

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher Mrs Jayne Pedley B Ed(Hons)
01453 843551
admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk
www.hillesleyprimary.com

Newsletter 1 Term 2

6th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term as we go into a period of national lockdown!

I hope you all had a good break? I luckily managed to see the sea in Cornwall – such a treat and tonic at this time!

These are strange times in school with restrictions meaning we cannot do many of the things we normally look forward to at this time of year. However, we are trying our best to provide an engaging and broad curriculum as well as undertaking catch up work across the school. The teachers spent last term assessing exactly where the children are in their learning – reading, writing and maths. They will discuss this with you during the parent/teacher phone call consultation. Please bear with us if we have not yet replied about alternative dates if you were unable to make the suggested time. We will get to speak to everyone but it is going to take time. You will also receive a curriculum information letter today that tells you what your child will be learning this term.

Fortunately we have had no confirmed cases of covid within the school community although several pupils and a few staff have had tests – all negative so far. Staff are taking extra precautions in their daily working and personal lives to try to make sure we stay infection free. Several schools in our area have already had confirmed cases and bubbles, year groups, even whole school closures have happened in our locality so we must continue to be vigilant and follow guidance. We are minimising outside visitors to school to try to prevent any introduction of the virus. The only outside providers/helpers coming into school between now and Christmas are the PE coach who takes all necessary covid safety measures (in fact he is currently self-isolating so won't be with us this first week); Hannah Druett and Rachel Preece who run and help with Forest Schools and Faye our dinner lady who delivers the hot meals, again Caterlink have risk-assessed their work spaces, staff and practices and put in all the necessary safety measures.

If there was to be a closure then we would make use of our new learning platform and class emails to keep in touch and send work home. Work would only be sent home if; there is a harder lockdown and schools are instructed to close; a bubble or whole school closure happens due to a confirmed case within the school; if a child has to self-isolate due to a close family member having a positive test or through track and trace.

On a much brighter note we have been looking ahead to Christmas and our plans for the Christmas week are;

Monday 14th December – work as usual in class bubbles

Tuesday 15th – Wear a Nativity costume to school/ Christmas activities in class bubbles- as the children are missing out on a full performance this year, we thought they might like to dress up as a Nativity character of their choice and we can take photos to send home to you all. Sorry parents you can't escape the "find a costume/clean t-towel head dress" experience!

Wednesday 16th – Christmas Maths and English activities in our class bubbles and Christmas dinner, with crackers of course!

Thursday 17th – Class bubbles parties in the morning – the children can wear their party clothes to school; DVD and popcorn/treats afternoon in our class bubbles

Friday 18th – Tidy up and toy morning – but the children cannot bring their own toys to school and instead will play with school toys, games and computers

School will close at 12noon on Friday so we can carry out a staff de-brief and a deep clean.

Looking further ahead, we have organised music lessons for Term 3 with guitars and string instruments for both key stages and KS2 will hopefully take part in the Knex Challenge as long as restrictions are eased.

I would like to reassure you that although this is a stressful time for all, the school remains a positive, safe place for the children to be together, learn and experience some degree of normality.

Regards,

J Pedley