



# The Hill Top Community Way

6th September 2017

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## Autumn 1

Welcome back to the 2017-18 Academic Year. I do hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and that the children are looking forward to all the exciting events staff have organized for them this year to enhance their learning experiences.

Thank you once again on behalf of all the staff for the wonderful comments on your responses to your children's reports; many Parents and Carers have commented on how individual our reports are year on year. We pride ourselves on that and a lot of time and effort goes into making each report very personal. Last year it had been difficult to read the children's work on the front of the report but you should have found that the piece of work was much clearer this year. I have again printed out some of the lovely comments from Parental responses and these will be displayed along the fencing as you enter Key Stage One playground shortly.

I will send out a Calendar of events for the year however these are subject to change if circumstances dictate - we will inform you of any changes as early as possible. We will continue to use the board at the entrance to school to inform you of events for the week as well as the school website calendar. Everything is on our school website and this really is the place to keep abreast of what is happening in school. Class teachers will be keeping their class pages up-to-date so that you can see what the children are getting up to in their new topics. We really will be cutting back on the amount of letters sent home again this year. Please ensure therefore that when you receive the batch of forms today that we do have to send out at the beginning of the year that all your contact details, email addresses as well as Asthma plans and medical details etc., for your children are up-to-date. Can I also remind you to let us know changes in phone numbers throughout the year as it has been difficult to get hold of some Parents when their youngsters are ill on some occasions.

If you are unable to receive information electronically please ensure that you inform us so alternative arrangements can be made.

We would like to welcome two new members of staff, Miss Gemma Redpath who is now our class teacher in Reception and Miss Lauren Richardson who will be working in the office with Mrs Parkinson.

Congratulations to our Gold Attendance Winners for 2016-17. Each child received a WH Smith token in recognition of 100% attendance last academic year. Our attendance for the year was 97.5%, which was excellent; lets see if we can raise that this year. It must be remembered that the cut off for attendance was 1pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July so attendance and absence for the last 2.5 days of last term is added to this academic year.

Early Parents/Carers Meetings - we have staggered these this year again at the request of many Parents who have children in different classes. The meeting dates are on the attached Calendar forms.

Mrs Briggs and Mrs Howard spent many days in school before we finished sorting out all the Accelerated Reader books and then boxing them up and Mrs Lancaster and I are very grateful for all their help and time.

They did this because over the holidays our Library area received a new look. The very large order for new shelving placed by Mrs Lancaster arrived and has been assembled by Mrs Lancaster, Mr Hyams and Emily, Mrs Lancaster's daughter. It was slow going initially - it helped if they held the plans the right way up - but after three full days they were up. The books have been duly put back on the shelves and are ready for the children once they have completed their STAR Reading test over the first couple of weeks. The amount of shelving we have now has meant that Mrs Lancaster is able to see exactly which level of books need to be ordered so there are sufficient for all the children. FOHT have kindly said that Mrs Lancaster can have £3000 from FOHT money for new books - in real terms this means we can order the equivalent of £6000 of books as we are able to purchase books at half rrp. We have also just been given permission to paint characters on the walls of the library which will really make the library come to life. Please call in and have a look after you have been in with your class teachers over the next two weeks.

I am still awaiting new Menu sheets with the right dates on from Carillion and will put this on the website as soon as we have it, however the menu remains the same as last term until October half term. We have started on Week One.

All the child have come back and have really been working very hard already. Here's to a super year.