

Welcome Back

We hope you have all had a super start to the new term. There are lots of exciting things planned for the rest of this term, so please do check book bags for letters and make sure we have an up to date mobile number, so you are able to receive our text messages.

New Faces

Mr Goodswen is now a fully-fledged member of staff and is working as a teaching assistant in Manatees class. Miss Burnell, who works in our breakfast club and at lunchtimes, is also working in the Foundation Stage, on a temporary basis. We will soon have staff pictures displayed in the lobby of the main entrance, so you will be able to put a name to all the faces in school.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again this year and need your help to save for sports and cooking equipment. The vouchers look slightly different this time. If you shop at Sainsbury's supermarkets, you will get one paper token, with the number of vouchers printed on it—one voucher for every £10 spent in store. If you use a Sainsbury's Local, you will get individual vouchers - one for every £5 you spend. There is a collection box for tokens in the reception area of school, or you can send them in via your child's class.



The Appliance of Science

Following on from its success last year, we are holding another Science Week in school, starting on Monday March 14th. There will be lots of science-based activities for children and parents during the whole of the week, including Science Fairs during the afternoons on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We will be joined by local businesses, Kirklees College and Newsome High School and we hope to see many of you there too.

Further details will be sent out nearer the time.



Further
sent out

E-Safety

Some of you attended the e-safety presentation given by Mr Lewis recently. We would like to remind you that if you are in school, where there are children about, you should not have your mobile phone out. This is the same for all adults in school, not just parents and carers. If your child is participating in a school event, please do not take photos which include other children. This is especially important if you intend to post these pictures on social media websites. You would not like pictures of your child to appear on the internet without your consent, so please be mindful of this. Thank you for your co-operation.

Tell Us Your Views

We will shortly be changing our school website, which has reached the end of its life in its current format. The children have been asked for their views on what they would like to see included in the new version and we would also like to get your opinions. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them in to Mrs Mellor. We can't guarantee to include everything, but your views are important to us and we would like the new website to be used more than the current one.



Parent Governor

You now have a new representative on our governing body. Fiqua (Rosie) Iqbal, parent of Maryam and Aisha Yusef, joins Jan Hellawell as a parent governor.

Whatever the Weather

We have had some very cold and wet weather recently. Some children are arriving in clothes that are not really suitable. Children need a warm waterproof coat, sturdy footwear and a sweatshirt or cardigan. They will be playing out and doing Forest School unless it is exceptionally wet. We are also experiencing some problems with our boiler, so some parts of the building are cooler than others. The uniform exchange service can support families by providing free uniform, coats and footwear. Leaflets

Courses

We are still running free maths classes for adults on Tuesday afternoons. These are run by Kirklees College and can lead to a level 2 qualification. Sessions are held in the Meeting Room from 1.00pm-3.00pm. See Mrs Mellor for more details, or just turn up to the class. You don't have to be a parent at this school to attend.

We have just held two dyslexia awareness sessions for parents. These have been very well attended and we may look at repeating them next year.

We are also offering SATs awareness sessions for parents of KS2 children. The maths sessions are already underway until half-term and will continue with literacy after the holiday. There are still places available, so please feel free to turn up on Monday afternoons, 1.00-3.00pm. The classes are again run by Kirklees College.

Reading Friends

It is really important for our children to have as much support with reading as possible. If you would like to become one of our Reading Friends volunteers, there is another round of free training being held in March at the John Smith's Stadium. To book a place, contact Helen Littlewood on 01484 234153 or email at helen.littlewood@kirklees.gov.uk. You will also need to have a DBS check undertaken before you can work with the children.

Golden Assemblies

Please come and join us for our celebration assembly on Friday mornings. This is when we recognise the achievements of children in Key Stages 1 and 2. If your child has been awarded a certificate or trophy for an activity outside school, you are more than welcome to bring it in. We have made some changes to the format of these assemblies and golden tickets are now presented by the class teachers. The Foundation Stage holds its own celebration assemblies on Thursdays. Children in Barn and Snowy Owls will join the older children towards the end of the summer term. Free refreshments, made by the children, are available in the dance studio after the assembly on Fridays. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and chat to staff. Classes are taking turns at baking biscuits, so come along and

sample their wares.

Holiday Fun

Wondering how to keep the children occupied during half term? There are lots of activities taking place in the local community, many of them free of charge. Newsome South Methodist Church is holding a Messy Church session on Saturday February 13th, 3-5pm. On the Sunday, there is a Valentines Day family quiz, from 3.00pm, free for children and £3 per adult. The church is also celebrating Pancake Day on Tuesday February 9th and will be serving pancakes between 3.30 and 5.30pm. There is a small charge for this.



Huddersfield Leisure Centre are holding a free cycling event on Monday February 15th, at 1.00pm. 'Come & Try Our Brilliant Bikes', offers children and adults the opportunity to get on a bike, whatever their ability. The event is also being held in different locations throughout Kirklees, including Almondbury Sports Centre, on Thursday February 18th, at 5.15pm. Kirklees Libraries are holding events across the area. On Tuesday February 16th, there is a Pirate-astic family art session at Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery, at 1.00pm. Admission is free and there is no need to book. Booking is needed for the Giant Books family art session, which is also on Tuesday, 2-4pm. Call 01484 414868 to book a place. The Zone are running half-term camps for cheerleading, gymnastics, dance and drama. These are cheaper if booked beforehand. Call 01484 484134 for more details. Further afield, there are lots of activities taking place at Cliffe House at Shepley. Call them on 01484 225083 and choose option 3 to get more details, or pick up a flyer from our main office.

What a Display

A group of parents and children are working together after school, to create a piece of art work, which will be displayed in the main reception area of school. The club is a family learning course, run by Kirklees College and will continue until Easter. We hope to run other activities like this in the future, so keep an eye out for texts and letters.

Since we came back after the Christmas holidays, we have taken part in several different sporting activities. We sent four teams to compete in a Year 5/6 boccia tournament at Dalton J, I & N School. Boccia is a sport similar to bowls, but players are seated. All the children developed new skills and enjoyed taking part. One of our teams narrowly missed out on fourth place.

Four aspiring gymnasts from Hillside, recently attended a festival at Newsome High School, along with eighty other children from Kirklees schools. The aim of the event was for the children to learn the routines needed for a future competition. The vault proved to be the scariest discipline, but they all managed to get over it in one piece. The floor routine had several different elements, but there will be plenty of time to hone their skills before the actual competition. Children from Newsome Junior School demonstrated the different routines and then supported others as they practiced what they'd been shown.



Two Year 5 children were selected to attend a day's Young Ambassador training at Huddersfield Leisure Centre. Richard and Sherneal had to help form an action plan, which could be put into place at Hillside, to help raise the standard of PE even higher than it currently is. The Ambassadors had to devise games, which could then be taught to younger children. They then had to explain the game to the other groups at the event. After their lunch break, Linda Stacey from SPIN, explained about the Change 4 Life scheme and how the Young Ambassadors could get involved.



GREEN SPACE



Here is a quick update on what's been happening in school:

- The gales have ripped off roofing felt from 2 of our sheds which are now being re-roofed
- Dwarf irises and snowdrops (including those donated by Mrs Horton, and planted in a drift near the entrance) have emerged to herald the spring.
- Litter seems to be increasing—please use the many bins provided around school
- A group of 8 children will be attending the Fair 'n' Funky Fair Trade conference for schools in Huddersfield on March 4th, during Fair Trade Fortnight
- A grapevine and fig plant have been purchased and planted in the greenhouse.
- The children in 'The Environment People' have produced a set of rules for playtime behaviour in the new 'open garden' scheme at the back of the school playgrounds (the pond has been fenced off specially)
- We need to work harder to separate rubbish in the playgrounds. Remember—green bins for compost fruit and veg. for the wormery, black/blue bins for all other general waste items.
- Pupil-to-pupil letters have been received from children in our Pakistan partner school.
- The seeds for this year's vegetable planting have now arrived.

Jewellery

One small pair of stud earrings is the only jewellery allowed in school. Children must be able to remove their own earrings for PE, or they should NOT be worn on PE days. This is a health and safety issue, as well as the risk of items getting lost. If your child is going to have their ears pierced, please try to do this during the summer holidays. If your child is seen wearing jewellery in school, they will be asked to remove it and it will be kept by an adult until the end of the day.

Parking

We would like to remind you that you should not be bringing vehicles onto school grounds, when dropping off, or picking up children. This includes out of school hours, such as for breakfast club and after school clubs. The school drive is only open to permit holders. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Disco

There will be a disco for Key Stage 2 children on Friday February 12th, 6.30-8.00pm. Admission is £1 per child and there will also be drinks and snacks on sale. Please note that this is only for children in years 3-6 and we cannot accommodate younger or older siblings. Children need to be collected from the event at 8.00pm prompt, by a responsible adult.



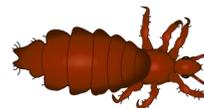
Uniform

Just a reminder that we do expect ALL children to wear school uniform every day, unless you have been notified otherwise. Please remember to name all your child's belongings. We regularly have to pass on unclaimed items to the uniform exchange scheme. If you would like to access the scheme either contact staff in the Children's Centre, or check their website at www.uniform-exchange.org. You can also speak to Mrs Heywood or Mrs Mellor.

Unwelcome Visitors

Please make sure you check your child's hair on a weekly basis for any signs of headlice. The days of

'Nitty Nora' are long-gone and it is up to you to make sure you check and treat your child. Treatment is available free of charge from the chemist. Children should not be kept off school due to headlice. The problem does tend to ease off as your child gets older and has less head-to-head contact. Tying back long hair also helps.



PE Kits

Please can you make sure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. Timetables do change and if your child does not have their kit, they will have to wear spare kit from school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Diary Dates

Monday February 8th—KS2 badminton Festival, Newsome High, 3.15-5.30pm

Friday February 12th—KS2 disco, 6.30-8pm

Friday February 12th—Break up for half term

Monday February 22nd—Back to school

Thursday February 24th—KS1 church visits

Monday February 29th—Year 2 Get Set Day (pm)

Thursday March 3rd—World Book Day

Thursday March 3rd—Wolves to Sculpture Park

Monday March 7th—Year 5 residential to Cliffe House

Wednesday March 9th—Year 5 return

Thursday March 10th—Wolves to Sculpture Park

Thursday March 10th—Parents' Evening

w/b Monday March 14th—Science Week

Thursday March 17th—Sculptor in Wolves class

Monday March 21st—Year 1 Get Set Day (pm)

Monday March 21st—Year 5 transition to Newsome High School

Tuesday March 22nd—Showcase event, 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday March 23rd—Careers Fair, 1.30-4.00pm

Thursday March 24th—Break up for Easter

Monday April 11th—Back to school

A full list of 'diary dates' is available on our website, (www.hillside-primary.co.uk), under parent information.