



# HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rushey Way  
Lower Earley, Reading  
Berkshire RG6 4HQ

**Headteacher: Mrs N Morris**

NM/KJ/genlet

7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term of 2019. The Christmas holiday seems to have whizzed past but I hope you well rested and have had a lovely break with your family.

Values continue to be the 'Golden thread' throughout the school and this term we will be focusing on the values of **Respect and Collaboration**. With this in mind, we will be encouraging the children to focus on how they can solve problems by working together, whether this is within their learning, friendships or in the world around them. We will also be focusing on respecting each other and our school environment.

Thank you to all the parents who have been actively supporting our school improvement drive in encouraging all children to read, and be read to regularly. At Hillside, it is our vision for all children to be confident readers and have a love for literature. To do this, we do need your help - which is why we have an expectation throughout the school for all children to read five times a week and for an adult to sign in the Home Learning Journal to say that this has been done. From Year 4 it is acceptable for the children to complete the Home Learning Journal themselves, if you are happy with how much they have read.

You may be interested to know when we look at children's outcomes we can often see a direct correlation between lower attainment and those children who read less frequently at home. It will not surprise you to learn that mostly, children making good progress are the children that read more regularly. Our expectation is that children read fluently and demonstrate the expected comprehension and inference skills for their age, which is why reading has such a high profile at Hillside Primary School. Reading aloud to someone helps the children with fluency and understanding, so please ensure your child/children get an opportunity to do this as well as read to themselves.

I can understand that life is busy and there will be the odd occasion when reading at home cannot happen, but we need your support with this. However, please come and see us if you can foresee this being a problem, so that we can work together to find a way of supporting the reading expectations at Hillside. We all want your children to have the best outcomes and best start in life.

I am pleased to say that Mrs Debbie Sadiq will be joining us at Hillside in a new role to the school, as a Senior Family Liaison. Debbie is an experienced Senior Family Practitioner and has worked at the Children's Centre, supporting families in Wokingham and Reading for many years. Debbie is very open, non-judgemental and personable and I consider us very fortunate that the governors approved the request for her to support families at Hillside. Debbie can be contacted on [SFL@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:SFL@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk) or you can phone her on 0118 9755771.

Tel: (0118) 9755771

Fax: (0118) 9758389 E-mail: [admin@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk)

[www.hillside.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.hillside.wokingham.sch.uk)



Thank you for using our online lunch ordering system. I appreciate that this is a new procedure but it will save us valuable teaching and administrative time. It also means Hillside will not have to lose money out of our very tight budget to pay unpaid dinner debts.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that every child's attendance in school is expected to be 95% or above and we will keep you updated if your child's attendance falls below this. Illness cannot be helped especially at this time of year, as the children can often get colds and coughs. However, we do say that unless children have high temperatures or you feel they are too poorly, we would prefer them to be in school and we will always let you know if they need to go home. For episodes of sickness or diarrhoea please ensure there is a period of 48 hours away from school from the last episode.

As always, please come and see us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's learning - there are many people you can talk to: You are always welcome to speak to myself, or our Deputy Head, Mr Pearman, However, in the first instance we would always suggest you talk to your child's class teacher or the Phase Managers.

In Foundation, you can talk to Mrs Attewell as Foundation Leader, the Phase 1 Manager Mrs Cairney (Year 1, 2 and 3) or the Phase 2 Manager, Miss Ezard (Year 4, 5 and 6).

You are also welcome to talk to Mrs Clarke, our Inclusion Manager on any aspects of Special Educational Needs and of course, we now have our Senior Family Liaison, Mrs Debbie Sadiq.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N Morris". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

**Mrs N Morris**  
**Headteacher**