

Hillside Newsletter



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

October 18 2018

Headteacher

Mrs Morris

Deputy Head

Mr Pearman

Assistant Head

Mrs Dixon

Foundation Leader

Mrs Attewell

Phase 1 Manager (Y1-3)

Mrs Cairney (Y2)

Phase 2 Manager (Y4-6)

Miss Ezard (Y5)

**Inclusion Manager
(SENCo)**

Mrs T Clarke

Letters recently sent out:

- Viking & Saxons Workshop
- Wind in the Willows

Head's Update:

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half of the Autumn Term, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Thank you for supporting Grandparents Day, taking your children to our school sporting events, bringing bikes to school for Bikeability, supporting PTA events and all your donations for the Harvest Festival. Most of all, I would like to thank you for supporting our Reading School Improvement drive, as many more children are reading 5 times a week and doing their Pre-Learning. We are already noticing an improvement in children's attitudes and interest in reading. Please keep reading over the half term. Do not forget the Lower Earley Scarecrow Trail, which runs from Sat 20th – 24th October. Can you guess which book the Hillside School and the Hillside Allotment scarecrows are from? We hope you have a good break and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 30th October.

FOUNDATION

The Thames Valley Police Community Support Officers came to visit us in reception on Tuesday 16th October to talk about firework safety.

We learnt some valuable information, but also got a chance to try on some of their uniform. How fun!



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YEAR 1

Year 1 went on a gorgeous Autumn walk of their local area this week, where they were observing what things are in Lower Earley. We saw lots of lovely things on our walk, including amazing and colourful signs of Autumn, as well as local amenities such as the BP garage, Asda, tennis courts and a Nursery. Our topic this term is 'Where we Live' and we will now be using this information to compare Lower Earley to a Non-EU country after half term.



YEAR 2

As part of our Topic of Fire and Ice, Year 2 were visited by local Firefighters. They not only let the children use the hoses, but explained how they can keep themselves safe in a fire. As part of our Science topic, we learnt about fireproof materials and even tried on some of their protective uniforms.



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YEAR 3

On 18th October the Year 3 classes went on a trip to The Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums in Oxford. Both the museums linked perfectly with our Science and History topics. In the Natural History Museum, we were free to explore at our leisure. There were lots of exhibits that could be touched such as stuffed animals, rocks and fossils, and dinosaur models. We also explored the animal and insects displays. Some children were very excited to see a live tarantula and cases of live cockroaches and stick insects.

After lunch we went into the Pitt Rivers Museum and became Egyptian detectives. We were allowed to touch some of the ancient artefacts. We went hunting around the museum, finding Ancient Egyptian items and displays. There was a mummified body in its sarcophagus and we could see its toe poking out from the bandages. We learnt more about the Eye of Horus and the different Egyptian Gods.

As a class teacher it was a joy to see the children so excited and engaged with the exhibits in both museums. We came back to school more knowledgeable and a little tired after our exciting trip.



SCARECROW TRAIL

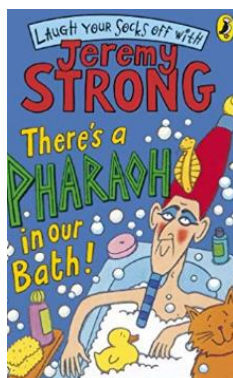
This week, both Year 3 classes were involved in designing and creating Scarecrows for the Earley Scarecrow Trail. Natalie Lambden, Community Life Champion from ASDA, came in with lots of supplies, and helped us to create two scarecrows. The scarecrows are based around the character of Sennapod, from our class book, There's a Pharaoh in our Bath, by Jeremy Strong, and links in with our topic of Ancient Egypt.

We used pillowcases to make the body parts and stuffed them with rags and straw. Other groups within the classes made the Wescheks (collars), cuffs and death masks.

Please visit ASDA in the next few days to see our Scarecrows displayed as part of the Scarecrow Trail, which runs all of next week.

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YEAR 4

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale, either with their delicious donations or buying them. We raised £106.50, which is fantastic. We are yet to decide on how to spend the money.

YEAR 5

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale, either with their delicious donations or buying them. We raised £117.90, which is fantastic. We would like to use some of the money for a subscription to a science magazine for the year group, but have yet to decide on how to spend the rest.

YEAR 6

Last week, children from Year 6 were lucky enough to have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability. This annual Year 6 event gives the children the opportunity to learn how to cycle safely and confidently out on the roads. This is a great skill and helps foster our value of independence, ready for secondary school. The children received the required 6.5 hours training in order to achieve a Level 1 or 2 Bikeability award. The children also learnt how to look after and maintain their bikes, and the importance of bike checks before setting off. Well done to all the children who took part!

PTA

The Winter Fair will be on Saturday 1st December 11.00am – 2.00pm.

SCHOOL TRIPS

A big thank you to all of our parent helpers who give up their time to accompany the children on class trips. Without these parents helping on a voluntary basis, our trip ratios would not be sufficient, and therefore may result in the trip being cancelled on the day if our adult ratios are not met. We really do appreciate any help on trips, as this support and help is so invaluable to the children in experiencing life skills, as well as curriculum related activities.

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ARTS WEEK

Arts Week was a great opportunity to explore our school values through Art. We looked at a variety of artists who displayed our school values such as Resilience and Learning, but we also discovered other values related to these words. It was wonderful to hear language such as compassion, empathy, self-determination and understanding when discussing the artists and their work. All the children throughout the school took part in a collaboration project related to the artists Anthony Gormley and Henry Moore. Look out for the installation of tiny clay figures displayed around the school next term.

NURSERY SPACES

We find ourselves in the unusual position to be able to offer out a limited number of afternoon nursery spaces. If you would like more information or know anyone who would like a place, please contact Mrs Heath between 8.30am and 1.00pm at the school office. We welcome visits, tours of the Nursery Unit can be arranged.

REMINDERS

Once again we will be acting as a donation point for 'Toys and Teens Appeal 2018', a fantastic charity. A box will be in the front reception from **18th October**, with a list of new or 'as new' toys and gifts that are suitable for children aged 0-16 years. For example, colouring pens, crayons, colouring books, Art and Craft items, cuddly toys, games, hats, gloves, sports equipment, sweets, chocolates etc. Also, vouchers for teenagers, bags, make-up and more...

Autumn/Winter - please remember coats and a change of shoes for lunchtimes as the weather starts to get colder.

Homework Club – available every morning for Years 1 to 6. Doors to the Year 5 entrance open at 8.30am and will be closed again at 8.35am.

David Lloyd Day Pass Schools

Our Open Weekend for schools will be Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st October.

With half term approaching, a fun day for the kids to burn loads of energy in our swimming pool or use of our indoor or outdoor play. We would like to tell you about all the afterschool, weekend and holiday activities we run to allow the parents a chance to work out in one of our fantastic classes or session on the gym floor. Simply click our link to arrange your visit.

<https://www.davidlloyd.co.uk/forms/Acquisition/Day-Pass-Family>



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Plea – We are after any children's audio CDs to encourage a thirst for reading. We are asking for any unwanted audio books. Please drop any donations to the school office for Mr Pearman. Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
22 nd – 26 th Oct	HALF TERM	5 th Nov	Year 5 Viking Day
29 th Oct	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	5 th Nov	Year 6 Cake Sale – 3-3.30pm
30 th Oct	Reception Open Evening 4-7pm	6 th Nov	Year 6 Cake Sale – 3-3.30pm
2 nd Nov	PTA non-uniform day (money donation)	8 th Nov	Volunteers to Read Training 2-3pm
2 nd Nov	Year 1 Cake Sale 3-3.30pm	9 th Nov	PTA Second-hand Uniform Sale 3-4pm
2 nd Nov	Volunteers to Read Training 2-3pm		

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is protecting vulnerable children or adults 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 children is everyone's responsibility.

Safeguarding Leads

Mrs Morris
Mr Pearman
Mrs Attewell
Miss Czornij