



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

February 2021 Newsletter

School Dinners – Changes to KS3 & 4 Meals and Price.

From Monday 22 February we will be changing the school dinner portion size and price for KS3 & 4 pupils (Years 7-11).

For these pupils we will be serving an adult sized portion meal and the charge will be £2.50 per meal, the same as our College students.

You do not need to do anything and prices will be changed on scopy to reflect the change.

As usual, please let the office know if you want your child to stop having school meals or you will be charged for meals prepared. Any ad hoc meals should still be ordered and paid for on your scopy account.

Diary Dates:

15–19 February - Half term break

22 February—School re-opens for pupils

25 March—Last day of term for pupils

26 March—INSET day

29 March —9 April—EASTER break

12 April—School re-opens for pupils

Class 2 We have had a busy, yet very different half term due to our current lockdown situation. We haven't let this phase us and we have created some fantastic work. The children have been learning about the UK and each week we have focused on a different part; England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. We have shared sensory stories and the children engaged well with the sensory props. They have also really enjoyed learning our songs in maths and have learnt some of the actions that accompany them.

Class 3 this term have been learning about George and the Dragon. They have been working from home and at school using fingers to count forwards and backwards in Maths. At home they have been creating sensory items to manipulate and at school they have explored paint using their hands and feet. All pupils have access to TACPAC and Intensive Interaction and have explored different instruments in music.



Class 7 have been working hard this half term in school and at home. Our focus topic has been France. Pupils have participated in making traditional French foods including French toast and croissants! In addition, pupils have had opportunity in class to visit a French shoe shop. Pupils and parents have been working hard at home on improving numeracy and literacy skills in line with individual targets. Moreover, our PSHE work on managing feelings has looked at emotions through story books, which can be found on our Google Classroom.



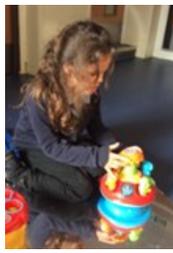
Free School Meal Vouchers

The Government have advised that Schools will not be issuing Free School Meal vouchers to families over the February half term holiday.

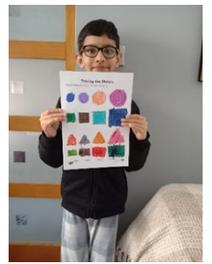
Vouchers however will be issued retrospectively if the Government guidance changes.

Thank you to everyone who sent in unwanted clothing for our Bag2School collection, we raised £26.

Class 4 This half term we have been enjoying our United Kingdom theme, in geography we have looked at maps and been finding out about the 4 countries that make up the UK. We made leek soup and dragons when exploring Wales, had an afternoon tea when we explored England, made shamrock biscuits and learnt some Irish dancing when looking at Northern Ireland and made a thistle and marched with drums along to some bagpipers for Scotland. We had so much fun. In English we have been reading the 'Puss in Boots' story, we loved answering questions about the story using theme boards, trying to blend sounds to make words and working on role playing the different characters. In maths we have been exploring numbers, looking at matching sets of numbers, addition and counting as well as exploring patterns using colours, shapes, actions and pictures.



Class 8 This term has been a difficult one for us all however class 8 have worked hard on individual targets and routines. During lockdown nearly all of our class have accessed home learning with some children focussing on Google classroom. Some have worked on home learning packs while others have taken this opportunity to work on their life skills which is great. We have even had to adapt our PE sessions to make them accessible to all with some children completing daily walks or exercise, dog walking or even dancing using virtual reality gaming equipment.



Class 6 The Class 6 team are very proud of all our learners for the effort that is going into their work both in school and at home. We have been completing activities based on our France theme including roleplaying being on a plane, making our own passports, producing French art work and tasting French food. In English we have enjoyed a Beauty and The Beast Story massage alongside themed activities to develop reading and writing skills. The pupils have also been learning about different emotions and managing different feelings in PSHE and have started to learn about spring time festivals in RE. The Class have enjoyed joining in action songs and singing along to them in our music sessions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support.



Congratulations & Thank You

Huge congratulations to the Jervis family who won the IDNS Christmas Tree competition beating off over 80 entries! Oliver and his family have very kindly donated the Acer Laptop they won to School - we will make sure it is put to good use. Thank you again...lets hope there's another competition next Christmas !!



STAFF NEWS

This term we say goodbye to Angel from the office who is leaving us for pastures new. On a happier note we welcome Dan Morton who joined our Site Team this term. After the half term break Coley Watson and Molly Horsfield will be starting as Apprentice TA's.

Returning to work this term following maternity leave are teacher Rachael Fogg and TA, Kerry Jones. Finally many congratulations to 3 staff members who will have achieved their 20 Years Service Awards this term—Jenny Waters, Vicky Cornwell and Wendy Bain.

Class 9 Our semi-formal curriculum theme this half term is Italy. The pupils have painted the flag of Italy, made pizza and coloured pictures of 'The Mona Lisa' - the famous painting by Italian artist Leonardo Da Vinci. In Maths we have been learning about money – sorting and matching coins and identifying different coins by matching to the corresponding written amounts. In English we have listened to different sounds and used pictures to identify what makes each sound. For our work towards the ASDAN New Horizons award, we have been looking at our families – the people we live with, our pets and what our houses are like. We have enjoyed playing turn-taking games with our peers.



Please Notice This



PLEASE REMEMBER

Update school if you have changed your contact numbers. These may be needed in an emergency or to contact you over weekends / holidays regarding COVID reporting or changes in your child's allocated school sessions. Just call the school office to let us know.

Class 13 have been enjoying a variety of Numeracy and Literacy activities this term both in school and at home. We have been practising our money recognition skills by matching real coins and notes, as well as using a purse to practise buying items from our pretend shop which is a lot of fun. We have been continuing to learn about the Zones of Regulation through stories in Literacy, recognising how it feels when we are sad or tired, happy and calm, anxious or worried or angry. Our pupils are now able to show which zone they are in and communicate how they feel to staff which is wonderful. In other subjects, we have looked at colour theory including the work of Paul Klee, Henry Matisse and Kandinsky. We have explored different textures and created some colourful collages out of different materials. We have also been practising our Independent Living Skills starting with cleaning and dusting as well as having a go at Yoga to stretch our muscles and relax. We hope that everyone at Hillside is staying safe and well and look forward to seeing our 'Home Learners' back in soon.

Class 10 have continued to develop English skills daily in reading, comprehension, spelling and sentence construction. We have explored Macbeth through poetry and used these developing skills to enter a Young Writers Poetry competition. In Maths we have been learning Number and Time. For Science lessons we have explored Planets and the Solar System. One of our pupils made a fantastic Space Rocket whilst learning at home through the Class 10 Google Classroom. Our creative curriculum lessons have been linked to History since the 1950s. 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 the parable of the Good Samaritan. ICT has had an internet safety focus and we have continued to develop our fitness through daily cardio and dance sessions. Have a great half-term everyone from Class 10.



Class 1 This half-term our topic has been 'Superheroes'. Some of us have been exploring dressing up as Superheroes and singing songs on our Superhero theme! We began by looking at the counting story '10 little Superheroes' by Mike Brownlowe. We have since moved onto the story 'Superworm' and we are having fun exploring a range of sensory, musical and creative activities to accompany the story! In Music we have enjoyed exploring instruments and choosing our favourites through a series of lessons from the Charanga Musical website. We have continued to enjoy our daily tacpac and phonics sessions too. Many of our children (and parents!) have been enjoying some of our sensory story videos, action songs and suggested home activities through Google Classroom whilst not in school – we have loved hearing from you and seeing what you have been getting up to. Please stay in touch and we look forward to welcoming everyone back when it is safe to do so. Best wishes Chantelle, Alison and the class 1 team.



Class 5 This half term we have been learning about different spring-time religious festivals and our topic has been the United Kingdom. The pupils have loved engaging in videos, music, dance and art work for the Hindu festival of Holi and the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi. We have spent time looking at the four countries that make up the UK, their flags and information about them. We have been incredibly proud of how the pupils have dealt with the huge changes that have come with this period of lockdown. We have spent an increased amount of time using our Zones of Regulation curriculum and PSHE sessions to help support understanding of these difficult circumstances, recognise our feelings and develop strategies to help us feel happy. In maths we have continued working on our key foundations of number as well as fractions and division. Food and treats definitely helped the pupils to engage with physically dividing and splitting items into fractions! In English we focused on 101 Dalmatians, moving on to the Railway Children. We have placed an emphasis on linking our Phonics learning into every reading session to help make the links as clear as we can. Thank you again for your support this half term! Mark and the Class 5 Team.

Class 12 have done extremely well with all the changes that have happened this half term. We have had pupils in class and also pupils at home joining us in class by a video link. We have enjoyed feeding the birds around the school grounds, making fat balls and cheerio links, and enjoyed lots of sensory walks in the snow. We have watched a variety of different videos and tested our recall skills, practised independent living skills including cooking, mopping, sweeping, and cleaning, and taken part in a weekly Joe Wicks workout. We have also started our forensic science module looking at different types of evidence and evidence recovery and have explored the zones of regulation which has helped us identify different emotions and how they make us feel.

And finally.....

This term has again been challenging due to the lockdown announced at the beginning of January. Despite the disruption this has had on attendance I am pleased to see that pupils have maintained and developed new skills through their continued work on their curriculum topics.

A big thank you to parents and carers who are continuing to access activities off our Google Classroom in supporting their child to be educated at home. Please continue to send in evidence of their achievements.

We look forward to an update from the Government on possible changes and a re-opening of schools from 8 March. Best wishes and I hope you all keep safe and well.

Paul Leaper, Headteacher