

# HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 5 - 2019/20

31/01/20



**Welcome** to our first Newsletter of 2020. The children have returned after Christmas with determined attitudes and have settled well into the Spring term.

We hope you find the following information useful and informative. Please take note of the dates on the back page.

*Mrs K Schonau*

## Rock Stars

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

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.

The leader board for the most improved children in each year group are:

### **Year 2**

Lenny  
Olivia  
Jude

### **Year 3**

Charley  
Grace P  
Gracie A

### **Year 4**

Lillian  
Lennon  
Jessica

### **Year 5**

Bella  
Sam  
Oliver

### **Year 6**

Keeley  
Isabella L  
Imogen



## Holiday List—2020/21 Academic Year

Please see attached list for holiday dates starting September 2020.

## Termly Attendance Awards

Well done to the 75 pupils who were awarded in our 100% assembly for the Autumn term. They each received a certificate and were entered into a draw to win a £20 voucher. Ethan Y5 was the lucky winner.



## Reading Rocket Challenge

We are looking forward to seeing how many of our children have achieved the Reading Rocket this half term. The children have come back from the Christmas holidays with great determination and passion for reading and we are hoping for an increase in children achieving the Reading Rocket.

The children have until Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February to complete the Reading Rocket and the prize draw will be drawn week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February. Please make sure your child's reading diary is up to date to ensure they are entered.



## Late Payments and Debts to school

Please ensure that you make payments for school meals and breakfast club via ParentPay on time. We are spending an enormous amount of time chasing these late payment debts. This task should not be necessary with the current online system in place making payments simple and speedy. Please support us by making all payments on time. A quick check online at the end of each week would alert you to any unpaid charges and save us valuable admin time.



### **Bananagrams**

We are about to hold our annual Bananagrams Championship in KS2. Bananagrams is an addictive word game wherein lettered tiles are used to spell words- like Scrabble but without the board. The children will begin by playing Bananagram games in class to determine the 'best players' within their class. These children will then go on to compete against other children from different year groups to crown an ultimate winner from lower and upper key stage 2. This competition will be taking place over the next two weeks so we will keep you updated as the championship unfolds.



### **Hillside's Science Ambassadors**

Our new science ambassadors have made a start with inspiring and enthusing our Reception and Key Stage One children with exciting weekly demonstrations during lunchtimes, with lots more to come!



### **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.



### **Hillside Reading Bus Update**

Wow! What an amazing transformation!

Thank you to Mrs Davidson and Latham Upholstery for reupholstering the seats and totally transforming our bus. It looks absolutely amazing and is so comfy.

The bus has also had a thorough clean – thank you to Mandy and Denise for this and thank you to John who has installed the tables which will come in very useful.

We can't wait for the next stage of the improvements which include heating & lighting and the external painting of the bus. We are hearing lots of great ideas from the children so we will be running a 'best design' competition soon.

Watch this space for our next reading bus update...



Family First was launched in 2017 with the sole aim of producing a free magazine that provides parents with all the tools required to help keep their children active, eating healthy & playing more sport (and away from their PlayStation/Xbox), helping to combat obesity in children & young adults.

**Follow the link below to download your free e-copy of Family First, the UK's largest family title - Enjoy.**

[https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff-issue\\_5\\_digital130120](https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff-issue_5_digital130120)

### **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.



**Nursery** have had such a busy start to the spring term! We began with our Rock Stars day- the children looked amazing coming to school dressed as a rock star!



Our topic this half term is all about what we would like to be when we grow up. We've focused on a different career pathway each week, we've had so much fun! So far we've looked at the job role of a firefighter, chef and doctor! The children have thought about what they might like to be when they grow up, and have used our dressing up box to share their ambitions with their friends.

We've also introduced our shared reading sessions and 'Squiggle whilst you wiggle' - a gross motor activity designed to aid our developing writing skills. Nursery, you are all superstars and we can't wait to watch you grow and develop throughout this term! Well done.



This term **Reception** have been learning all about food. We started by reading the story of Supertato and then we all dressed up as superheroes. We also read Handa's Surprise, which is a story about a little girl that takes some fruit to her friend. We then chose our own fruit to make a fruit salad. We tried lots of different fruits and they were all yummy. We then celebrated Chinese New Year with a range of exciting activities. We tasted Chinese food with chopsticks, made lucky Chinese fish and rounded off the week with a fantastic dragon and ribbon dance.

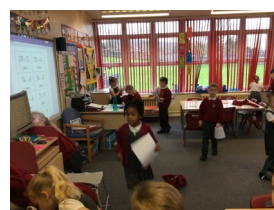


**Year One** have got 2020 off to a fiery start with their topic about the Great Fire of London! The topic was launched with a story about Toby who lived during the great fire and they searched for facts about the fire, when it happened and how it started. They have since found out more about the world, locating England and London in atlases and on maps, have considered how London has changed since 1666 and are writing their own versions of stories with themselves as the character that lived during the fire using their senses to help them.

In Maths they have been working on place value and ordering and are really improving in their knowledge of number with super vocabulary! Their computing skills are also improving and they have created avatars and pictures on Purple Mash and really enjoyed being able to work on the somewhat tricky laptops! Keep up the hard work Year One!



**Year Two** love practical learning! Recently, we have taken part in lots of hands on activities. In Design and Technology, the children have been making structures to protect people from the Enormous Crocodile. In English, children have been using paper puppets to act out the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Finally, in maths, children have taken part in a treasure hunt to find the answers to subtractions completed in their heads.



**Year Three** have made an excellent start to their learning this term, they have impressed the adults in Year Three with their wide range of knowledge and enthusiasm for all of their new units of work. They are all looking forward to learning more about Ancient Egypt over the coming weeks.

In Science, the children have been learning about forces. They planned an investigation, testing how a car moves on different surfaces. They thought carefully about how they could ensure it was a fair test. During the investigation, they made excellent observations and recorded and compared the results confidently.



**Year Four** have settled back in with a busy January. In addition to being rock stars and working hard with learning our multiplication tables, we have proved that we are all successful bakers through our DT project when making a Roman bread roll. We have also experienced a super team challenge in building the HS2 railway during our careers afternoon and made a super start to our learning based around our new topic entitled 'Our Wonderful World.' What a busy month!



### **Books for Birthdays**

At Hillside, it is tradition that children who want to share their birthday with the school buy a book for the school library rather than sweets for the class. As a health promoting school we encourage this tradition. A presentation plate will be put in the book so that all children who have the book from the library will know who donated it.

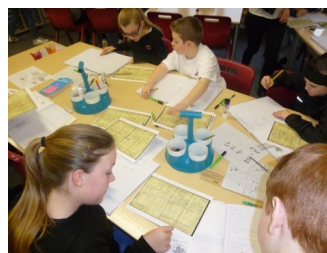


January has flown in **Year Five**. We have begun to focus on our new topic, the 'Vikings' and have become very absorbed in our new class text 'How to train your dragon'. Within our English, we've been looking at instructional writing and as our text suggests, we've already written very comprehensive and clear instructions about how to capture a dragon. In our topic, we have begun to question the typical view that history has given us about the Vikings using a range of different sources. Finally, we have completed our D&T baking project through creating an innovative form of pita bread that was gluten free. February is going to be another busy month for us all!



**Year Six** have had a busy start to the new year. In line with our current topic, The Victorians, children have been sifting through real, Victorian censuses to gather data about people from the past. They used this information in a range of maths lessons, including objectives such as 'calculating average as mean' and 'plotting and interpreting line graphs'.

The class were also fortunate enough to have been visited by Dennis Eagle, a converted bin-lorry-now-classroom. Children impressed with their understanding of the environment and climate change. Here they are after 15 minutes of litter picking.



### **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.



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

**FEBRUARY**

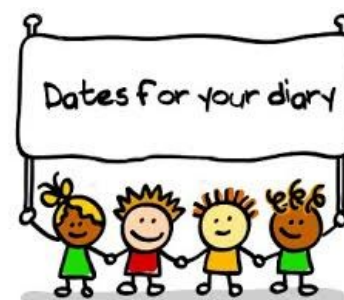
Mon 3rd	Futsal tournament at Fenton Manor 1-3pm—Y5/6 selected pupils
Fri 7th	Y3 residential final payments deadline
Thurs 13th	Y2 Showcase 2pm
Fri 14th	School closes at 3.15pm for half term break
Mon 24th	School re-opens
Tues 25th	SOT Primary School Enterprise Challenge 2020 at Staffordshire University Y5/6 selected pupils
Fri 28th	Y6 residential final payments deadline

**MARCH**

Tues 3rd	Whole school performance of 'Oliver Twist' 9.15am
Tues 3rd	Dance rehearsals at Victoria Hall—am
Tues 3rd	Dance Extravaganza at Victoria Hall (pupils to arrive at 6pm for 6.20pm start)
Tues 10th	Y3 visit Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Thurs 12th	Y5 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 13th	Sport Relief—details to follow
Tues 17th	Y4 visit Dudley Zoo
Thurs 19th	Y3 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 20th	Nursery Assembly/lunch—Mother's Day Theme 11am
Thurs 26th	Y4 Showcase 9.15am
Thurs 26th	Y1 visit Ford Green Hall
Tues 31st only)	Parent Consultation Meetings from 1.30pm (by appointment

**APRIL**

Thurs 2nd	Y1 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 3rd	School closes at 3.15pm for Easter Break
Mon 20th	School re-opens for summer term
Thurs 23rd	Y2 visit Gladstone Museum



**MAY**

Tues 5th	Y3 overnight residential at Shugborough OEC
Tues 5th	Y6 leavers and Nursery graduation photos
Thurs 7th	School closed—Polling Station Police Commissioner Election
Fri 8th	School closed—Bank Holiday
Mon 11th	SAT examinations Y6 Mon-Thurs
Fri 22nd	School closed at 3.15pm for half term break

**JUNE**

Mon 1st	School re-opens
Mon 1st	Y6 residential visit to Stanley Head OEC Mon-Fri
Tues 16th	Y2 visit Jodrell Bank
Fri 19th	School closed one day—staff inset day

**JULY**

Fri 17th	School closes at 3.15pm for summer break
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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 app, newsletters and other correspondence from the school.**

# HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

### **Autumn Term 2020:**

School opens:	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
School closed:	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September – one day only ( <i>staff inset</i> )
Half-term:	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October inclusive
School opens:	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
School closes:	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December at 3.15pm for the Christmas Holiday
School closed:	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December ( <i>staff inset</i> )

### **Spring Term 2021:**

School closed:	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January ( <i>staff inset</i> )
School opens:	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Half-term:	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February inclusive
School opens:	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
School closes:	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April at 3.15pm for the Easter holiday

### **Summer Term 2021:**

School opens:	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>May Day closure:</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
Half-term:	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June inclusive
School opens:	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
School closed:	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June – one day only ( <i>staff inset</i> )
School closes:	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July at 3.15 pm for the summer holiday