

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 6 - 2018/19

29/03/19



Welcome to our March Newsletter. Once again it is packed with information about the exciting things happening at Hillside.

Mrs K Schonau

On 11th April we will be saying a fond farewell to **Mrs Rhodes** who works in Reception. She has been at Hillside for nearly 15 years. She will be missed and we wish her every happiness as she enjoys new adventures.



Day at Stanley Head

The children completing the John Muir Award at Hillside visited Stanley Head last week for a day full of adventure, teamwork and engagement with the outdoors. Each child took part in the challenge wall activity-managing, with a lot of determination and support from their peers, to all clear the wall at 8 planks high!

They also took on the challenge of abseiling down the high tower. The bravery each child showed was amazing to see.

After an orienteering activity the day drew to an end leaving the children exhausted, proud of their achievements and excited to share their experience with their family.

It was an amazing day, full of sunshine, teamwork and resilience. Well done to all the children that took part.



IMPORTANT

We continue to receive concerns about the way that families park on Field Avenue.

When dropping off or picking up children please avoid parking on pavements, parking on the yellow zig-zags and parking in any way which causes an obstruction or puts anyone in danger.

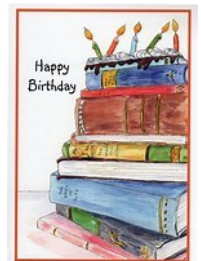


Breakfast Club Drop-off

We have also had reports of 'near misses' on the car park as children are dropped off on Field Avenue to enter Breakfast Club unsupervised. Please note that the staff car park is particularly busy between 7.45am and 8.30am and children entering Breakfast Club should be escorted to the door on the KS1 playground.

Book Donations

Many thanks to the following pupils who have donated a birthday book to the school library — Imogen (Y4), Kam (Nursery), Brooke (Reception), Evelyn (Y1), Olivia (Y4) and Mrs Bailey.



IN SUPPORT



A huge thank you for all of the donations from our Red Nose Day fun. **The grand total raised was £333.50.** An amazing effort – thank you!

The children looked absolutely fantastic with their red clothes and wacky hair – some very impressive hairstyles were seen! Throughout the day the children had the chance to decorate their own cupcake – a big thank you to the Y4 cookery club, Mrs Green and Mrs Rhodes for baking these for us. During the week the children took part in a guess the baby/toddler competition, carefully studying each picture and comparing them to every member of staff.

Nursery's Visit to Hoo Farm

We had a fantastic visit to Hoo Farm this month, the children loved seeing all the different animals and linking their learning to our topic. They all had the opportunity to stroke a meerkat and a lamb and feed the deer! The children have loved learning about the farm and engaged in lots of farm activities in the classroom too!



Year 1

Year 1 have loved learning more about Hot and Cold Places: they studied the artist Henri Rousseau and created artistic masterpieces using his style, with animals in the polar regions or jungle! They thoroughly enjoyed their science investigations in to animal poo and although it was disgusting, they worked out brilliantly which deposits belonged to herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They cannot wait to visit Peak Wildlife Park to spot some real animals in action! In Maths they have worked hard on time and volume - both tricky concepts! In English they enjoyed creating their own versions of the story 'Pirate Pete and his Stinky Feet' with Pirate Rose and her warty nose and Pirate Joe and his stinky toe going on further adventures! We are continuing to practise our phonics daily and appreciate all of your support with reading and spelling at home.



Reception

Reception have been having lots of fun learning about the Creation story in Christianity as part of their topic on Special Times. After listening to and discussing the story, they had a range of activities to choose from. They were creating their own world using paint and filter paper, sequencing and writing about the events of the 7 days, collaging to make a creation mobile and decorating their own Creation wheels.



Street Dance

A big well done to the Hillside Dance Crew for a fantastic performance at the Victoria Hall. Their interpretation of a Brazilian carnival dance was truly amazing!



Rock Band

Well done to our Hillside Rock band 'Super Seven' who performed at a Rock-off at St Paul's. Their two performances were fantastic !



Spring 2 in Year 2

Wow – what a half term we have had so far! After a wonderful ‘World Book Week’, we spent time learning the story of Mr Benn. We put ourselves in the story, and we produced some incredible descriptive writing all about his pirate adventure! In March, we went on our trip to Knowsley Safari Park, and luckily for us, we avoided the rain! On the trip, we learned information linked to our topic of Africa, we saw a seal lion display while we ate our dinner, and we even saw a bird of prey display. The birds flew very close to our heads! We also really enjoyed going on safari and meeting the lions and the lionesses! We are now very excited to continue learning about our Africa topic and to showcase our learning in our Class Assembly. We hope to see you there!



Year 5

Recently, it has been very busy for Year 5. Everyone enjoyed our WW2 themed week, which included our class visit to Cannock Chase museum, dressed as evacuees, followed by our showcase where we welcomed family members to join in with our WW2 learning. Book week followed, with many enjoyable reading activities during the week, including a theatre performance, book tasting and another opportunity for family members to join us in school. This month, two Year 5's have had the responsibility of decorating the book bench; a group have represented the class at the RE conference; a group of Year 5's visited the Science event at the King's Hall in Stoke and some have participated in a Paralympic event. The John Muir Club spent an exciting day at Stanley Head where they participated in a variety of outdoor activities. So yes, a very busy time for Year 5's!



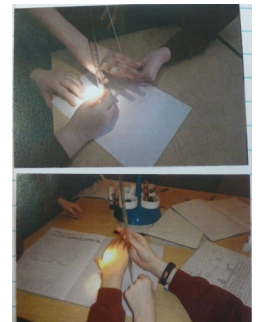
Year 3

Our Year 3's have been working hard in all areas of their learning this month. They've produced some brilliant writing on the Stone Age and have been introduced to some new concepts in maths. Recently, they have been learning to measure with both a ruler and a metre stick to the nearest mm, cm and m. The photos show a rare sunny day outside measuring!



Year 6

To supplement their learning of light in science, children in year six have been doing a number of hands-on activities. We observed the changing of a shadow over the course of a day by going outside and marking the position of tree shadows, we have created shadow puppets to see how the shape of an object impacts the shape of a shadow; and we made periscopes to understand how light travels.



Spring term Year 4

Year 4 have been enjoying learning about the city of Liverpool. They have learnt about the geography and history of the city, created artwork of the city skyline and used the laptops to research facts about Liverpool for their assembly. During their trip to Liverpool, the children got to learn more about how the city grew and got the chance to handle artefacts from Liverpool's history.



Cross Country—Well done to the KS2 children who took part in cross country. They all worked hard to achieve the highest finishing position they possibly could.

A special mention to Megan who came 2nd out of all the schools that took part!



World Book Week

World Book Week was a massive success. Both the children and staff had an amazing week that was filled with book related activities that allowed them to explore the pleasures of reading. As a school, we used 'pirate' books as a stimulus for writing and the following children were commended with a voucher to celebrate their efforts:

Nursery: Beckett
Reception: Vinnie
Year 1: Hendrix
Year 2: Freya
Year 3: Aaron
Year 4: Layla
Year 5: Lacie
Year 6: Evie



Book Club

We are continuing to promote reading for pleasure through the Hillside Book Club. We currently have two book clubs running: one with Mrs Schonau and another with Mrs Wainwright. The children are reading 'The Enchanted Horse' by Magdalen Nabb. This is the perfect storybook for group discussion about the characters, plot and language and is full of strong imagery and beautiful illustrations to bring the text to life.

Reading Rocket

This half terms reading challenge began on Monday 25th February and will end on Sunday 14th April. We are hoping the children can beat their record score of 87 children reading five times per week - this record was set during the last half term and is going to be difficult to beat.

The following table represents the percentage of children who are achieving the Reading Rocket for the last half term in each class:

Class	Percentage of Children Achieving the Reading Rocket
Nursery	38%
Reception	50%
Year 1	44%
Year 2	33%
Year 3	50%
Year 4	30%
Year 5	30%
Year 6	17%

Again, the children have had the opportunity of choosing the prizes for this half term. The children voted for Flip out vouchers as the prize draw gift. We are so pleased with the positive attitude towards reading that the children are showing in school and at home.



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 Y2 to Y6 and there is a club currently running in school for Y4 children on a Tuesday lunchtime with Mrs Wainwright.



The leader board for the most correct answers during this academic year so far is:

Name:

1. Lewis (Y6)
2. Harvey (Y4)
3. Imogen (Y4)
4. George (Y6)
5. Kamsie (Y4)
6. Harry (Y4)
7. Bella (Y4)
8. Amy (Y6)
9. William (Y3)
10. Thomas (Y4)

What's On Here are reminders of forthcoming events

APRIL

Mon 1st	Parents Meeting Y1 Phonics Screening 3.20pm
Tues 2nd	Parent Consultations—by prior appointment from 1.30pm (<i>full details to follow</i>)
Wed 3rd	Bling Your Bike or Scooter Day
Thurs 4th	Y1 visit to Peak Wildlife Park
Thurs 4th	Y2 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 5th	MAT visit to Gladstone Pottery Museum
Mon 8th	Final payment due Y3 residential
Tues 9th	Book Bench Launch at City Central Library Hanley
Wed 10th	Y3 Music Share Concert at Excel Academy
Thurs 11th	Y1 Class Assembly 9.15am
Thurs 11th	Y5 North Stoke Cross Country Event at Haywood Academy 4-5pm
Thurs 11th	School Disco—FS/KS1 at 5.30-6.15pm
Thurs 11th	School Disco—KS2 at 6.30-7.30pm
Fri 12th	School closes at 3.15pm for Easter Break
Mon 29th	School re-opens for the Summer Term



MAY

Thurs 2nd	School closed one day only—Local Elections
Thurs 2nd	Y6 only - Booster 8.50am-12.00pm
Mon 6th	School closed one day only—Bank Holiday
Thurs 9th	Y3 overnight residential visit to Shugborough OEC
Mon 13th	SATs week Y6 Mon-Thurs
Mon 13th	Tri-Golf Competition Y4
Thurs 23rd	Photographs—Y6 leavers and Nursery Graduation
Fri 24th	Y6 visit to Alton Towers
Fri 24th	School closes at 3.15pm for half term break

JUNE

Tues 4th	School re-opens
Tues 4th	Y4 visit to Coombes Valley Nature Park
Thurs 6th	Reception class visit to Imagine That, Liverpool
Mon 10th	Y6 at 4 night residential visit to Stanley Head OEC
Tues 11th	Y3 visit to Gladstone Pottery Museum
Mon 17th	Science Week—various activities throughout the week
Tues 18th	Y5 visit to Big Bang Event
Tues 25th	Y2 visit to Llandudno
Tues 25th	Y6 visit to Manchester Museum of Science

JULY

Thurs 4th	Y1 visit to Ford Green Hall
Fri 19th	School closes at 3.15pm for the summer break

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.

Holidays for 2019/20 attached and also available to download from our website

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

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

Autumn Term 2019:

School closed:	Monday 2 nd September 2019 (<i>staff inset</i>)
School opens:	Tuesday 3 rd September
School closed:	Friday 27 th September – one day only (<i>Staff inset</i>)
Half-term:	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November inclusive
School opens:	Monday 4 th November
School closes:	Thursday 19 th December at 3.15pm for the Christmas Holiday
School closed:	Friday 20 th December - one day only (<i>Staff inset</i>)

Spring Term 2020:

School opens:	Monday 6 th January
Half-term:	Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February inclusive
School opens:	Monday 24 th February
School closes:	Friday 3 rd April at 3.15pm for the Easter holiday

Summer Term 2020:

School opens:	Monday 20 th April
May Day closure:	Monday 4 th May
School closed:	Thursday 7 th May – <i>one day only Police Commissioner Election</i>
Half-term:	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May inclusive
School opens:	Monday 1 st June
School closed:	Friday 20 th June – one day only (<i>Staff inset</i>)
School closes:	Friday 17 th July at 3.15 pm for the summer holiday