

Welcome Back

We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and are raring to go for the new academic year. We have lots of exciting activities planned for both children and adults this term, so please check book bags, texts and online for the latest updates.

Staff Changes

We are happy to welcome Mrs Sadler as the new headteacher at Hillside. If any of you are still to meet her, why not come along to Golden Assembly on a Friday morning. Mrs Turner is our new class teacher in Owlets class. She has a great deal of experience in early years and will be an asset to the school.

As you already know, Mrs Peace will be leaving us at half-term, to become a headteacher at a school in Ossett. Miss Miller and Miss McIntosh will be leaving us in a few weeks to go on to pastures new and Mr Brown has resigned. We wish everyone all the best in their new roles.

Harvest Festivities

Our Harvest Fair is on Tuesday October 13th this year. Once again, we will be having competitions for home-grown fruit and vegetables, baking, photography and lots of other categories. There will also be stalls, refreshments and a raffle, so make sure you bring your purses! The fun kicks off at 2.30pm.

In this time of plenty, we are collecting items for the Welcome Centre, in the town centre. They provide people who are struggling, with food, toiletries and bedding. We would like you to send in tinned, dried and packet foods, or toiletries, such as toothpaste, deodorant, soap etc. These will then be passed on to staff at the Welcome Centre. Donations can be sent into school anytime before we break up for half-term.



Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards Macmillan Cancer Support last Friday. Our coffee morning was a great success and we raised over

£80.00 for this worthwhile cause. Your contributions are very much appreciated.



Attendance

Last term, all Key Stage 1 and 2 classes achieved the government expectations of 95% or above for their attendance. Rhinos class were the champions, with 97.58% attendance. Foundation classes all came in below 95%, with Snowy Owls on 91.09%, Barn Owls on 91.07%, morning Owlets on 89.21% and finally afternoon Owlets on 88.61%. As of the start of the new academic year, schools have to monitor any individual child's attendance if it falls below 90%.. Starting after the half-term holidays, we will be awarding certificates to children with 100% attendance. These will be presented at the end of each half-term and full term, with a special certificate and prizes awarded for 100% attendance for the whole school year. Each class will have its own attendance target to work towards each week. Please help your child and school to achieve these targets, by making sure children are only absent if they are genuinely ill and unfit to attend. Where possible, GP and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours, or at the beginning and end of the day. Holidays or leave of absence will not be authorised during term time, unless it is an exceptional circumstance. Thank you for your co-operation.

Clubs and Activities

All our regular after-school clubs are full now. Children who missed out on a place, are on a waiting list and you will be contacted if someone drops out. Some clubs will be changing children after half-term. If your child no longer wants to attend a club, please let us know, as we can give their place to someone else. If your child misses more than two sessions without giving a reason, their place will automatically be given to another child. Please remind your child in the morning if they are attending a club that day. We also take part in regular one-off sporting events, throughout the year. We are hoping to showcase some of our after-school clubs in a performance before we break up at Christmas.

Maths Classes

If you would like to work towards a recognised maths qualification, you can still join the Tuesday afternoon class in school. This is open to all adults and is held in the meeting room at 1.00pm. The class is run by Kirklees College, but all sessions and exams take place in school and you can work at your own pace. Just turn up on a Tuesday, or see Mrs Mellor, if you are interested.

Reading Friends

We are in need of more Reading Friends volunteers! If you can spare an hour a week to read with a couple of children, we'd love to hear from you. We currently run two sessions a week.—Mondays 1.15-2.15pm for KS1 and Tuesdays 2.30-3.30pm for KS2. Training will be provided free of charge, by contacting Emma Fox on 01484 234153 or email emma.fox@kirklees.gov.uk. You will need to have a current Kirklees DBS certificate, in order to volunteer in school. Forms are available from the main school office.



Golden Assemblies

Every week we have special assemblies to celebrate the children's achievements. Parents and carers are more than welcome to join us. There are a few changes to these assemblies this year. Friday mornings are now just for children in Key Stage 1 and 2. As usual, there will be free refreshments in the dance studio afterwards, where you can chat to other parents and Mrs Mellor. Foundation children will have their celebration assembly on Thursday afternoons, at 3.00pm (Morning Owlets at 11.30am). Letters have been sent out to parents of Foundation Stage children. We hope to see you at one, or both, of these celebrations.

Road works

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the work being undertaken at the entrance to school. This

is to install high-speed broadband and will hopefully be completed in the next week. Please take extra care when using the path to the Children's Centre and at the front of school.



Christmas

It seems very early to mention Christmas, but here are a few events to add to your diary:

Once again, we are running Christmas craft afternoons, where you can come along and get 'glittered' alongside your children. For Key Stage 2, this will be on Tuesday December 1st and for Foundation and Key Stage 1, on Wednesday December 3rd. Both sessions will start at 1.15pm. Morning Owlets will have theirs at 10.30am on the Wednesday.

Our Secret Santa shop will be open daily, from 3.15pm, during the last week of term. This is for children to buy presents for their special adults. Gifts cost £1.00 each and will be gift-wrapped free of charge. The shop is based in the Library and does get very busy, so please allow plenty of time for your child to make their purchase.

Parties will also take place during the last week, along with pantomime visits, Nativities and Christmas Jumper Day! Check the school website (www.hillside-primary.co.uk) for more information. Details will be sent out nearer the time. We still have to confirm our Christmas 'event' so watch this space!



SPORTS SPECIAL

Once again we are taking part in lots of after-school sporting activities this term. Many of these are organised through SPIN (Sports Partnership In Newsome), where we compete against other local schools. Already, we have taken part in a Year 5 football tournament, an off-road cycling event, Year 5/6 football match and a netball festival. Future events include more football, cross country and hockey. Mr Spencer does a fantastic job organising these events and taking children to and from the venues in the school minibus.

The cycling event was run in conjunction with Star Wheelers cycling club. They have a junior section, 'Go Ride', which meets every Saturday afternoon at Newsome High School, between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. The cost is £3.00 for non-members and £2.00 for members. The club is open for children aged 6-16 years.

We successfully retained our Silver Sainsbury's School Sports award and are geared up and ready to go for gold this year. Hopefully we will once again qualify to take part in the Sainsbury's School Games.

Eight Year 6 children have been picked to take part in after-school sessions at Newsome High School in November. Jake Hussain-Dean, Shannon Horsley, Ben Curran, Luckas Hussain-King, Adam Cash, Ryan Kirrane Perrin, Amanah Ali and Charnelle Marsh have all shown exceptional skill, talent and commitment in PE.

If your child takes part in any of these after-school events, you are more than welcome to go along to cheer them on. Most are held at Newsome High School, but if you struggle to get further afield, have a chat with Mrs Mellor, as we may be able to accommodate you in the minibus, depending upon the number of children we're taking.



GREEN SPACE



Our new eco councillors have now been elected, along with the school councillors. The children will be having their first meetings shortly.

Some members of the Eco Council are going to The Fair and Funky One World Week Conference in Holmfirth next month. The theme of this year's conference is 'Food for Thought'. Schools from across Kirklees will be enjoying workshops and activities around food sustainability and Fairtrade. Letters will be sent out shortly.



Did you know you can now put aerosols in your green bins? Do your bit for the environment and recycle them along with your paper, cardboard, tins and plastic bottles.

There is also lots of cooking taking place at the moment within school. Classes are using seasonal produce to make jam, soup and other goodies. Visit our Harvest Fair to sample some of their culinary delights.



Parking

Please be aware that both the front and side car parks are for staff only and parents should not drive onto the school grounds, unless they have a permit issued by the headteacher. Many of you come to and from school by taxi and again, these should not be coming into the car parks. There are limited spaces on Headfield Road, but we recommend that you park on the roads away from school and walk the last bit. Please do not block driveways on Headfield Road, or White Hart Drive. We have received several complaints from local residents. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

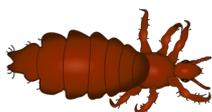


Lost Property

PLEASE make sure all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name. We have a huge pile of lost property already and we've only been back at school a few weeks. Please write the full name, rather than initials and check regularly to make sure it hasn't faded in the wash. If you would like to look through the lost property, please ask a member of staff.

Unwelcome Visitors

Please check your child's hair regularly for any sign of head lice and treat accordingly. This is a perennial problem in all schools and the only way to stop them spreading is to check and treat according to the instructions on the individual product. We advise that girls with long hair, keep it tied up at school. Contrary to popular belief, we don't breed them in school and some staff suffer as well as the children.



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.

Photographs

Individual photographs of the children are being taken on Tuesday October 6th. If you would like your child to have a picture taken with siblings not at Hillside, they can be taken before 9.00am. Please see Mrs Williams to arrange this. Siblings in school will automatically have group photos as well as individual ones.

Diary Dates

Tuesday October 6th—individual photos being taken

Thursday October 8th—Parents' Evening

Tuesday October 13th—Harvest Fair, 2.30pm

Friday October 23rd—Break up for half-term

Monday November 2nd—Back to school

Wednesday November 4th—Book Fair starts

Tuesday November 10th—Last day of Book Fair

Friday November 13th—Yr1 Pandas & Yr3 Tigers to cinema

Tuesday November 17th—Wolves to cinema

Friday November 20th—School closed (Training Day)

Tuesday December 1st—KS2 craft afternoon

Wednesday December 2nd—FS & KS1 craft afternoon

Thursday December 3rd—Flu vaccinations, Yr1 & 2

Monday December 14th—Yr 5 & 6 parties (pm)

Tuesday December 15th—Lemurs to panto (am), Penguins to panto (pm)

Wednesday December 16th—KS1 & FS Nativity (am), FS- Yr4 parties (pm)

Thursday December 17th—Yr4 Tigers & Yr2 Pandas to panto

Friday December 18th—Christmas Jumper Day, KS2 Nativity, 10am, St John's Church, break up for Christmas

Monday January 4th 2016—back to school

Full list of events can be found on the school website, under 'school information'.