

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISSUE 4 - 2016/17

31/01/17



Welcome to our January Newsletter.

I'm pleased to report that pupils have made an excellent start to the new year and are looking forward to taking part in our busy calendar of events. This newsletter provides information about these events and aims to keep you up to date with life at Hillside.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Mrs K Schonau

Mathletics Leader Board

Mathletics is continuing to support children with their maths learning this term. The children were challenged to see which class could achieve the most bronze certificates this half term. So far the leading classes are:

- Year 3
- Year 1
- Year 6

Let's see if any of the other classes can overtake them in the coming weeks.

Mathletics Champions

The Mathletics champions are continuing to organise a maths club each week to support year 2 children in learning maths skills and mastering them through a range of different concepts. The children in Year 2 thoroughly enjoy using ICT to improve their mathematical knowledge and it is another example of fantastic collaborative working that occurs daily at Hillside.



Reading and Writing at Lunch Time

The reading buddies have helped Mrs Wainwright to set up some amazing resource boxes to support reading and writing at lunch times. Boxes of reading books, writing resources, white boards and even outdoor bean bags (to keep the children comfy) have been purchased for both KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. The reading buddies help to organise the use of the boxes each day and all year groups are enjoying an additional activity at lunch time that helps to support their reading and writing skills.

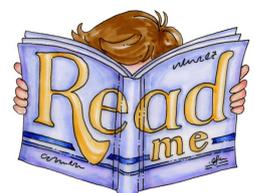


Poetry Day

Poetry day was a huge success. The children received an inspirational assembly from Paralympian Jenny Booth and book publisher Peter Hooper to begin the day and then spent time in classes exploring their chosen poetry type; learning about the features; drafting and writing their poem; using art to present their poem and finally a chance to perform their finished piece in an assembly at the end of the day. The poems that were produced across the school were just incredible and the children were extremely positive about the day and have asked to complete other themed days.

Reading Challenge

There are four weeks left of this half terms reading challenge. Well done to those children who have taken up the challenge; it is so lovely to see such enthusiastic and motivated readers in school. The prize will be drawn in the final celebration assembly of the half term so remember to keep reading diaries up to date for your child to be in with a chance of winning.



Nursery—Jack’s Beans

Our Topic this half term is all about growing. We are currently looking at Jack and the beanstalk. This week we have been planting our own beanstalks! We talked about all the steps we need to take to help it grow. The sun, water and air all help the beanstalk grow! After planting our beanstalk we all predicted how tall they were going to be. We will have to wait and find out!



Reception Church Visit

As part of our R.E. topic on special places, Reception went on a trip to Milton church where they explored various objects that are special to churches and Christians.



Year 1’s new topic

Y1 are really enjoying their new topic all about hot and cold places. They have enjoyed learning about what animals live in cold places. After watching a video about animals from the Arctic the children created fact files about their favourite animal. They are really looking forward to our trip to Peak Wildlife Park so they can learn more about other animals.



Y4 - Poetry Day Creative Workshop

Year 4 were chosen to discuss and share their ideas to contribute to an introduction of the poetry work produced by Hillside children during poetry day. They were given the opportunity to talk to and work alongside Jenny Booth, a gold medal Paralympic swimmer and also Peter Hooper, a local poet. The children came up with some fantastic ideas for an introduction to the work produced.



Y5—Poetry Day

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed poetry day. They looked at narrative poetry and wrote poems based on the feeling of winning gold at the Olympics, taking inspiration from Jenny. Their poems were fabulous and Izzie bravely stood up and performed her superb poem in front of the school. A week later, they then had the chance to work with a cartoonist to bring some of their swimming ideas to life.



Year 6—Poetry Day

Y6 were thoroughly inspired by a visit from a Paralympic swimming gold medallist. As follow up work, they wrote their own poems and created coral paintings using salts and watercolour.

In class, Y6 continue to explore the wonders of light through engaging experiments and investigations. Next term we plan to use our knowledge to create shadow puppets.

The learning challenge question in topic, ‘Will you ever see the water you drink again?’ has led to fun investigations to do with the water-cycle and research work to identify countries around the world most in need of water.

In addition, this month has seen children particularly enthused by our English topic - mystery writing. Children pondered over ‘the case of Mister Hollow’ for two weeks; acting as detectives to find clues and piecing together an investigation from a crime scene. They included their findings in some impressively accurate police reports.

Bananagrams

The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have gone a little bit bananas this half term for the new spelling and vocabulary game - Bananagrams. The children are spending every spare minute of the day competing in this addictive anagram game.

We are holding Bananagram competitions over the next few weeks to crown one child the 'Top Banana!' We think this is a fantastic way of using fun games to develop language and logic skills. It is fantastic to see the children so enthused and excited.



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 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.

Thank you for your support in this matter.



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2017

The Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers scheme launched on 25th January 2017. We are collecting vouchers again this year for school.



This year there are three ways to collect; in Sainsbury's Supermarkets and online at www.sainsburys.co.uk - you'll be given one voucher for every £10 you spend, and in Sainsbury's local stores you'll get one voucher for every £5 you spend which will be used to obtain sports and cooking equipment.

Please send the vouchers into school with your child.

Thank you for your support!

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 — Millie Mason. Thanks also to Kamsolu Akubue for books donated.



Late Pick-Ups

Please ensure that you collect your children on time from school, after school clubs and following trips. We realise that sometimes lateness is unavoidable, however for some it is a regular occurrence and unacceptable.

Dates for your Diary

FEBRUARY 2017

Wed 1st	Y1 & Y2 visit to Peak Wildlife Park
Thurs 2nd	School Photographs—Individuals, Families, Siblings (refer to letter)
Wed 8th Feb	Reception Class—School Nurse Height & Weight
Mon 13th	Y2 Aerobalance Workshop
Tues 14th	Eamonn Reilly—Author Visit
Wed 15th	Final payment due—Y3 residential Shugborough
Fri 17th	School closes at 3.15pm for half term break
Mon 27th	School re-opens
Mon 27th	Whole school performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' by theatre group
Thurs 2nd	World Book Day

MARCH

Wed 8th	Nursery trip to Stockley Farm
Mon 13th	Y5 trip to the National Space Centre, Leicester
Tues 14th	Street Dance Crew performance at Victoria Hall 6.30-8.30pm
Thurs 16th	Y4 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 17th	PTFA Quiz Night (details to follow)
Tues 21st	Y5 Showcase 2pm
Thurs 23rd	Reception Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 24th	Nursery Mother's Day Assembly 11am
Thurs 30th	Y3 overnight residential visit to Shugborough
Thurs 30th	Y1 Class Assembly 9.15am
Thurs 30th	Recorder Festival (lunchtime concert—full details to follow)
Fri 31st	Final payment due—Y6 residential Stanley Head

APRIL

Tues 4th	Parent Consultations 1.30-7pm
Thurs 6th	Y3 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 7th	School closes at 3.15pm for end of term break
Tues 25th	School re-opens for the Summer Term

MAY

Mon 1st	School closed for Bank Holiday
Mon 8th—Thurs 11th	SATs Week
Fri 12th	Y6 trip to Alton Towers
Thurs 25th	School closes at 3.15pm for half term break

JUNE

Mon 5th	School re-opens
Mon 12th	Y6 residential trip to Stanley Head—4 nights

JULY

Thurs 13th	Excel Academy—Y6 Transition Day
Fri 21st	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.