

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 2 - 2016/17

30/11/16



Welcome to our **November** Newsletter.

I hope the information provided continues to keep you up to date with the life of our school.

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.

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Mrs K Schonau



Staff

At the end of this term we will be saying a fond farewell to Mr Greenhalgh as he pursues his career in the specialist school sector. We wish him the best of luck and give him thanks for his time at Hillside.

We will be welcoming Miss Ward to the teaching staff at Hillside. She will be covering Miss Hewitt's maternity leave in Year 3. She cannot wait to begin working with the Year 3 children and their parents.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for your kind donations to 'Operation Christmas Child'. The boxes looked lovely and no doubt that they were filled with great little gifts which will make a big difference.



Charity Appeals

A huge thank you to all those parents, pupils and staff who have helped us in our recent fundraising efforts.

As always our **Children In Need Appeal** was well supported. Pupils and staff came to school dressed with the theme 'Spots'. Our final total was £291.70. Included in this amount is £69 which was raised through a special cake competition.

Thank you to Mrs Green who created a wonderful 'showstopper cake' with the theme M&M's for a prize to whoever could guess the correct amount of M&M's used within the cake. Megan and Noah were joint winners and will share the cake.



Thanks to everyone for making the effort to wear spots and donating funds.

The **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** has been well received as usual. Thank you to our Head Boy and Head Girl and Y5 and Y6 School Council members who represented Hillside at a small service at the War Memorial at Carmountside. We joined pupils from other local schools to pay our respects and remember those people who have lost their lives in conflict. At 11 o'clock we took part in a two minutes silence, as did all the children and staff back at Hillside.



Art Club

The art club staff would like to thank all the children who contributed to the latest display in the hall. "100 Years of Roald Dahl."

We are very proud of you and it looks amazing!



No Parking on Staff Car Park

Some cars are being driven onto the staff car park to collect children from after school clubs or when dropping off for Breakfast Club. Please ensure that whoever drives to drop off or collect your child knows that **parking on the staff car park is prohibited**. If you need to drive you must park on the road.



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was a great success. A big thank you to Louise, Vicky and Angela for bringing together the events organised this year by the PTFA and to all of those who have given their time and support in making them a great success.

Thanks to everyone who donated bottles, chocolate, cakes, books etc.

Late Pick-Ups

Please ensure that you collect your children on time from school, after school clubs and following trips. Please be mindful that staff often have meetings or training after school and when they stay later for after school clubs or trips they may need to get home or collect their own children.

Letters/Newsletters

Would parents and carers please ensure that you keep letters and newsletters to hand and/or transfer the dates to your diaries/calendars/mobile phones to reduce the volume of telephone calls received in the school office relating to trips, after school clubs etc. for information of dates and times which have already been provided.

School app

The app is a great means of communication with news, photos and a calendar of useful dates/events.

Whilst we endeavour to ensure that all events are included on the calendar this may not always be the case so please continue to use letters and newsletters as your main source of information.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Head Lice

We know that this is a difficult problem but as a school we need everyone to be extra vigilant regarding head lice. If you notice any eggs or lice in your child's hair then please treat the lice immediately. You should check your children's hair regularly, ideally once a week. We all need to work together to ensure that as a school we combat this difficult problem.

Thank you for your support.



Book Donations

Many thanks to the following pupil who has donated a birthday book this month — Olivia Winkle.



Reception Celebrate Children in Need Day

Reception had a fantastic day making Pudsey Puppets, decorating spotty biscuits and finishing the day with a Teddy Bear's picnic.



Year 1 Visit to Brampton Museum

Y1 enjoyed a trip to Brampton Museum as part of their topic about toys. In the morning they got to play with old toys and went on a toy hunt. In the afternoon they created their own puppets using recycled materials. Look out for them on display.



Year 2's trip- Jodrell Bank

Year 2 had a brilliant time at Jodrell Bank. We learnt about how astronauts survive in space, made rockets and experienced sitting inside the inflatable planetarium.



Years 1 and Year 2 Cinema Visit

Years 1 and 2 had a fantastic morning at the Odeon Cinema watching Zootropolis, complete with juice and popcorn, as part of our PSHE lessons. The children were impeccably behaved and were a credit to the school.



Years 3 and 4 Cinema Visit

Y3 and Y4 enjoyed a trip to the cinema on Wednesday 23rd November as part of the National Film Festival. Unfortunately, the planned film 'The Good Dinosaur' was unavailable due to technical problems, but everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy watching 'Trolls' whilst munching on popcorn washed down with juice.

Year 5's Salt Crystals

Y5 are coming to the end of their materials topic in Science and to help them understand reversible and irreversible changes, the class have made salt crystals! Over time, their crystals are getting bigger and bigger! How big will they get?



Year 5 Trip to Dudley Zoo

Y5 have recently been on a trip to Dudley zoo to support their rainforest topic. They were able to identify many of the animals found in the rainforest and they even had the chance to get up close to some of animals found in different layers of the rainforest.



Year 6 Trip to Blist's Hill

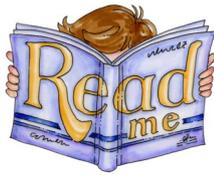
Y6 have enjoyed an amazing day at Blist's Hill Victorian town. All children made their own tiles in a tile making workshop; some enjoyed a paper cone of chips from a Victorian chip shop; they experienced how candles used to be made; had a look through a typical Victorian home; visited the local pharmacy; visited the local confectionary shop and looked at how prints on paper and card used to be made (ask your children the origins of the phrase 'coming a cropper'). Some children were offered a seven year apprenticeship at the print works but didn't fancy the idea when they were told they wouldn't be able to take their new games console into the upstairs box room, which had no central heating.



Overall the children had a fantastic day and have all commented on how inspired it made them feel.

Reading Rocket

Well done to all those children who have taken the accepted the Reading Rocket challenge. The draw for the prize will take place during the final week. This challenge will continue next term so please encourage your child to read at least five times per week (this includes weekdays or over the weekend). This will hopefully develop the habit of reading widely and often and to acquire a wide vocabulary to support them in their use of grammar and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.



City Learning Trust Debating Event

Six of our Y6 pupils took part in a debate at the Council Chambers in Stoke. The focus for debate were the unsustainable goals. Hillside represented the 'End of poverty goal'. They presented and debated confidently, articulately and passionately.

Well done!



Mathletics

Mathletics is still being used widely in school and at home. Well done to these children for making it on to our school leader board for gaining the most points:



1. William Rajkumar
2. James Deakin
3. Olivia Day
4. Daniel Bell
5. Lacie Taylor
6. Lucy Hurst
7. Jessica Swift
8. Safalta Garung
9. Thomas Holmes
10. Rudy Pilarczyk

Many children have also achieved bronze, silver and even gold certificates over the past term - so well done! Keep up the hard work.

Science Ambassadors

Our Science Ambassadors from Year 6 have been working hard again this term to provide exciting and awe-inspiring demonstrations for the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One children during lunchtimes. A huge thank you to them all for giving up their lunchtimes to plan, resource and carry out scientific experiments. You really are demonstrating that you are super scientists!

Anti-bullying Week—14th to 18th November 2016

As part of anti bullying week we welcomed 'Take A Hint' back into school. They put on a fantastic performance for the whole school. Year 6 then went on to enjoy a workshop, exploring bullying through various drama techniques.



Be bright, be seen!

A big well done to all our pupils for dressing up for our 'be bright, be seen' day. They all looked colourful, bright and fantastic.

A reminder to parents to carefully consider, especially during the winter months, whether or not their child can walk home safely from extra-curricular clubs if they are alone. Even at 4:15 or 4:30 it can be very dark and we want all of our children to be safe. Please consider carefully how your child walks home at all times and remember Be Bright, Be Seen!



School Closures Due to Snow

In preparation of the forthcoming winter months, please can I remind you all that, despite our best efforts to stay open, on occasions, the weather and the conditions on site may make this impossible. As a result of this, I may, reluctantly have to close the school. The decision to close the school is a serious one. Our main consideration will always be the health and safety of our children and staff. Please be aware that all schools are different and can be affected by such situations in different ways. Hopefully, it will not be necessary to close the school this winter but it is always best to prepare for the eventuality just in case.

Local radio stations including BBC Radio Stoke and Signal Radio will be contacted in order that they can broadcast the closure. This information will also be published on the Stoke-on-Trent City Council Website: <http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/content/education/schools-general/school-closures.en> .

If you tune into these stations and there is no mention of Hillside Primary closing, then we are open for business as usual. This is the means by which we will communicate with all parents and ***I urge you not to phone school because we need to keep the telephone lines clear for staff.***

As a secondary communication method a text alert will be sent to the main contact for your child. Experience suggests that this is not always reliable at times of high demand on mobile networks and demands are greater when travel arrangements are disrupted. We will also aim to publicise the closure via the school's website and School App although this won't always be possible. ***Again, we urge you not to phone the school.***

If you update your mobile telephone number please ensure you advise the school office who will then up-date our system with the new number.



Safety of the site

Please refer to the school **Gritting Policy** (available from our website) which is in place to minimise the dangers of slipping on frost, snow and ice in outside areas and on access routes. We are only allowed to use grit within our own school grounds. Please note that any pavements, paths and roads outside of the school grounds is the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Cold weather clothing

Please can you make sure that your children come to school with appropriate clothing. Some children are not bringing suitable coats, hats and scarves and are cold at playtimes. Also, I would encourage pupils to come to school in wellies if it snows. There's nothing worse than sitting with wet feet all day and if pupils wear wellies or suitable winter boots then they can play in the snow during breaks. ***Don't forget to bring their school shoes in to wear indoors though!***



PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS DISCO

We shall be holding a Disco for all pupils of Hillside School on
Thursday 8th December 2016.

The Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1 Disco will be from 5.30 pm to 6.15 pm and the
Key Stage 2 Disco from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.
Admission is £1.50 which includes a drink. There will be the usual shop open for the
children to buy refreshments and other items if they wish to.

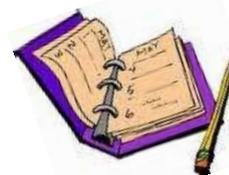
All pupils attending must be collected and accompanied home by a responsible adult.



Dates for your Diary

DECEMBER

Thurs 1st	Reception Class Stay & Play Session 8.50-9.15am
Thurs 1st	Christmas 'Rock Off' at Greenways 1-2.30pm
Thurs 1st	Y1 Showcase 2pm
Thurs 1st	PTFA Film Night for pupils 'Storks' - entry by ticket only purchased in advance
Mon 5th	Nursery Trip to Amerton Farm
Tues 6th	Reception Trip to Winter Wonderland
Tues 6th	Y6 Showcase 2pm
Tues 6th	Songbirds Concert at the Victoria Hall 6.45pm
Thurs 8th	KS1 Immunisation Session
Thurs 8th	Christmas Disco
Fri 9th	Whole School Visit to Mitchell Theatre 'Robinson Crusoe'
Tues 13th	9.30am—Nursery Sing-a-Long
Tues 13th	10.45am—Reception/Key Stage 1 Nativity—'Gabriel's Big Break'
Tues 13th	1.15pm—Reception/Key Stage 1 Nativity—'Gabriel's Big Break'
Tues 13th	2.15pm—Nursery Sing-a-Long
Tues 13th	6pm—Key Stage 2 Panto 'Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!'
Wed 14th	9.30am—Key Stage 2 Panto 'Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!'
Wed 14th	Whole School Visit to Milton Church
Wed 14th	Choir to perform at Mitchell Arts Theatre 'It's a Kind of Panto'
Thurs 15th	Reception Class Stay & Play Session 8.50-9.15am
Thurs 15th	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 15th	Christmas Lunch
Thurs 15th	Whole school class parties pm— <i>look out for the slip in your child's bag next week</i>
Fri 16th	School closes at 3.15pm for the Christmas Break



JANUARY 2017

Wed 4th School re-opens for the Spring Term

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.