

Hillside Newsletter

Rushey Way, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 4HQ. Tel 0118 9755771



May 25 2018

Headteacher

Mrs Morris

Deputy Head

Mr Pearman

Foundation Leader

Mrs Attewell

Phase 1 Manager (Y1-3)

Mrs Short (Y1)

Phase 2 Manager (Y4-6)

Mrs Sheriff (Y6)

Inclusion Manager

(SENCo)

Mrs T Clarke

Letters recently sent out:

- After School/Lunch Clubs
- Sports Day
- Ofsted Inspection

Head's Update:

Dear Parents,

This term has flown by and I can't believe we are coming up to the final few weeks of this academic year already. We're delighted to be told by Ofsted that we remain a **'Good school and we keep our pupils safe'**. Hopefully you have taken the opportunity to read the letter from Her Majesty's Inspector as it highlights many strengths of which we are proud of. We are holding a meeting on Thursday 7th June at 3:30pm and 6.00pm, to share with you our school development plans for the next academic year and we can also answer any questions you may have regarding our Ofsted inspection.

As usual, the children and staff have been very busy this half term and we hope you enjoy our new half termly 'Newsletter Round-up' where you can find out what has been going on in each year group.

I am so very proud of our year sixes as they approached their SATs last week with confidence, resilience and determination. It was great to see every child at the SATs breakfast smiling (and eating loads!) Thank you to all the staff and Governors for serving breakfast for our Year sixes as they were very grateful.

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Dixon, our Year 1 teacher and Leader of Teaching and Learning has been successfully appointed as our Assistant Head Teacher. She will start this role from September. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Dixon in her new role. However, with good news comes sad news, as Mrs Short is relocating with her family and will be leaving us at the end of the term. Although we are happy for Mrs Short and her family, we will be sad to lose such a great teacher. We have more exciting news as Mrs Sherriff is expecting her second baby and will be starting her maternity leave at the end of September. We are recruiting this week for a Year 1 teacher and will share with you, the transition and staffing structure for next year early on next term.

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Although we don't have a Parent Support Advisor at the present time, please don't think there isn't anybody for you to talk to if you need help with any aspect of parenting. Please feel free to email admin@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk asking to speak to your child's class teacher, Phase Leader, our Inclusion Manager, Mr Pearman or myself. We will endeavour to help you, or will sign post you to somebody who can assist you.

From reading my previous newsletters we have invested heavily in improving reading, and purchasing more banded reading books this year, yet some of the book boxes are empty again! We really haven't any money to buy more books, so please can I ask you to check at home to see if you have any of our school reading books as we seem to have lost a lot!

Finally, I would like to share with you the success of our 'Inspiring the Future Careers Day' we had this week. The children had the opportunity to be inspired by a variety of careers including:

Astrological Physicist, Magician, England U17 Football coach, Badminton Coach, Fire Service, Web Designer, IT Enterprise Architect, Microsoft, Recruitment, Pilot, Greco Roman Wrestling Coach, Ceramic Artist, Police Officers, IT Consultant and Head of Woodrow High House.

The aim of this day was for children to broaden their knowledge about the different careers and to raise aspirations. There was such excitement around the school during this day and hopefully the children came home to talk to you about it. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who came in to present, talk to the children and answer questions. Also, thank you to Miss Crye, our Leader of Curriculum, for organizing the day.

We are looking forward to next terms events. We hope you have a lovely half-term.

Kind regards

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HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - YEAR 6 – SUMMER 1

What have Year 6 been up to this half-term?

Wow! We have such a busy half term! The children have worked incredibly hard and all of the Year 6 team are so proud of them. SATs are now completed, a lot of toast has been consumed, we have celebrated and we are onto the next chapter of Year 6.

In Science, we have been learning about evolution, sparking lots of questions about how the world began! We have also made the most of the weather outside and completed investigations linked to heart rate and exercise.

In computing, we have just moved onto learning about Excel Spreadsheets and a lot of the children have been excited to learn how to use a programme that their parents use at home.

In English, the children have loved using quirky ideas to write their own Harry Potter inspired potions.

In Geography, we have compared old and new maps of Reading and learnt how to read grid references.



'I loved the SATs cinema! Much better than an actual cinema. The drinks and popcorn were great!'



'The SATs breakfast was brilliant! It made me feel a lot calmer about the tests and the toast was delicious.'

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HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - YEAR 5 – SUMMER 1

Year 5 have had a very active Summer term! We started the term off with Mayan Day, where the children met Big Nose (a Mayan visitor). He taught us how to count in Mayan, what sacrifices they would perform, the creation story and helped us perform lots of drama activities.

The week after, we visited Whitemead Forest Park for our 3 day residential. On this trip, we took part in lots of exciting activities, including aeroball and zorbing! To add to the excitement, we all danced the night away at the disco on our last evening! We are very proud of how brilliantly Year 5 represented Hillside on this trip and gave every challenge a go.

For the past week, the children have been completing various assessments to show off everything they have learnt this year. All the children have worked extremely hard and demonstrated our values throughout the week. Well done Year 5! We look forward to seeing you for after half term for another fun-filled term.



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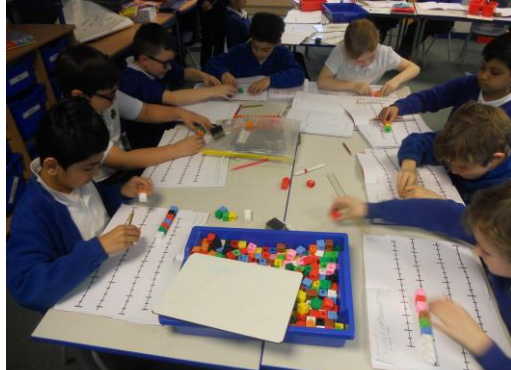


HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - YEAR 4 – SUMMER 1

In English, we have been imagining that we are estate agents. At first, we wrote an advert to sell the classroom to prospective buyers. Then we developed our skills further by advertising a Celt roundhouse and a Roman villa. Here are some photos of our guided tour of the roundhouse.



In maths, we have worked very hard to learn more about fractions and decimals, then used these skills to help us write and calculate amounts of money.



In Science, we have learning about teeth and set up a scientific enquiry on tooth decay using eggs to represent the enamel on our teeth. Our question was: Do liquids effect the strength of an egg shell?



Our previous CC topic was 'Wild Weather'. As well as learning how weather can be destructive (floods, droughts), we also found out how weather can be useful. To find out more about renewable energy, we visited the wind turbine at Green Park.



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HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - YEAR 3 – SUMMER 1

What a busy half term it has been! To investigate our science topic of bones further we dissected owl pellets to explore different skeleton types, during our trip to Rushall Farm. We also looked at the different types of animals and how they are cared for.

After starting our topic on exploring the UK, the children have begun map reading and recognising the different symbols used within maps.

We have been learning about fractions of shape and numbers in maths. Within our English lessons we have been writing recounts of our trip to Rushall Farm and finalising our portal stories.

Miss Wallace's class have also been enjoying their weekly swimming lessons this half term.



Discovering the feel of the bark on different trees.



Holding Lambs on the farm.



Dissecting owl pellets to explore different skeletons.



Map reading Ordnance Survey maps.

Children's comments

My favourite part of the Rushall farm trip was when we were pond dipping and we found the first dragonfly larvae of the season and we could hold lambs and do a Bee Dance.

I have enjoyed making skeletons out of straws and learning bone names using a song.

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HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - YEAR 2 – SUMMER 1

It has been a very busy term in Year 2 preparing for SATS. We are incredibly proud of all the children in Year 2 who have shown outstanding resilience and independence throughout the tests. All of the tests will be over by half term and results will be included in end of term reports. Alongside we have started to study how plants grow, by growing beans and keeping a weekly diary of their growth. To ensure they continue to grow, we shall be sending them home with the children for half term. Don't forget to bring them back!

Also we received an exciting delivery of baby dragon eggs. Year 2 were tasked with writing instructions on how to look after them if they hatched early. To our great shock, last week the eggs hatched overnight causing a trail of destruction before escaping through an open window. Following the children's investigation of the incident, we published newspaper reports which are now displayed around the school.



Exciting things to come next term:

- Windsor Castle – Tuesday 5th June
- Visit to Trinity Church – Wednesday 6th June
- DT Week 'The Great Hillside Bake Off' - Week beginning 25th June
- Year 2 assembly - Friday 22nd June
- Sports Day
- Significant people dressing up day – Wednesday 18th July

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HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - YEAR 1 – SUMMER 1

What have Year 1 been up to this half-term?

Well, what a busy term it has been for us in Year 1. We have focussed on the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and tied our learning together with 'Planting' in Science, by planting our very own beanstalks (you may have seen them in our classroom windows). We have enjoyed kick-starting our Creative Curriculum topic of the 'Seaside' with a focus on the Legend that is David Attenborough and all of the work he has done to protect our Earth. Our trip to Woolley Firs was both fun and educational and the staff there were so impressed with Year 1's learning behaviour and respectful nature towards the environment. Well done Year 1!

*"Best day of school ever!" -
Kristopher*

*"I can't believe we're going to
grow our own Beanstalk!" - Amelie*



What to expect next term...

- **Phonics screening week** 11-15th June
- **Fathers Creation Day** 18th June
- **Sports Day** (29th June or 13th July or 20th July)
- **Transition Days**, meeting my new teacher
- **Curriculum Day and Market stall** – Date TBC

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HILLSIDE TERMLY ROUND-UP - FOUNDATION

This term we have been learning all about growing! We had a fantastic trip to Bucklebury Farm, where we had a great time learning about the animals.



In Independent Learning time, we have been collaborating with our friends!

We even looked after our own animals – we watched our caterpillars metamorphose into beautiful butterflies!



Thank you to the parents who visited us for careers day – you've definitely inspired us. We have made lots of tornadoes!

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TRINITY CHURCH OPEN DAY

Trinity Church Open Saturday (near ASDA) on Saturday 2nd June 11am - 2pm.

Coffee and Cakes, Jacket Potato Lunch from 12pm. Table Tennis, Fairtrade food and craft stalls, Bring & Buy. Everyone welcome. Raising funds for OXFORDSHIRE MIND, the mental health charity. We're here to make sure anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support.

SCHOOL DINNER DEBT

Due to non-paying parents, Hillside's current dinner debt, to Caterlink, is in excess of £500.

At the end of each term we, as a school, become responsible for settling the outstanding debts. We, as many other schools, have an extremely tight budget this year, and are doing our utmost to ensure the children receive the high standard of education they deserve. It is both unfair and unjust of our current debtors to expect the school to use our valuable funding to repay these debts.

In the interests of fairness to all, we are no longer going to settle these debts, but instead will refer the debts to the County Court for settlement (irrespective of the amount of each individual's debt).

PLEASE ensure that any outstanding debts are settled as soon as possible and that your child's account remains in credit. If for any reason you are unable to settle the debt, please contact Mrs Morsman, via the school office, to make a payment arrangement. Ignoring these debts unfortunately only compounds the issue.

We are no longer able to provide dinners for those children with debt accounts.

Upcoming Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
28 th May – 4 th June	HALF TERM	8 th June	FSU Cake Sale – 3.15pm
4 th June	INSET DAY	11 th -15 th June	Year 6 Residential - COTW
5 th June	Year 2 Trip – Windsor Castle	13 th -14 th June	Year 4 Trip – Ufton Court
6 th June	Year 2 – Walk to Trinity Church	15 th June	Father's Day gift stall – 3.15pm
7 th June	School Photos	15 th June	Year 3 Parent Assembly
8 th June	PTA Non Uniform Day - donations	26 th June	PTA Non Uniform Day - donations

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding is protecting vulnerable adults or children from abuse or neglect. It means making sure people are supported to get good access to an education, health care and stay well. It is making sure that people are supported to have full and happy lives. Safeguarding should make sure that people get the support they need to make the most of their lives and get their full equal rights.

If you have any concerns about a child's safety, please speak to one of our Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding Leads

Mrs Morris

Mr Pearman

Mrs Attewell

Miss Czornij