



The Hill Top Community Way

29th March 2018

office@hilltopprimary.org.uk

www.hilltopprimary.org.uk

0113 3074750



End of the Spring Term

Once again another term draws to a close - they certainly seem to go very quickly and we look forward to the Summer Term - I just hope the weather matches the title of the term. Your children have all worked very hard again as have the staff and it was wonderful to hear so many of you praising the staff at Parent's Evenings as you told me of how much your children love coming to school. I have passed on the messages to staff for which they thank you.

We do pride ourselves on trying to speak to all Parents and Carers. We feel it is vitally important for you to speak to class teachers and catch up on just where your children are at and see the progress they have made. If you were unable to attend, please try to catch up with class teachers at the start of the Summer Term.

Goodbye and Welcome ...

This half term has seen Mrs Wade leave us after nearly 15 years at Hill Top. She is enjoying her new role in the NHS, especially her extra day off a week. We have appointed Mrs Lindsay Richmond to take up this role. She is an experienced schools Administrative Assistant and starts with us towards the end of April. Miss Lauren Richardson will continue to cover Mrs Wade's duties until then as well as her own as an Apprentice Administrative Assistant.

Yesterday, we successfully appointed two new Teaching Assistants. Mr Paul Fellender, who will start at the end of April, will be working in Key Stage 1 and Mr Paul Morris, who will start on the 16th April, will be working in Key Stage 2 - they are both experienced Teaching Assistants and we welcome them both to our school.

Today is also Miss Mortimer's last day in school. We would all like to thank her for all her hard work in school and we wish her all the very best in her new ventures.

Niggles

Can I please remind all Parents that school uniform is a knitted jumper or cardigan and not a sweatshirt. Children should also be wearing black shoes and not trainers.

Reminder: We do have school ties for sale in school at £3 each.

Much of our badged uniform is available at Tesco's online and at The Uniform Shop in Morley. Children can begin to wear Summer Uniform after the Easter Break if they wish to do so.

Car Parking - I do feel like the proverbial record player that has got stuck but PLEASE, PLEASE, for the safety of all children can Parents NOT come through into the Staff Car Park when dropping children off for Before School Activities. Please do not park on the double yellow lines and do not drop children off restricting access up the driveway.

Parking:- We have had several complaints again from Residents in the area about the lack of regard of some Parents/Carers when it comes to Drop off and Pick up times. Unfortunately Residents are having driveways blocked and on some of the roads it would be impossible to get an Emergency Vehicle through should anyone be needing the Fire brigade or an Ambulance. **Please park thoughtfully.**

Money into school:- The Office staff have asked me to remind you all that all monies into school must go through the classroom. Children should hand money, in an envelope, to the class teacher. It should not come through the office.

PE Kit:- All children must have both their indoor and outdoor PE kit in school everyday.

Children who use an inhaler **MUST** have these in school **EVERYDAY**.



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The posting of photographs on Social Media sites to include school Twitter

It is with regret, that as a school, because of recently posted comments on the School Twitter site and for those posted during previous London Residentials, school will no longer be using the Twitter or any other Social Media Site, on Residentials or school trips to post photographs.

Parents have made upsetting comments on a few occasions now about not being able to see their child on photographs. Parents need to appreciate that not only is it difficult to get Wi-fi connection in many places that we go to we can only post things as and when it is safe for us to do so ensuring the children are being looked after at this time. Taking photographs of the children when actively engaged with the groups is difficult at best.

We do appreciate that Parents are concerned about their children whilst they are on Residentials but staff get very upset by comments made and the last thing we want is for staff to refuse to do Residentials in the future. Staff give up their own time, putting themselves and their families out, in order to take your children away and give them the experiences that they do. Staff do their best at all times and photos are posted to give a flavour of the activities children have experienced.

Please give a thought for staff who have given up their time, for the tremendous amount of organization that goes into these events and for the stress that staff are put under ensuring all your children are cared for during these Residentials. Accompanying children on Residentials is not part and parcel of a teachers contracted role—I cannot expect staff to do this and I can only ask them if they are prepared to run the trips as they are not paid for the additional time they are on duty.

This is not a decision we have made lightly. I do think it a pity that it has to come to this and no doubt many of you will be upset by this decision but so as not to offend any Parents in the future and to save staff being exposed to these comments Mrs Lancaster and I feel we have very little alternative.

If any Parent would like to come and discuss this with myself and Mrs Lancaster, please feel free to make an appointment at the school office.

Easter Service

On a very positive note, the service in Church this morning was wonderful and very uplifting. Thanks go to Year 6 for leading the service so beautifully, and to Reverend Sharon for welcoming us to St Mary's once again. Thank you for all those who contributed to the collection—the monies go to Church Funds.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and we shall be back in school on Monday 16th April.

Mrs Karen Hyams
Principal
Hill Top Primary Academy