



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

May NEWSLETTER 2021

DIARY DATES

7 June—SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR PUPILS, 9.10am

TBC—Sports Days

TBC—Parents Evening

16 July- LAST DAY OF TERM, 3.10pm finish

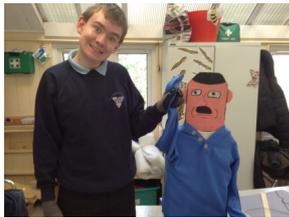
19 & 20 July—INSET days (no pupils)

SUMMER BREAK

1-3 September—INSET days (no pupils)

6 September—SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR PUPILS

Class 14 have been busy working towards their ASDAN Transition Challenge and Towards Independence modules participating in lots of varied and fun activities. We have been using number in Sports to keep score and count any equipment we have been using. We are learning about emotions labelling and identifying them through Zones of regulation. We have completed mosaics looking at different ways to make patterns with the outcome of making a mosaic tiled coaster. Also have been practicing baking skills weekly making cheese scones for our families to try as well as working on important skills in the kitchen such as preparing the kitchen area and washing and tidying up when we are finished. For forest schools we have made plaques using nail art to make different images and words and two pupils made their favourite TV character into a scarecrow.



Class 12 have been working very hard this half term. They have been doing some fantastic English work exploring portal stories and Max the dog's adventures and have started to write their own stories. They have also been working hard in maths, with some pupils working towards their key skills exams. We started our new topic archaeology and have looked at Pompeii, artefacts and have participated in our own small archaeological dig and hopefully we will be able to go and visit some real archaeological sites and explore what has been found there. We have also been focusing on life skills and job skills, looking at health and safety round the college, keeping our college clean and tidy and hopefully going on some work experience in the next couple of weeks. We have also been learning about human rights and what they mean to us. The staff in class 12 would just like to say a big thank you and well done to all the pupils in class for their resilience and grown up attitudes they have displayed this year, you are all amazing!



Class 2—Our topic this term has been 'Toys' and the children have loved it. Our sensory stories came to life and the children had the opportunity to explore a variety of different toys 'old and new'. We have linked this to maths using different toy counting songs and a firm favourite was 'dinosaurs'. The children counted them and overwrote sensory numbers, held up the correct number of fingers linked to the song and some children even started to write the numbers at the correct time during the song. Class 2 have been very creative and painted on hula hoops hanging from the ceiling and even used rolling pins to express their creativity. Another massive hit was water balloons and bubbles, as was the inflatable boats. It is safe to say that Class 2 have shared lots of similes, had fun and created some great memories this half term.

Class 8 have had a busy half term. We were grateful for things to start to return to normal. This has meant that we have had the chance to attend weekly swimming sessions as well as a trip out to challenge some of our PE targets. In English the children have read the book 'The jungle book' and in Maths we have had a focus on Money.



Class 10 have continued to develop their reading and writing skills. We have explored The Highwayman poem. In Maths we have been learning Number and Measuring Length and Height. During Science lessons we have explored Living things and their habitats. Our creative curriculum lessons have been linked to the Iron Age. We have continued to develop our social skills through a variety of communication activities including daily circle-time, shared practical activities and role-play. In RE sessions we have explored what we can learn from religious stories. Forest-Schools activities included planting in the school grounds. During PSHE we have focused on keeping healthy. ICT has had a word processing focus. We have continued to develop our fitness through football training and daily cardio and dance sessions. Have a great half-term everyone from Class 10.

Class 9

Our semi-formal curriculum theme this half term is "My Cooking". Some of the pupils have made Swiss roll – yum yum! Whilst thoroughly enjoying this sweet treat, our PSHE lessons have seen us exploring some healthier food options. We have tasted different fruits / vegetables and used symbols to express preferences.

In our English lessons, we have enjoyed reading the text "Kitchen Disco". We have matched words and pictures from the text and enjoyed listening to disco music.

In Maths, some of the pupils have been learning about time (o'clock and half past). Other pupils have been developing their number skills and completed counting activities.

Our site supervisor (Darren) kindly donated a go-cart for the pupils to use at break time.

This has proved very popular and the pupils have been practising good turn-taking skills.



Class 7 have had a great half term! In maths we have been studying shape and number. We have also been studying 'Animals and their homes' through attention autism sessions, life cycles (plants and animals) and our story 'Blob the Frog'. We connected with nature during Mental Health Awareness Week and have thoroughly enjoyed developing our swimming skills at Nick's Swim School.



Class 1 This half term our topic has been 'Into the Jungle'. We have had lots of fun exploring our jungle themed role play area in class and dressing up in camouflage clothing for jungle expeditions! We have enjoyed learning and performing songs on our jungle theme in our daily music and movement sessions, including 'elephants have wrinkles' and 'Jungle Boogie'. Our dance lessons in PE have also been jungle themed too and we have enjoyed these immensely. In Literacy we have been reading 'Rumble in the Jungle' and have been excited to play the jungle drums and meet all the different animals each week. Outdoors our wooden shed has been turned into a jungle café and we've been preparing pretend food and drinks for our friends! In art sessions we have been creating artwork to decorate our jungle role play area, including paper plate swirly snakes and cheeky monkey hand prints! We have continued to engage in a range of messy play and sensory activities, including washing muddy jungle animals and exploring jungle playdough.



Class 4

This half term we have been enjoying our 'Toy' theme, in English we have been enjoying reading 'Toy Story' using props to retell the story, working on our fine motor skills threading dinosaurs and sequencing the story. We have been using theme boards to communicate what we can see and hear using WOW words to describe. We have also been practising our pencil control and working on forming letters.

In maths we have really enjoyed using dice; playing board games, counting spots and finding corresponding numerals and playing roll-a-move with lots of jumping, spinning and creeping. We also learnt about sequencing our day using a sensory story, it was lots of fun, we especially loved the alarm clock!

We have really enjoyed going swimming, learning to be more independent while getting dressed and being safe around the pool. Everyone loved splashing and kicking their legs. We also loved our trips to the park, braving the climbing frame and the HUGE slide too. And in science we have been looking at plants, we have grown our own cress, learnt all about how to look after plants and made our own special garden with flowers to attract bees.



Class 5 have been enjoying learning about the local wildlife and plants through playing outdoor bingo. We planted some seeds and watched them grow. In English we have been using the zones of regulation to help us identify how characters are feeling in a story. We have read stories based on cavemen. In Maths we are learning about 2d shapes and their properties. Our PE has been sensory circuits.

This term **Class 3** have been learning about toys. We have enjoyed our sensory story Kippers Toybox and explored the sensory materials and toys associated with the story. We have looked at one and more toys, can you guess the toy and played on big apparatus when outside. We have enjoyed our daily TACPAC sessions and Intensive Interaction. We have explored wet and dry oats, wet and dry sand, slime, water, cornflour and raw and cooked pasta. We have enjoyed sensory play in the hall and time in the mud kitchen and low ropes.



Class 6 This half term's theme of Animals and their habitats has been very popular with Class 6. All the children have enjoyed exploring different habitats and what materials might be used to make different animal's homes. We have been working on using the different sentence starters 'I see, I hear, I feel and I smell' around the theme too and then in Art lessons recreating different animals by painting or crafting. On Friday afternoons, the children have made some wonderful salads, kebabs and smoothies taking animals diets into account.



Staff News:

Welcome to Natalie who has joined our admin team in the school office.

Thanks to everyone who shops through Amazon Smile. We have raised £176.57 for the period 1st January—31st March. Many thanks and please remember to choose amazon smile when shopping through Amazon.

SCHOOL SITE SPEED LIMIT



We would like to remind you that the speed limit on school grounds is 10 mph. Please do not speed – there can be pupils walking on the grounds at any time during the day including the start and end of the school day. Thankyou

Wait patiently if you are in the vehicle queue waiting to collect/drop off, please do not try and jump the queue.

Many thanks.

Class 13 We have been incredibly busy this half term, working on a number of accreditation routes and topics. The pupils have absolutely loved our Native American art unit where we have immersed ourselves in songs, chants and art work linked to this culture. We have created sand art, patterns, and model tepees, totem poles and dream catchers. We have been busy!

In addition to this, we have been enjoying our regular Reading for Pleasure sessions where we've been listening to stories, dancing and using props to bring them to life, and have been responding to texts using a range of communication systems including Makaton, Colourful Semantics and the Proloquo2Go expressive communication app on our iPads.

As part of our ASDAN Towards Independence pathway, we have been working on our independence with cleaning, preparing and clearing away our food and cutlery each day. The students have been accessing a variety of PE opportunities. Linking in these independence skills and Numeracy to make the tasks even more relevant.

It has been a wonderful first half term teaching in Class 13 for me and the pupils have responded very positively to this change in their routine and daily expectations; which is pleasing to see.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark and the Class 13 team.

Changes to School Meals

From June 7 we will no longer be using scopay for meal ordering and payment – we will be moving to School Spider.

ALL parents who want their children to have a school prepared meal must book it through School Spider. This includes pupils who have a free school meal.

To do this you must first download the FREE School Spider app and set up an account OR set up your account through the school website homepage (parent login above the school logo)

Meals are available to book now (June 7 – July 16)

Please make sure that you settle any overdue scopay accounts before Monday 7 June – refunds will be processed on Thursday 27 May.

School Photos

Please return any orders by the 7th June



Robert's recycling are coming to collect any bags we have on the 9th June. Please could any bags of unwanted clothes be brought into school before this date. The company do not provide the bags anymore so please use your own carrier bags or bin bags.

Thankyou

<https://www.robertsrecycling.co.uk/>



We have been set a challenge by RockFM's Cash For Kids to raise **£2,000** by **18 July 2021**, if we reach this target they will donate an amazing **£1,000** to school. We have a few fundraising events going on over the next 7 weeks:

[Friday 11 June 2021](#)

non uniform day for staff and pupils
pay £1.00 and bring a bottle of booze
(donation to be made through the link below)

[Friday 25 June 2021](#)

wheelbarrow of booze raffle

[Friday 9 July 2021](#)

virtual duck race

Below is a link to the Rock FM School Fundraising Page, please help us reach our goal of raising £2,000 by 16 July 2021!

<https://www.cashforkidsgive.co.uk/campaign/mini-schools-challenge/fundraisers/hillside-specialist-school-and-college/>

Smartie Tube Challenge

Please help us raise money to upgrade the school grounds by taking part in the Smarties Tube Challenge.

We have sent home tubes of smarties to eat then fill with 20p's and these need to be returned by the 19th June

COVID-19

Please remember to use the email below if your child has symptoms of covid -19 or is self-isolating over the half term

covid19@hillside.lancs.sch.uk

And finally

It's really pleasing to see the range of activities the pupils have been able to be involved in this half term after the impact that the lockdown has had on learning opportunities for our pupils. More is planned next half term along with our fundraising activities, which we hope you will again offer your full support to. Hopefully we can meet our target of £2000 by the 18th July to receive the additional funding which we plan to use to update our outdoor areas.

Enjoy the half term.

Paul Leaper, Headteacher.



SCHOOL RE-OPENS MONDAY 7 JUNE AT 9.10AM

