

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 3 - 2019/20

29/11/19



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

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. Each class took part in 'Move with Joe Wicks' - it was quite a workout! Thank you again for your efforts and donations.

In total we raised an amazing £304.63 which was accumulation of donations plus £84.10 was raised from cake sales.



An extra special thank you to Mrs Green, Mrs Pope and the Y3 bakers for all the delicious cakes.

Reading Rocket Challenge

This half term's Reading Rocket ends on Sunday 22nd December. The prize draw will take place after Christmas so please make sure your child's reading diary is up to date for them to be in with a chance of winning the Reading Rocket prize.



Attendance

Whole school attendance for last year was 96.9% 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. Punctuality is important!

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

Rock Stars

Times Tables Rock Stars is continuing to engage and motivate children to learn their times tables. The leader board for the most correct answers during the last two weeks for each class are as follows:

Year 6	Year 5	Year 4
Lucy	Mika	William
Sam	Imogen	Jessica
Lilly	Megan	Maisie-Mae

Year 3	Year 2
Albie	Maddie
Danielle	Finley
Emmett	Isabel



Nursery have been working their socks off this half term! We've celebrated Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, raised money for Children in Need, been practicing our counting to 10 and learning to write our names in cursive handwriting! Recently, our work and activities in our classroom have been based around the stories of 'The Rainbow Fish', 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' and 'Lost and Found'. We've investigated penguins and their blubber, produced some beautiful artwork and showcased our excellent number work!

Well done Nursery.



Year Two have had a busy November. At the start of the month, they looked at poetry based on crocodiles. They all performed brilliantly in their groups. Towards the middle of the month, the children revisited food chains in science. They were all given an animal and they had to find something they could eat to form a food chain. Finally and most recently, the children enjoyed the many activities on offer as part of History day. In Year Two, they acted out The Gunpowder Plot. They crawled under the Houses of Parliament and placed the barrels of gunpowder underneath King James I. An exciting day for all!



Reception have spent the last half term learning about a range of celebrations. They have learnt about why we need to support Children in Need, the origins of bonfire night and who Guy Fawkes is, Remembrance Day, Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita and why Jewish people light candles at Hanukkah time.



Year Three have been enjoying learning all about Brazil since September. They enjoyed sharing their knowledge with their family members during the Year Three showcase and also learnt some new facts about other countries in South America. During their trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the children learnt even more about the Amazon Rainforest and the plants and trees that grow there. During art, the children produced some fantastic rainforest pictures which are currently on display. They have remembered so many facts and have been really enthusiastic throughout the topic. Well done



Year One are continuing to work extremely hard and are now working every day to complete phonics, English and Maths lessons as well as Science, topic and lots of other exciting subjects. Maths learning has involved getting to grips with 2D and 3D shapes as well as more addition, counting in patterns and missing number work. In English, we have really enjoyed being 'Lost in the Toy Museum' and loved starting our writing by playing hide and seek to search for missing toys and vocabulary! We are about to change the character and re-write the adventure story using our knowledge of the story so far. We have visited the Brampton Museum and cannot wait for our showcase!



Year Four have had another busy term, both with their learning and with lots of enjoyable events they have been involved in. Following the visit from the poet Matt Windle, they wrote some fantastic poems linked to their Romans topic. They have enjoyed a visit to Cineworld where they watched Abominable, which helped with their understanding of emotions and friendships. In maths, their calculation and problem solving skills have been developing and they have been rising to the challenges set during lessons, proving they have a growth mindset with their learning. In art, they have produced some super mosaic tiles applying their knowledge of symmetry and pattern, just like the Romans!



Year Five—November has been an extremely productive month in Year five. Within our maths work, we learnt all about statistics. This unit of work led to us creating our own line graphs, using our computing skills on Purple Mash, with data that we collected ourselves (as pictured). Once we had created our line graphs we thought of a range of relevant questions to challenge our peers. During our English lessons we were inspired by poet Matt Windle who came to visit us in class. Matt supported us during our spoken word poetry unit which resulted in us writing poems linked to the Ancient Greeks. Our poems included a range of devices such as: rhyming couplets, alliteration, metaphors and similes. In French we have begun to apply our science learning all about Space, in our lessons we have learnt the names of all of planets and how to describe their location in the Solar System. We are certainly very excited for our visit to Leicester next week!



Year Six have had a busy month this month. They started the month visiting Blist's Hill Victorian town, where they made bricks whilst dressed as Victorians.

Year Six have also had their showcase. Thank you to all parents that were able to visit. Children enjoyed making calendars using doilies, Christmas crackers and bookmarks made from cut-out Christmas cards.

A representative from 'MIND' also came to talk to the children about mental health. He delivered many workshops to the children, who impressed with their understanding of mental wellbeing and engaged well in a very mature topic.



Science Spies

Miss McCann's Science spies have now been appointed and been given their first mission, which they passed with flying colours. They were given the task to ensure their own classrooms were equipped for super science lessons over the year. They will be set their next mission in the very near future!



School Closure Reminder – General Election

As you may already be aware Hillside Primary School will be used for the forthcoming General Election on Thursday 12th December. This enforced closure is completely out of our control and will mean that the school will be closed as it is used as a Polling Station.



School Uniform

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.

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.



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.



Remembrance

We made our annual trip to Carmountside alongside Milton, Greenways and Carmountside Primary to lay our wreath and remember. The children read aloud lovely poems which they had written. They were very respectful and great ambassadors for Hillside Primary School. Well done.

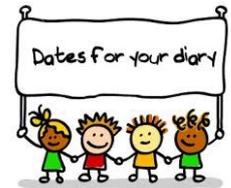
Mr Such kindly delivered a Remembrance Service to remember those who have been hurt or died in wars past and present. It was a lovely ceremony in which poems and prayers were observed, children also took part in a minute silence.



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

DECEMBER

Tues 3rd	Y5 visit to National Space Centre
Tues 3rd	SOT Library Service 'Bookstart Treasure & Time to Read' session in Nursery 2.30pm
Wed 4th	Nursery visit to Amerton Farm
Wed 4th	Reception visit to Ice Cream Factory
Thurs 5th	Y1 Showcase 2pm
Fri 6th	Whole school visit to Mitchell Arts Theatre—Panto 'Jack & the Beanstalk'
Mon 9th	Singing Stars perform 'Santa's Little Helpers' at Mitchell—drop off 6-6.15pm
Mon 9th	Christmas Productions—full dress rehearsal and filming
Mon 9th	Nativity Performance Rec, Y1, Y2 2.00pm
Tues 10th	Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long 9.30am
Tues 10th	Nursery Christmas Sing-a-long 2.00pm
Tues 10th	Christmas Production—Key Stage 2 6.00pm
Tues 10th	Church visit pm—Rec to Y6
Wed 11th	Christmas Production—Key Stage 2 9.30am
Wed 11th	Nativity Performance Rec, Y1, Y2 2.00pm
Thurs 12th	*Enforced School Closure —General Election*
Mon 16th	Musical Theatre group performance based on 'Mary Poppins' 9.30am
Wed 18th	Reception to Y6 Immunisation Visit
Wed 18th	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 18th	Christmas Dinner Day
Wed 18th	Discos—FS/KS1 from 1.15-2.00pm and KS2 2.00-3.00pm
Thurs 19th	School closes at 3.15pm for Christmas break



JANUARY

Mon 6th School re-opens for the Spring Term

Details for specific events will provided 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.