



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

March NEWSLETTER 2021

DIARY DATES

Monday 12 April—School re-opens for pupils
Monday 3 May—MAY DAY SCHOOL CLOSURE
Thursday 27 May—Last day of half term for pupils
Friday 28 May—INSET DAY
Monday 7 June—School re-opens for pupils

Free School Meal Vouchers.

Schools have been notified that for parent/carers whose children are eligible for Free School Meals they will be entitled to a voucher for over the Easter break. This will include the bank holidays. Your voucher has been processed to arrive on Friday 26 March—please look out for the email or check your post if you receive a printed voucher. We have not, as yet had any official word that this scheme will continue during other school holidays but if this should change we will let you know.



YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

FUNDRAISING Our current fundraising project is to raise money to refurbish the swings area in the playground. Something that is well used by the pupils in the main school.

One of the ways we have been raising money is through “Your School Lottery”. This is open to all parent/carers, staff and family friends. A ticket for the lottery costs just £1 per week. There is a guaranteed cash winner for our school every week calculated from the school ticket sales and the chance to win the £25,000 jackpot! It is currently £7.50 but the more people who join the higher it will go. A draw takes place every Saturday, if you win you will be notified by email and also go into the Jackpot draw for £25,000!! For every ticket sold 76% is split between school and the weekly prize.

If you would like to take part please go to [https://](https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/)

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/ to join. Thank you.

COMMUNICATION WITH CLASS TEACHER : Please note that if you email your child’s class teacher it is not always possible to respond that working day. If you have anything urgent the school office is manned from 8.30am till 4.30pm, alternatively, you can leave a message on the answering machine at any time during the night and it will be heard first thing, the following school morning. Please also use your child’s chat book to liaise with classroom staff. Many thanks.



Class 4—This half term we have been enjoying our ‘Space and Journeys’ theme, in history we have been finding out all about the moon landings; learning about the astronauts and space shuttles, re-enacting the moon walk and building our very own rockets using them in our own space role play area. We especially enjoyed exploring the planets and stars, some of us even knew the planet names! In English we have been reading the ‘Man on the Moon’ and ‘The Owl and the Pussy Cat’ poem. Maths has been lots of fun, experimenting and exploring water, finding out all about empty and full and pouring ‘cups of tea’ for our friends. We loved splashing ourselves and each other using different toys and vessels. We have also been looking at how we take care of ourselves; talking about our feelings, eating a healthy diet, creating our own smoothie, exercising and giving ourselves a running challenge, practising our personal hygiene tasks and thinking about sleep. When we were all back together we had our own ‘World Book day welcome back party’ which was so much fun. We read Mr Wolf’s Pancakes and dressed as characters, we made pancakes, funny face pancakes and got very messy in the pancake sensory table. It was great to be back together as a class and have lots of fun!!

Class 13—It is great to see all our pupils back in school and eager to learn in class again. Class 13 pupils are making wonderful progress with the Zones of Regulation. They are all able to show us how they are feeling when they arrive in school, point to the appropriate zone on the class display and some can make the Makaton signs and say the words out loud now. Fantastic progress! We have been very busy making Mother’s Day cards and gifts which everyone has enjoyed. We have been practising our ball skills and making amazing 3D buildings out of cardboard and papier mache. We have also been improving our counting skills this term and for the pupils in school, it has been lovely to have some valuable one to one time which has been enjoyable for both pupils and staff.

On fine days, we have grabbed the opportunity to put on our wellies and do a spot of weeding in preparation for planting in Spring. We can’t wait to get planting as well as clearing the ground. A very Happy Easter to all our families and friends at Hillside.

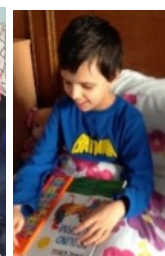


****A warm welcome to our new parent Governor, Sam Wheeler****

Staff News: This term we have welcomed new teacher, Helen McMeekin who is working alongside Louise in Class 8 and two apprentice TA's Molly and Coley. Sadly, College teacher Sarah Flanagan will be leaving us in April after 5 years teaching at Hillside—good luck with your new post and thank you.



Class 7 have thoroughly enjoyed being back in school together! Well done to all parents and pupils who worked hard at home throughout lockdown 3.0. We celebrated World Book Day with a 'Sleepover Day' on March 12 and have enjoyed covering our curriculum topics (textiles, weather, and self-care) and the Zones of Regulation through Attention Autism sessions this term. We even made it rain inside and explored vinegar and baking soda! The lovely weather has enabled us to build on our gross motor skills through accessing playground equipment. Pupils have gained so much confidence! We hope you have a restful Easter, Class 7



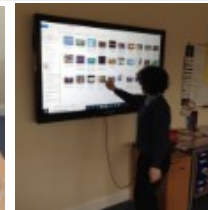
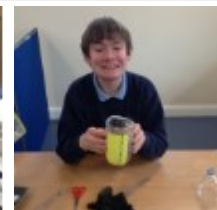
Class 3—This term Class 3 have been learning about journeys. We have enjoyed our sensory story The Journey and explored the sensory materials and toys associated with the story. We have looked at big and little cars, buses, boats, trains and hot air balloons. We have enjoyed our daily TACPAC sessions and Intensive Interaction. We have LOVED getting messy and explored sand, slime, water, cornflour and icing sugar. All of the children have settled down well and really enjoy being together again. Next term we are looking at toys!!

Class 6—This half term in Class 6 we have been experiencing different textiles, particularly those associated with spring. In Art we have been creating spring collages using different textured materials, and have been learning different adjectives to describe different textures. All the children have got involved in baking Friday afternoon treats and have done really well to help tidy up too. Class 6 have listened carefully to the Spring Poem's story massage and have been describing what spring animals and plants they have seen. In PSHE we have been focussing on learning about people who keep us safe. The children have especially enjoyed role playing the different roles such as Doctors, Nurses and firefighters. In Maths we have been learning about money by matching coins, making up an amount and role playing shopping by buying snacks.

Class 5 have enjoyed listening to stories involving dragons and identifying how the dragon is feeling. In maths we have concentrated on our number targets and counting. For topic we have enjoyed learning about cotton mills. Our ball skills are improving in PE, we have been practising passing the ball to one another in different ways and throwing a ball into a box. In DT we have made some slippers. In Science we have enjoyed experimenting and sorting different types of light sources. We will be sad to see Mark go but wish him all the best in his new class.

Class 1 have been enjoying stories on the theme of 'Over the rainbow'. We have loved exploring the story 'The Rainbow Fish' and have now moved onto 'Elmer'. We have enjoyed songs on the 'rainbow' theme in our daily music and movement sessions too, as well as engaging in a variety of colour sorting and matching activities. On World Book Day we had fun exploring dressing up as some of our favourite story characters! We enjoyed sharing our favourite stories together in the reading area in class and also created a beautiful class 'under the sea' water scene to accompany our 'Rainbow Fish' story. We also enjoyed an outdoor scavenger hunt to find pictures of our favourite story characters, in addition to making story crowns and bookmarks! We have loved welcoming all the children back this half term and it has been wonderful to have everybody back in class 1 together.

Class 14 have worked really hard this term and have adapted well to being back in college 5 days a week. We have been baking biscuits and looking at the different shapes we can make, all pupils have improved and increased their independence with this each week. For a module on our ASDAN Transition Challenge, we have been monitoring and recording the weather for the last few weeks, we enjoyed making rain gauges to measure the rainfall. In Maths we have been looking at time and keeping a diary of our week, everyone has done really well with this and remembering what they have done throughout the day. We have also been sharing our likes and dislikes, we have enjoyed choosing our favourite music and activities and sharing with the class. In our weekly sports sessions we have been playing new age kurling and skittles. Have a good Easter everyone!



Class 10 -Tom, Kaden and Connor had their Poetry selected for publication in a Young Writers Anthology. School will be presented with a copy of the book when it is released in May. Please see our class 10 section on the school website to hear one of our class reading their poem.

We have explored Harry Potter. This included wearing costumes on the 4th March for World Book Day. In Maths we have been learning Number and Geometry. For Science lessons we have explored materials and their properties. Our creative curriculum lessons have been linked to Kenya and we created a class display linked to this theme. We have continued to develop our social skills through a variety of communication activities including daily circle-time and mindfulness. In RE sessions we have focused on Easter. During PSHE we explored changing and growing. We have continued to develop our fitness through team-games, daily cardio, yoga and dance sessions. Happy Easter everyone from Class 10.



The Hillside School & College Council have recently had an election and we have 4 new councillors. All pupils and staff were given the opportunity to vote and the following students were elected to represent the 5 key stages: Katy KS1, Remi KS2, Kaden KS3 & Lee KS4/5. We had our first meeting on Friday the 19th of March ensuring we were socially distanced and following the Covid rules. We discussed ideas for an environmental project that we could take on, some suggestions were tree planting in school, raising money for more rubbish bins and even running a competition. We also discussed ideas for community links; and which local, national or international charity we would choose this year. Some ideas were the RSPCA, RSPB and other more local charities. We have lots to organise and the councillors did a great job of bringing ideas from fellow students along for us to discuss. We hope to bring you lots more news as the year goes on.

Class 8—It's been a difficult term with most of it spent in lockdown. While most of our pupils in class 8 remained at home educating through either google classroom or home learning packs and practising self-care, we had two children in the classroom. They have enjoyed learning about postcards in English and have even had a go at making their own. They have been on a few nature walks this term and collected natural resources like twigs, leaves and grass to do some painting with. Our theme this term has been hats. Everyone has had a go at decorating and making their own and talking about people who help us.



Class 9—Our Semi-Formal curriculum theme this half term is World of Work. In English, we have read an information text about different jobs. The pupils have worked well matching words and pictures for the different jobs. We have looked at equipment used by people doing different jobs including police officers, firefighters and paramedics. In Maths we have been doing number activities – counting sets of objects. We have been practising throwing and catching skills in PE and have enjoyed regular walks around the school grounds. Hope you have a lovely Easter break from all in class 9.

Class 2- It has been lovely to have us all back together after a break away. This half term the topic has been based on 'journeys'. The children have engaged well with two sensory stories; 'Whatever Next' and 'Up, Up, Up'. It was great to see them exploring the props, making fabulous eye contact and sequences of the story. We have been very creative and created our own rocket so we could visit the moon just like the bear in the story. Also, we made space pictures and explored different materials linked to the colour of the moon. Painting is an activity all the children like in Class 2 and they particularly enjoyed painting with balloons this half term.



And finally

It was good to welcome back all pupils from the 8th March and pleased to see that many have settled back into their school routine.

You will have seen on the news that lateral flow testing has been introduced into schools for both staff and pupils. I can confirm that at Hillside we have introduced voluntary home testing for staff however I am happy for any parent/carer of a child aged 11 and above to contact me direct if they wish their child to be provided with lateral flow testing kits to be used at home.

This is voluntary and dependent on the ability of the child to self administer the test with minimal support. No pupil of Primary aged (aged 11 and below) are required to be tested in school or at home.

A reminder that we are closed to pupils for an inset day for staff training (26 March) and I hope you have an enjoyable two weeks before pupils return on the 12 April.

Best wishes, Paul
Headteacher

SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR PUPILS MONDAY 12 APRIL

