

Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 20th October
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 30th October
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Friday 22nd December to
Monday 8th January
CHRISTMAS BREAK



SchoolSpider

Please make sure you download the school spider app. We send important messages through the app

COFFEE MORNING

COFFEE TIME

TUESDAY
7TH
NOVEMBER
9.30-11AM



**OUR BREAKFAST CLUB
LAUNCH THIS TERM
HAS BEEN A GREAT
SUCCESS WITH PUPILS**



HELP US SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

*** PARENT
GOVERNOR
VACANCY**

APPLY NOW!

**YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

We need your skills to help improve education for children in our school

Please contact Carol in the office for a chat about the role

STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome to the team:

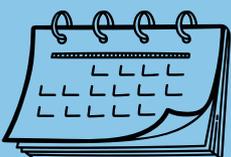
Charlotte Antrobus TA3
and Emily, Assistant Headteacher,
will be returning from
maternity leave after half term

Goodbye & Good Luck to:

Emma Bruney, Suzanne Wignall
& Georgia Westworth

REMINDER:

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER





A BIG THANK YOU TO KEY STAGE 2 PARENTS

Our KS2 Harvest Festival Assembly was made extra special and meaningful by all your kind TIN DONATIONS to the local foodbanks. A huge THANK YOU is being sent to you all from our local vicar, Revd. Mike, from St. Paul's Church, in Longridge. The tin donations and Harvest artwork, which the children made, is all currently being displayed in St. Paul's Harvest Display. My friend, Revd. Mark, from Lighthouse Church, also sent us a Harvest message to add to our learning during the Assembly and the children enjoyed a Harvest boogie to some Autumn music. Your donations will help many local families. Thank you so much, Christy



I would like to welcome our new pupils and families to Hillside this half term. It's great to see that pupils have settled back into school and that classes have been so busy.

It's pleasing to see that our new Breakfast Club initiative is having a positive impact on pupils in school. We look forward to seeing you in school at our coffee morning on the 7th of November and if you are interested in supporting the school by becoming a parent governor, please contact the office for more information.

Enjoy the half term week

Regards

Paul Leaper - Headteacher



CLASS NEWS



Class 2 have settled in well this half term after the summer break. Beautiful friendships with peers have been formed, which links well with our topic ' Me and my friends'. We have been learning what makes a good friend and how that makes us unique. This has led us to think about our feelings and expressing ourselves in different ways.



We have had weekly sessions with Super Ball Paul which the children have loved. It is great to see their confidence grow week in and week out.



Class 5: Autumn Term 1 has been full of new beginnings and new experiences. We have had warm sunshine fun and also puddle play. The children have learned about homes, through our first sensory story and play, with a focus on communication and making positive choices. Autumn Forest School has been a big hit with each child, with wonderful outdoor exploration and play set-ups. We have created some seasonal artwork (some of which is on display in our local church). Class 5's Harvest

Festival Assembly was made extra special by all your kind tin donations and a huge THANK YOU to you all from our local vicar.

The last few weeks have been magical, experiencing our new sensory story, 'WHOOSH!' based on 'Room on the Broom'; with cackling sound buttons for each to press, pumpkins painted, Makaton signs practiced, story puppets ordered, potions made and hands-on sensory fun in a stinking bog (made from black garlic mayo- it is a thing!) and a cauldron of orange jelly and green spaghetti worms! We've made witches hat cakes and some frighteningly good decorations, ready for our Pumpkin Party. All this has been topped off by a 'spooktacular sensory walk' through our decorated wooded area, with a shared Bonfire campfire experience, organised by the wonderful Julie.

Each member of Class 5 has settled in beautifully and are building up lovely relationships with our staff team; we are very proud of them all 😊



Class 7 - Wow! What a busy and fast first half term. Everyone has settled really well and are beginning to build great relationships.

This half-term, our topic has been 'Me, my home, and my family.' The children have enjoyed a variety of stories, including, 'Around the table that Grandad built', 'In every house on every street,' and our own non-fiction text about our own homes and family. The children have loved seeing and sharing their own photographs with the class. In Maths we have learnt all about measurement, investigating height, length, and size, as well as continuing to build our number skills.

Family trees have been the main focus of our art sessions. The children have had the opportunity to explore and learn about a variety of artists, including Pablo Picasso to create self-portraits, Andy Warhol inspired family portraits and Georges Seurat's Pointillism technique to create our trees. They all look fantastic!

During PSHE, the children have been learning about kind and unkind behaviour, as well as playing and working together – it has been wonderful to see great turn taking and sharing! Our PE sessions with Superball Paul have been a lot of fun; the sessions have been filled with energy and plenty of excitement. All of the children have made amazing progress and they have definitely enjoyed themselves.

We continue to work on our individual targets and develop our independence throughout the day.

The class 7 team wishes you all a happy and safe half term.



Class 8 - Our curriculum theme for this half term is "This is Me!" We have been looking at the differences between the pupils in the class including hair colour, eye colour and likes / dislikes. In English lessons, we have read a book titled "It's ok to be Different".

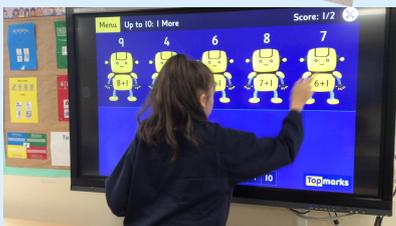
The focus for our Science lessons has been labelling different parts of the body and in Maths we have been doing lots of number activities.

Some pupils have enjoyed accessing Forest Schools sessions – collecting vegetables from the vegetable plot, making vegetable soup, collecting conkers and using different tools.

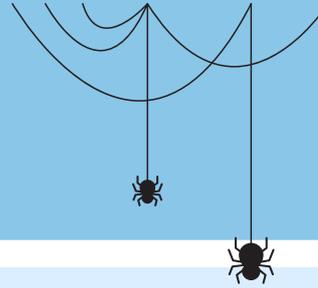
Two pupils have collected the recycling from college and taken it to the recycling centre at Longridge.

In PE sessions, we have practiced ball skills and played Kurling.

Pupils have started working towards an ASDAN qualification – Exploring Aspirations.



CLASS NEWS



Class 12 have been learning about their community and organisations within the local community that help them as part of ASDAN.

We have been learning about the countryside code and following it on walks at Beacon Fell and Witton park as part of ASDAN.

In Science we have been learning about materials and their properties and testing natural and man-made materials.

In English we have been reading Dirty Bertie Scream and learning about adjectives, nouns and pronouns.

In Maths we have been learning about place value, ordering numbers and addition and subtraction including word problems.

Have a great half term!

Class 13 - It's been a lovely half term so far, welcoming our pupils back to college and Class 13. We're all settling back into college life well and building up relationships with our new peers and staff. We've all been working really hard with our Supporting Aspirations module 'Looking after Myself'. The pupils have enjoyed ordering and following instructions to make toast in our functional Maths and English lessons. On Thursdays we have enjoyed our Forest Schools sessions with Julie, where we have been exploring a range of harvest vegetables, even getting to help prepare and taste a yummy vegetable soup from our home grown vegetables from our veg plot. We've also been building up our independence skills through our work experience sessions, helping to keep the college clean by litter picking, cleaning the windows and making sure our classroom is spotless. All in all, a very busy but fantastic first half term in Class 13!



CLASS NEWS



Class 1 - We have had a wonderful first half term in Class 1 getting to know each other, settling into school and developing our understanding of class routines. We have had lots of fun exploring a variety of songs, rhymes, stories and activities on the theme of 'ourselves' within our lovely classroom and class outdoor area. We have loved our Literacy story/song, 'If you're happy and you know it', and have enjoyed copying some of the actions. In Maths we've been singing a range of counting and finger rhymes. We have particularly enjoyed our daily music and movement sessions, tac pac and dough disco sessions. We have enjoyed a wide range of sensory/messy play and creative activities too this half term!

Class 10 - We have been very busy this half term in class 10, developing our skills in Geometry and Number applying our skills to column addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with exchanges. In English we have also had a focus on reading as well as developing speaking and listening skills. We have visited a library to encourage 'reading for pleasure'. In Science we have been learning all about Forces and Magnets and have carried out some investigations to help us predict and evaluate our thoughts. In PSHE and our ASDAN accreditation we have been thinking about employability skills whilst developing our speaking and listening skills through discussions and class debates assisting us in preparation for our functional skills assessments in the future. Our Creative Curriculum topic has been The Middle East and we have completed lots of exciting activities related to this such as making our own Middle Eastern food dishes and Patterns in Art, using ICT we have completed a presentation using images and information about a country.



In Class 9, we have been enjoying looking at all the different things our friends like and dislike in class. We have been focusing on how we are all different and what makes us different.

In science we have been naming different body parts. We have been playing 'I spy' to find the different body parts as well as drawing round our friends with chalk then naming the body parts we can see on the floor.

We have been enjoying our weekly trips to Dunsop Bridge as part of our ASDAN accreditation. We have been taking part in walks, and using our theme boards to point out the different things we could see. We have also been looking at road safety on our educational visits.



CLASS NEWS



Class 14 have had a great start to the year! This half term we have started our breakfast club where the students have been making a variety of breakfast items each morning and using a theme board to help promote their communication. Our pathway 3 aim has been sensory first aid and the students have been fantastic taking part in role play activities as doctors and patients, asking questions to each other using colourful semantics and using the correct first aid equipment to help each other, exploring blood pressure machines and stethoscopes and using the telephone to call our 'college emergency line' to report an accident. We have been on weekly visits to a local park and have done some fantastic shopping in Sainsburys, using the self checkouts. We are looking forward to next half term making items to sell as part of our enterprise projects!



Class 4 have had a fantastic start to the new academic year.

We have been busy learning routines and enjoying lessons in our new classroom.

We have liked listening to stories in English using sensory props and completed phonics, reading, writing, speaking and listening.

During Maths we have practiced number and measure.

In Science we have investigated materials and in MFL practiced French.

For DT we made progress in our sandwich making skills and explored the topic 'Information in School' in ICT.

Our PE lessons focused on ball skills and we each earned a sticker for our efforts.

In RE we have explored Hinduism and in Geography our local community.

Each Friday, as a reward for our efforts, we have visited Goosnargh Play Area to build friendships (linked to our PSHE topic) and had some more fun!

Have a great half-term break
everyone from Class 4





Class 3 - This half term we have been looking at our friends and families. We have enjoyed sensory stories about friends, listening and identifying different environmental sounds, lots of mark making and using communication boards to show which items make which noises. In maths we have learnt about shapes, counting and number recognition using our AA bucket and then exploring temperature looking at hot and cold. In art we have been looking at the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, who uses fruit and vegetables to make portraits. We had a go at making our own, we did a fantastic job. RE has been fun, finding out how special we are and that there is only one of us and in PSHE we have looked at kind and unkind behaviour and helping our friends in class. The children have also been working on obstacle courses in PE building our own in the hall or using the low rope course in the forest. We continue to practice our life skills this term, working on doing lots more for ourselves without help. We have also had lots of appointments; eye tests, school photos and a visit from the school nurses.

The class3 team wishes everyone a safe and happy half term.



FUNDRAISING NEWS



Congratulations!

Jon and Dunc have raised an amazing £965 for the sensory trail by running the Lakeland 100 on 28th to 30th July - a 100-mile ultra marathon non-stop across the Lake District.

Well done & Thank you!



**support our school
join our lottery!**
Sign up today at www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play

For every ticket sold 76% goes towards school and prizes. If you would like to take part please go to <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/> to join. £1 per ticket!

ROBERTS RECYCLING

will be collecting any unwanted bags of clothing on Monday 6th November. If you have any unwanted items, then please can you bring them in by Friday 3rd November



Hillside Specialist School & College
present



FRIDAY | 10 NOVEMBER 2023

CIVIC HALL, LONGRIDGE

DOORS OPEN AT 7
EYES DOWN AT 7.30 PM
FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE
BAR OPEN

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
01772 782205



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

