhere to our school policy. It has been noticed that some children still need to do this.

After half term, any children not wearing plain gold or silver, stud earrings (as detailed in the accompanying picture) will be asked to remove earrings.

Hair

A reminder also about our policy in relation to hair:

Long hair (below shoulder length) should be tied back. Hair accessories should be minimal, plain and in school colours. Hair should be kept out of children's eyes using headbands, clips and slides; again plain using school colours.

During term-time pupils are asked not to have fashion hairstyles which include: shaved, dyed or streaked hair, patterns, mohawks, lines and tramlines. Hair braids, tinsels and feathers should not be worn.

It has been noticed that some boys are having 'lines' cut into their hair and these should be allowed to grow out/ be cut out for the return to school after the holidays.

Thank you for your support

A great big thank you for your support with your Harvest donations this year. These have been collected by the Stoke-on-Trent Food Bank and will have already made a difference.

Next half term we will be supporting the Children in Need campaign—details to follow.

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

NOVEMBER

Mon 5th	School re-opens
Tues 6th	Y6 visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town
Tues 6th	Y3 visit Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Tues 6th	Y2 Showcase 2pm
Fri 9th	Y3/4 to Cineworld Hanley –am
Fri 9th	Remembrance Service at Carmountside Memorial (selected pupils)
Fri 9th	Y1 visit to Brampton Toy Museum
Tues 13th	Y2 visit to Jodrell Bank
Wed 14th	Y4 Showcase 2pm
Fri 16th	Bottle donations for Christmas Fayre—non-uniform day
Fri 16th	After school cake sale for Children in Need
Wed 21st	Y1/Y2 visit to Odeon Cinema—am
Wed 21st	Reception Showcase 2pm
Fri 23rd	Chocolate & cake donations for Christmas Fayre—non uniform day
Fri 23rd	Christmas Fayre—3.30pm
Mon 26th	Y6 Showcase 2pm
Wed 28th	School Nurse Dental Stand in Entrance Hall 2.45-3.15pm
Wed 28th	Y3 Parents meeting for Shugborough 3.15pm
Thurs 29th	Y5 visit to the National Space Centre
Thurs 29th	Y1 Showcase 2pm



DECEMBER

Wed 5th	Nursery visit to Amerton Farm
Thurs 6th	Reception Class visit to the Ice Cream Factory, Tattenhall
Fri 7th	Whole school visit to Mitchell Arts Theatre—Panto 'Puss in Boots'
Mon 10th	Singing Stars Concert at Mitchell Arts Theatre 6.45pm
Tues 11th	Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long 9.30-10.30am
Tues 11th	Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long 2.00-3.00pm
Tues 11th	Christmas Production—Key Stage 2 6.30pm
Wed 12th	Christmas Production—Key Stage 2 9.30am
Wed 12th	Nativity Performance Rec, Y1, Y2 2.00pm
Thurs 13th	Nativity Performance Rec, Y1, Y2 9.30am
Thurs 20th	Christmas Lunch
Thurs 20th	School Disco—Infants 5.30-6.15pm and Juniors 6.30-7.30pm
Fri 21st	School closes at 3.15pm for Christmas break

JANUARY

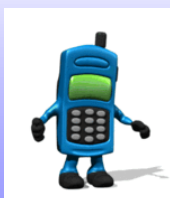
Tues 8th	School re-opens for the Spring Term for pupils
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Details for specific events will follow in a separate letter. Occasionally dates/times may need to be changed so please keep an eye on the newsletters and other correspondence from the school.

Emergency Contact Numbers and Addresses

Please inform the office as soon as any changes are made so that we have up to date information.

Mobile telephone numbers for the main contact are particularly important as we continue to use the messaging service as a means of communication.



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.