

Hillside Newsletter

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

December 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:

- Y5 Residential Final Cost
- Year 1 Trips & Activities
- Y4 Swimming Letter
- Y6 Cybercrime Theatre
- Y6 Food & Drink Tasting

Head's Update:

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although busy, this is such a lovely time of the year to be in school. We have been fortunate enough to see Year One and Two's production of 'Midwife Crisis'. A huge thank you to the children for their beautiful singing and their confident performances, it really was superb. Last week, we were equally as lucky to see our youngest pupils in the school, Reception and Nursery, perform the Wiggly Nativity. Once again, the singing was fabulous, and the children did an amazing job, sharing their version of the birth of Jesus. On the theme of performances, Years five and six had the opportunity to go to the School of Rock in London last week. This is part of our commitment to enriching the children's experiences and curriculum. What an amazing performance it was and if you get an opportunity to see it, definitely go. We have had a focus on respecting the environment and the Year 6 children were horrified to find out that Christmas wrapping paper cannot be recycled. Three million tons goes into Land Fill at Christmas. Inspired to make a difference, they set about making their own recyclable wrapping paper and decorations. Thank you for purchasing their products and being part of protecting the environment.

Year six children have been very busy, as they also went to see a Cybercrime theatre production. Our Head Boy said about the performance, 'I learned so much about what you shouldn't put on line and what you can do to prevent Cybercrime e.g. set your privacy settings to only your family and friends, and think about what photos you post, as it may give away personal information – leaving a digital footprint. Also, don't believe what people are saying online'.

Thank you to all the parent, friends and families who were able to come to our School Winter Fair. It was great to see so many of you all together. The PTA this term has raised a whopping £5,576.66, which is an astonishing amount. We are planning on using this money to purchase some more fixed play equipment outside for the children to use at break and lunchtimes. On behalf of all the children, staff and parents, I can't thank the PTA enough for their hard work-not only have they raised a fabulous amount, everyone who attends the PTA events have lots of fun.

In assembly last week, we received our Gold Games Mark Award. This was awarded to us for outstanding commitment to increasing sports participation and engaging in competitions throughout the school. This has been one of our school improvement targets, so it was nice that the children, our Sports Captains, Mrs Jewell and Mr Hughes (our Sports Coach), were recognised for this improvement. Mr Hughes and Miss Kelly now take on co-ordinating PE throughout the school. They will be working hard to ensure we maintain this high standard.

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It is with sadness we say good-bye to two of our staff members at the end of this term. Firstly, Mrs Hope who has decided to take early retirement after 22 years of teaching across the school. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the school over the years and wish her well with all her retirement plans. Mrs Keen, a known teacher to the school, will be taking on Mrs Hope's teaching commitment. Mrs Dixon has decided to start her maternity leave slightly earlier than planned, and will be leaving at the end of this term. Mrs Dixon will be missed by all of us, however, we know a year will go by so quickly, and she will soon be back. Mrs Smith, an experienced Year 1 teacher, will be joining the Year 1 team. Both of our new teachers have been in to meet the children several times and are looking forward to starting in January. You may have noticed a new member of office staff, Mrs Whitehouse, who replaces Mrs Taylor, who retired at the end of last month. Mrs Whitehouse will be part of our fabulous office team on Wednesday mornings and all day Friday.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came to support our Christmas Concerts last week. I was so very proud of every year group who really did a fantastic job at singing their chosen song. It really was a great event which we hope you really enjoyed. It is at this point that I would like to thank all the staff at Hillside, who really do work so hard to ensure the very best educational experiences, that events run smoothly and exciting opportunities are available for the children. The staff Christmas song I think is testament to how Hillside staff go above and beyond to ensure children enjoy their time at school. If you haven't seen the video yet, it is on our Face Book page and so far, I'm told it has over 2500 views (not many likes, so I've told the staff we need to up our game for next year!)

September seems like a distant memory as it has been a long and busy Autumn Term. We are all looking forward to Christmas and our whole team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in 2019

HEALTHY MINDS & SEND INFORMATION FROM MRS CLARKE, OUR INCLUSION MANAGER

After Christmas, we will be continuing to talk to the pupils about the importance of keeping a healthy mind. We will also be starting a 'Gratitude Tree' to help focus our minds on the good things in our lives. Focusing on the things we are grateful for, however small, helps to encourage mindfulness and elevate happiness. Look out for our Gratitude Tree in the new year!

Christmas can be an overwhelming and confusing time for children with a diagnosis of ASD. The National Autistic Society have compiled a useful list of hints and tips for families which can be accessed from their website: <https://www.autism.org.uk/about/family-life/holidays-trips/christmas.aspx> and is well worth a look. The Inclusion Team would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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REMINDERS

Please ensure you register for online lunches. A letter was sent out; the link can also be found on our school website.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much to Mr and Mrs Race for donating £30.00, MGL Property Management for donating £100.00 and Mrs Lyford for donating £30.00 in memory of June Monica Archer. Their generous donations made it possible for us to have two real Christmas Trees. Without their generosity we would have been unable to afford a tree this year.

Upcoming Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
19 th Dec	LAST DAY OF TERM	17 th Jan	Bags 2 School Collection
3 rd Jan	START OF SPRING TERM		
9 th Jan	Year 1B – Swimming Starts		
10 th Jan	Year 4 – Swimming Starts		

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

Hillside Termly Round-up

Foundation – Autumn 2 2018

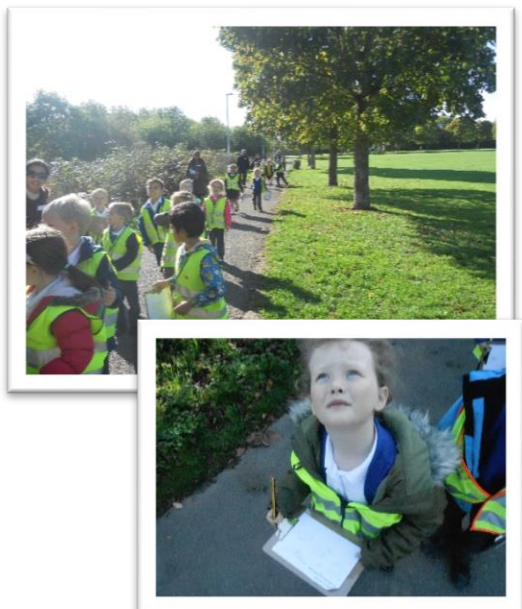


Foundation have had a very busy but very fun term! We have been enjoying our new and improved domestic role play areas in our classrooms, but the weather hasn't stopped us from learning outside - with lots of trips to the orchard. We have been working super hard to learn all of our songs for our *Wriggly Nativity*, and getting into the festive spirit with our Christmas party and Christmas activities.



Hillside Termly Round-up

Year 1 – Autumn 2 2018



Year 1's Local Walk Around Lower Earley

Year 1 enjoyed a lovely Autumn walk around Lower Earley in preparation for their topic work. In the second half of the Autumn Term, Year 1 children compared Lower Earley to life in Japan and they noticed similarities and differences between their local environment and different areas in Japan.

In English, Year 1 enjoyed exploring the text of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We decided to have a competition of who could make the most delicious bowl of porridge! We made five bowls of porridge, each with different toppings. Unfortunately, when we returned from lunch, someone had eaten two of our delicious bowls! I wonder who it might have been?



Porridge Making!

Arts Week 2018!



We made collaborative pieces of art work based on the artist Jackson Pollock. We splashed paint and made shapes to represent the value of 'Happiness'.

Hillside Termly Roundup

Year 2- Autumn 2 2018

The children have settled well into Year 2 this term and began exploring the topic of 'Fire and Ice'. As part of the term, children wrote their own stories of the Gingerbread man and re-enacted the Great Fire of London through some amazing drama. To understand the causes of the fire, the children made houses from 1666, created the narrow streets of London and then set fire to them in the orchard's fire pit.

The Fire Brigade from Caversham fire station came to visit us and explained how nowadays fires are put out and how we can keep ourselves safe. Everyone's favourite part was when we were allowed to hold the hose!



As part of our science topic on Changing Materials, both classes went to Pizza Express in Bracknell where we learnt how to make pizzas. We learnt the skill of stretching our own pizza dough but we left the throwing and catching method to the chef!

Hopefully, Year 2 parents all had a chance to see our play, "A Midwife Crisis". All the children enjoyed learning the songs and dances and the actors worked incredibly hard at leaning their lines and confidently performing on stage. May we thank you all again for the fantastic costumes which were sent in, as without your support the show would not have been complete.

And finally, right at the end of term we are looking forward to our Great Hillside Bake Off which is Christmas themed this year. Which group will win the winning spoon this year?

Hillside Termly Round-up

Year 3 – Autumn 2018

In English, we have created our own sound poems and are now confident with onomatopoeia and in Maths we have been focusing on recalling multiplication facts at pace.

This term we visited The Pitt Rivers Museum and had fantastic fun seeing all of the Egyptian artefacts, opening drawers full of exciting objects and viewing the mummy. We also got to explore the natural history area.



Egypt was one of our topics this term. Alongside exploring 'There's a Pharaoh in my Bath' in Guided Reading, we entered the Lower Earley Scarecrow competition and our Pharaoh scarecrows were displayed in Asda.



Finally, to end a fantastic term, we completed our topic with an Egyptian day. The children wore wonderful costumes and we participated in Egyptian activities including; mummification, dancing and painting our carefully sculptured Canopic jars.

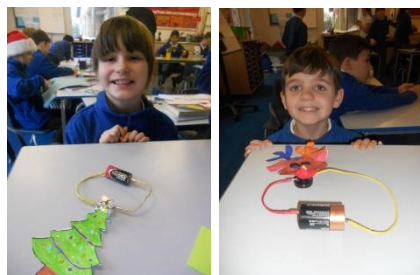
Hillside Termly Round-up

Year 4 – Autumn 2 2018

In Geography, Year 4 have continued learning about our extreme earth with a focus on Volcanoes. We built collaborative sculptures of volcanoes and learned all about how they are formed by the movement of tectonic plates. They even learned some dance moves to help them remember! The children used the recent Tsunami in Indonesia as a case study to understand how to help those effected by natural disasters, which inspired valuable discussions and pieces of writing.



During DT, the design brief was to make an electrical toy for the Christmas market. The children researched toys with electrical parts and made their own designs based on their research. After exploring the benefits of different materials, they made their own prototype.



*The Wind
in the
Willows*

The production of *The Wind in the Willows* at the start of the half term, was a fantastic performance. All the children worked so hard to learn their lines, their dance routines and songs. They demonstrated so many school values with such dedication and independence. We had such positive feedback from the audience, well done to all the children for putting on such a brilliant production.

Hillside Termly Round-up

Year 5 – Autumn 2 2018

What have Year 5 been up to this term?

This term, we have immersed ourselves in our topic of the Vikings. Year 5 enjoyed a visit from Peter the Merciless and got into character with some amazing costumes. On Viking day, we made Viking coins, and investigated a wide range of artefacts. Our DT topic involved designing, creating and testing our very own Viking longboats. We saw some great collaboration and determination to find the best materials for success sailing! We were extremely impressed by the amazing effort that all of Year 5 put into their Viking long houses – well done.

Year 5 began the term by investigating materials for boats and viscosity of liquids in science. The children worked hard to develop the scientific vocabulary to plan, carry out and evaluate a fair test. In Autumn 2, Year 5 have learnt all about the exciting topic of Earth & Space.

Our writing has been inspired by Year 5s' love of Harry Potter and the dark arts. We have created our mythical creatures to write mysteries stories and non-chronological reports about. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading Harry Potter in our Guided and Shared Reading sessions, sparking many interesting discussions about life and magic in Hogwarts!

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the term already! We have thoroughly enjoyed teaching all of the Year 5s and hope you all have a lovely relaxing Christmas.



Hillside Termly Round-up

Year 6 – Autumn 2 2018

What have Year 6 been up to this term?

What a busy term we have had in Year 6! The children all settled in well quickly and have covered a huge range of topics.

In English, we started off with some narrative writing, before moving swiftly on to look at Alfred Noyes' poem 'The Highwayman'. We had many opportunities during this unit to explore the imagery and language through art. Since, we have worked to develop our grammar knowledge and have produced some beautiful pieces of writing, stemming from the video 'The piano'. This video tells the story of an old man's life, through flashbacks of his childhood, relationships and, our new topic, the war.

Both classes have been showed great interest in our war topic and have looked into why the war started, significant figures, propaganda posters, life in the trenches, recruitment and even conscientious objectors. We will be continuing this topic after Christmas, with a specific focus on World War Two.

Perhaps one of the most exciting highlights from the Autumn Term, was year 6's involvement in the 'Hillside Rocks' project. Between both classes, the children painted 100 poppies on rocks, to commemorate the 100 years since the end of the First World War. These rocks were then hidden in the local area and beyond for residents to discover and re-hide. The children really enjoyed seeing where their rocks ended up, one of which made it to the Sahara Desert!

We can't wait to see what the Spring term brings and we'd like to thank all of the Year 6s for their hard work and dedication. Have a great Christmas break.

Mrs Duffield, Mrs Jewell and Mr Pearman

