

# Hillside Newsletter



22nd June 2017

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our PTA for their support in organising our Summer Fair this year. Preparations are well underway and you will notice the Fair has a birthday theme, as Hillside is in its 30th year. Some of our parents came to Hillside as a pupil and will remember that the school looked very different to how it looks today. There will be lots of photos available to view of Hillside's history available on the day. I am sure you have read about the budget shortages that schools face at the moment and our PTA work very hard, on the schools behalf, to raise much needed funds. With this in mind, we really need your support with our Fair, whether you can offer your time on the day to run an event or help clear away, donate a raffle prize, take part in the Birthday Card Competition or just as importantly come to The Fair to spend money, please support in any way you can! **The School Fair is on Saturday 1st July 12noon-3pm. If you can help please email the PTA ([PTA@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk))** We look forward to seeing you.

As I mentioned in my 'Welcome back letter' earlier this half term, we are busy making preparations for the next academic year and the staffing structure for next year will be sent out very soon. Last week you should have received a letter detailing our thorough transition process to ensure that your children start the next academic year smoothly. It is really important that you attend the 'Meet the Teacher' talks, as this gives you an opportunity to meet your child's next teacher and see their classroom environment. It also clearly gives details of the curriculum for that year group, how you can best support your child, routines and expectations. If you have not received a copy of the transition letter please see our website or contact the school office.

Our Year 6s have recently returned from their adventures! They spent a week in Wales and have lots of new experiences to add to their memories of primary school. The Centre passed on their comments of how polite and respectful our children are, and of course, we are very proud of them for representing Hillside so well. A huge thank you to the staff that go above and beyond the expectations of working in a school and take the children away for a week. Some of our staff spent time away from their own families so that our children get this fabulous experience. Below are some of the children's best moments:

'Jumping off the Waterfall' -Amy

'Caving and going through the *washing machine*' -Luis

'Gorge walking and jumping into the water' -Nasser

'Spending time with the children outside of school'—Ms Hamilton

It will not have escaped anyone's notice how unusually hot the weather was last week and therefore safeguarding the children, as always, was our priority. We believe we took all reasonable measures to ensure the children's day was adjusted to ensure they could stay as cool and hydrated as possible, and physical activity was done before 10:00am when temperatures were not above unacceptable limits. For one outdoor activity, the children were under gazebos with their water bottles for a short amount of time and lunches were re-planned so that children were able to stay in the air-conditioned hall during mid-day. Heatwave guidance was followed at all times. However, it was frustrating and unfair to hear, that on Facebook there were comments from a minority of parents stating that Hillside did not manage the heat well. What is more frustrating, is that these parents did not come to ask what precautions had been taken, therefore the information posted was inaccurate. Hillside works very hard to ensure the safety of every pupil and I consider myself, the teachers and Leadership Team to be very approachable if there are any causes for concern. I would request, that posts on Facebook in the future are posted with accuracy so as not to cause unnecessary alarm to parents. I understand that Facebook is a preferred method of communication for some parents, but I am sure you can appreciate the only way we can address concerns is if we know about them, and finding out through Facebook, is not the right channel.

On a happier note, and on behalf of all the staff at Hillside, as it is the end of Ramadam, we hope you all enjoyed your celebrations.

Kind regards

**Mrs Morris**

**Headteacher**

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



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## THIS WAS SENT TO US FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Hi there

My name is Frankie and I am a Producer on the new series of the hit ITV show - Little Big Shots hosted by the simply lovely Dawn French. The first series peaked with over 5 million viewers and we are delighted to be back shining the spotlight on more amazing kids.

The programme simply celebrates young talent and funny, entertaining children – from teeny tap dancers to dinosaur experts, from viral superstars to acrobats, impressionists to comedians, from superb singers to Rubik's Cube speed champions, mathematicians to sensational spellers. It is not a competition or game show. Whether individuals, duos or groups of youngsters, the only rule is that the child is between the ages of 3 and 13.

We are looking for performers and skills of all kinds and would love to know if you think there might be someone in your school that knows a potential Little Big Shot!

The direct link to our applications page is: [https://www.walltowall.co.uk/casting/little-big-shots\\_1019.aspx](https://www.walltowall.co.uk/casting/little-big-shots_1019.aspx)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0SFwkGIQonIP69Lb9Gdb-w>

Thank you very much for your time,

Best wishes

Frankie

## GOVERNORS

Governors are an important part of our Leadership Team and work hard, alongside school staff to ensure we are constantly striving to improve. We are fortunate to have a number of Parent Governors already, therefore we are looking for a member of the community e.g. work colleague, neighbour, to join our Governing Body. If you know of someone that has an interest in finances or school improvement please ask them to contact the school office.

## A PLEA FROM THE LUNCHTIME STAFF!

Do you have any large pieces of fabric (e.g. sheets), large boxes or pegs as the children love to make dens. If so please bring them in to the front office. We also need any unwanted DVDs (rated U) for wet play.

## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to Sophia in Year 4 as has been offered a contract with Reading Women's Football Team.

Congratulations to our Boccia and New Age Kurling Teams for winning the tournament against Whiteknights this week. There were some very tense moments.

A group of children from Hillside attended an Ultimate Frisbee Festival and really enjoyed this new sport. We are looking into doing more of this at Hillside – watch this space!

## SPORTS DAY

Weather permitting Sports Day is due to be on Friday 30th June. We hope you will support this event and join us for our Family Picnic.

If we have to cancel, the reserve dates are 07.06.17 and 14.06.17.



**WRITER OF THE WEEK** (new element of the newsletter) Congratulations to Katherine in Year 6 for her letter to the Education Minister Justine Greening. This is evidence of the Greater Depth Standard for 10 and 11 year olds. Please see attached .

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

**Foundation-Y1:** The Emperors Egg by M Jenkins

**6-9 years:** 31 ways to change the world by T Taylor

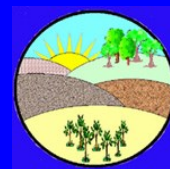
**10 years +:** Skellig by David Almon

Please be reminded we have new Facebook and Twitter pages. Please follow us.



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## YEAR 5 PARENTS EVENING

Just a reminder that **Year 5** Parents Evenings will be held on  
WEDNESDAY 28th and THURSDAY 29th June

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES

We are pleased to say that, the newly refurbished, Family Centre is now available to rent for Children's Birthday parties.



The facility is available Monday-Friday, during term time.

The hire charge is £30.00 and this will allow access to the building to set up from 3.15pm. The party can take place between 3.30pm-5.30pm, and the building will need to be handed back, for lock up by 5.50pm.

You will have access to the kitchen and the Family Centre outdoor area.

To book please contact Jo Morsman on 0118 975 5771 or email [finance@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:finance@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk)



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

5 minutes with ..... **MISS HART**

**Length of time at Hillside:** A year

**If you were not a teacher what would you be?**

I would love to run an animal shelter or write children's picture books

**Favourite past time:** Playing Pokemon!

**Favourite meal:** Macaroni Cheese

**Favourite film:** Spirited Away

**Favourite book:** Grimm's fairy tales

**Strange fact:** When I was younger I was really good at spinning plates

**Any pets:** No, but I used to have pet rats

## SCHOOL VALUE

Our value for this final half term is **Happiness**. At Hillside we believe that if we have embedded all our other values of Collaboration, Resilience, Learning, Respect and Independence then we will all be able to live happily together. In assembly the children have discussed the quote:

'Bad days build better days'

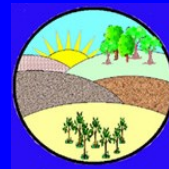
And we all agreed some days aren't as good as others, as long as we learn how to make the bad days better.

## Dates to remember

Date	Event	Date	Event
29th June	Y4 Parent Assembly 9.00am-9.30am	19th July	Hillside Theatre School Performance to Parents 9.30am-10.30am
30th June	<b>SPORTS DAY</b> —see newsletter/website for back-up dates	24th July	Y6 Leavers Evening 6.00pm—9.00pm
1st July	PTA Hillside's 30th Birthday Summer Fair	25th July	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>
10th July	Y6 Production to Parents 6.00pm-7.30pm	1st Sept	Uniform Shop 9.00am-10.30am and 5.30pm-7.00pm
13th July	Y6 Production to Parents 1.30pm-3.00pm and 6.00pm-7.30pm	6th Sept	<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM</b>
18th July	Hillside Theatre School Performance to Parents 6.00pm-7.00pm		

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## REQUEST FOR LEAVE FORMS

These forms must be completed for **ALL** absences e.g. holidays, appointments, school visits and religious dates. This will ensure your child gets the correct attendance code for the Education Welfare Officer.

Please ensure that these forms are completed and handed in with as much notice as possible (1 month ideally).

You may incur a Penalty Notice if leave is not authorised. See the school website under Attendance Policy for full details.

## UNIFORM SHOP

Due to the Afterschool Club now running in the small hall, please note the change to Uniform Shop times.

Monday mornings remain the same 8.40am-9.00am in the small hall

Wednesday afternoon will now be in the school office from 3.00pm-3.30pm

The Uniform Shop will be open on

**FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER**

in the small hall at 9.00am-10.30am and then in the evening at 5.30pm-7.00pm

HILLSIDE IN 1986



HILLSIDE IN 2017

