

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 2 - 2018/19

30/11/18



Welcome to our Newsletter.

Christmas is fast approaching and our staff and pupils are busy preparing concerts which we are striving to make as successful as in previous years.

This is our penultimate newsletter of the year and I hope that the information provided is useful as we end the term.

Mrs K Schonau

Parents, Teachers & Friends Association—PTFA

Our Christmas Fayre was once again a great success. A big thank you to everyone who sent donations, those who came to the Fayre, all the volunteers who gave their time to help on the day and to Mrs Maxfield for bringing it all together. The event raised **£1,025.30**.

Attendance

Whole school attendance for last year was 96.6% which is great but we could do better!

Regular attendance is important because students are more likely to succeed when they attend school every day. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of pupils are frequently absent.

Reminder: the doors open at 8.50am and close at 9.00am after which time pupils are considered late and must be escorted into school via the main entrance so that their arrival can be recorded and a dinner ordered if needed.

If your child is poorly and cannot attend school you must ring the school office on the first day of absence.

Uniform Reminder

Another reminder that children should only be wearing plain, stud gold or silver earrings in school.

Parents should refrain from fashion hairstyles such as adding lines or hair tinsel/feathers to hairstyles during term time.

Additionally, a reminder that boots should not be worn in school. If pupils wish to walk to school in boots, a pair of shoes should be brought to change into.

Book Bench

The Book Bench designs have been shortlisted and a democratic ballot is currently underway to choose our favourite design. Ask your child which their favourite is ...

Remembrance

Thank you to the children who attended the Remembrance Service at the cenotaph at Carmountside Crematorium. We came together with pupils from Milton, Greenways and Carmountside to lay wreaths and remember those who have fought and continued to fight in war. It was a lovely, thought-provoking occasion. The children were fantastic ambassadors for Hillside. Thank you.



Mr Frost led a Remembrance Assembly in which the significance of the poppy was discussed. Children took part in a 2 minute silence and Jack from Y6 shared a poem. The children also saw their remembrance work on display and discussed the significance of it all. After the assembly Mr Such transported all the children's work to the church to display for the Remembrance weekends events. It looked fantastic.



Reading Rocket

We are continuing to see an increasing amount of children achieving the Reading Rocket. We achieved our highest amount of children reading five times per week. This is just incredible! Our nursery children are not included yet, as they are beginning to learn the phase 2 sounds at this point of the year and are not yet having reading books to take home. This demonstrates the positive attitude that we have towards reading across the school.



	Spring 1 2018	Spring 2 2018	Summer 1 2018	Summer 2 2018	Autumn 1 2018
Amount of children achieving RR	57	56	57	65	67

Reading for Pleasure Challenge

The children were very excited about the new book boxes that have arrived in their classrooms. As staff, we selected twenty five books per year group that we believe should be shared or read before the children leave Hillside. These are a mix of classics, modern fiction and award/prize winning books. The children have all received a Reading for Pleasure booklet that they can use to document the books that they have read. This has been well received by all involved and is already motivating and encouraging children to read a text they wouldn't usually.

Mystery Reader

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to be mystery readers. The children absolutely love this experience and there is a real buzz within school when we near the end of the day on a Thursday. The children are excited to see who will walk through the door and love to hear stories being told by different adults. This initiative is again helping to raise the profile of reading within school and having the support from parents and families makes such a difference to our children.



Rock Stars

Times Tables Rockstars is continuing to engage and motivate children to learn their times tables. The online programme is being used from Y2 to Y6 and there are two clubs currently running in school- a year 2 club during Tuesday lunchtime with Mrs Wainwright and a Year 3 club after school on a Thursday with Miss Walker. The leader board for the most correct answers during this academic year so far is as follows:

1. Lewis (Y6)
2. Thomas (Y4)
3. Amy (Y6)
4. Harvey (Y4)
5. Jack H (Y5)
6. Ezmai (Y3)
7. Harry (Y4)
8. Gracie A (Y2)
9. Sophie-Mae (Y3)
10. Kristan (Y5)



Times Table Club

Every Thursday, there has been a 'Times Table Rockstars Club' with Miss Walker for children in Y3 and Y4 (invite only). The children have worked very hard again this half term, and they have improved their fluency in their times tables! The children have been a pleasure to work with, and they have shown great determination in their learning. A huge well done to all!



Nursery

The children in Nursery have had a very busy month since coming back after half term. The children have enjoyed learning about lots of different events such as Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance day and Children in Need. The children were so excited to find their new role play area - Hillside Paint shop! Our topic this half term is all about colour, they have enjoyed using the paint shop to decorate the area with crayons, wallpaper, rollers and paintbrushes as well as buy and order their paint! We have also started phonics, we are learning lots of new sounds that are going to help the children learn to read. They love listening to the Jolly phonics songs and practising the actions! We go to the woods every Monday morning and the children absolutely love the space and are always so eager to be exploring and playing games there!



Year 1's Toys

Year 1 have had a fantastically busy start to the second half of term! Their new topic is all about toys; they have played with their own, made their own and considered lots of different old and new toys. Year One loved visiting the Brampton Museum and their behaviour was excellent - they were so engaged throughout the day, completing toy hunts, learning about and playing with old toys and making their own superhero puppets as well as asking lots and lots of questions! We were extremely proud of them! In English the children have been fantastically bossy, writing their own instructions and practising their cursive writing. In Maths the children have been learning more about shape, comparing 2D and 3D and using very posh words for their properties and shape names! Keep up the hard work Year One, you are superstars!



Reception

Reception enjoyed raising money for and celebrating Children in Need. The children made a fantastic effort with their spotty outfits and looked fabulous. We had a very busy day packed with lots of exciting activities which included writing Pudsey invitations, decorating spotty biscuits, making Pudsey masks and an amazing Pudsey picnic lunch where we were accompanied by our favourite Teddies. What a memorable day!



Autumn 2 in Year 2

It has been a very exciting half term in Year Two with lots of exciting events happening keeping us busy. We have been reading 'Sir Scallywag' by Giles Andreae and we have created our own wanted poster! We have been on our first school trip to Jodrell Bank where we had the opportunity to learn all about Neil Armstrong and space! We had a fantastic day! We have been to the cinema to watch 'Captain Underpants', and we loved the film – it was very funny! We have even had time to invite our grown-ups in to share our showcase. We had a great afternoon and we loved being able to share our knowledge! Thanks to all who came – the rockets were great that you all created! We are now practising for our nativity, and we are looking forward to showing our grown-ups! A huge well done to Year Two for their hard work this half term!



Year 3 Poetry Performance

Year 3 have studied limericks recently in class and as part of their homework, they took one home to learn. They all performed their poems brilliantly in front of the class with loud clear voices and even some actions thrown in!



Year 3 Growing Plants

As part of their science topic, Year 3 have been growing plants. They've tried a few different ways of looking after it and are now seeing how tall their plant will grow. Thank you to parents who are helping their child grow their plant at home.



Year 5 have enjoyed using a range of scientific equipment during their 'forces' topic where they have been learning about gravity, air resistance, parachutes, Newton meters and of course Sir Isaac Newton, the famous scientist.



Forest Schooling Sessions

Our Monday after school club are continuing to enjoy their forest schooling sessions. Vicky is so impressed with the group, they have been introduced to knife skills, fire lighting and have been given more independent time, where they are using and applying their previously learned skills. Next term, children from Years 3 and 4 will be invited to take part.



Mosaics in Year 4

As part of their topic on the Romans, Year 4 looked at mosaics. They looked at and discussed a range of different designs and used this knowledge to design and create their own. They thought carefully about the colours they were going to use and we are sure you will agree that they look amazing.



Year 6 have visited the Victorian village of Blist's Hill this month. Asides from buying and eating fish, chips and sweets, children visited a middle-class and working-class family in their homes, where the residents cooked dinner on a coal-fire. In addition to this, many children explored the print-works, where they learnt how, without computers, the Victorians mass produced prints on paper bags; the pharmacy, which had a dentist in it and some odd-smelling soaps; the photographers, where a camera almost as big as a person was found; and the school, where a class were using slate chalk-boards and an abacus to learn maths – how odd...

Here is a photo of the children in high-spirits outside the pharmacy.



Odd Sock Day & Anti Bullying Week

The children came to school wearing odd socks, in assembly. We thought about why we were doing this – Odd Socks show that we are all different but we are all equal! The theme for this year's Anti-bullying week was 'Choose Respect', during the week each class learned more about this during their PSHE lessons.



Keep us informed—If you have recently changed your contact details could you please inform the school office in order for us to update your child’s information in case of emergencies.



If your child suffers from any medical conditions or allergies could you please notify the school office as a matter of urgency if you have not already done so.

Please notify the school office if your child is to be collected by a person unknown to us. We will not release any child without consent from you to authorise this.

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.



Children in Need

A great big thank you to everyone who supported us on Friday with our various activities. The children had lots of fun throughout the day.

In total we raised an amazing £255.30 which was accumulation of:

- Pudsey cake Raffle £107
- Cake sales £148.30

An extra special thank you to Mrs Green, Mrs Rhodes and the Y6 bakers for all the delicious cakes.



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

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
Wed 19th	Christmas Service at Milton Parish Church
Thurs 20th	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Parties
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
Tues 8th	Rockstar Day—letter to follow

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.

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