

# Hillesley

## PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher Mrs Jayne Pedley B Ed(Hons)  
01453 843551  
[admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[www.hillesleyprimary.com](http://www.hillesleyprimary.com)

Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>      Newsletter 4 -Term 4

Dear Parents,

As this term draws to a close there are several matters I wish to draw to your attention.

The teachers have been teaching and assessing to find out where the children are in core subjects. You will receive a full, annual report in Term 6. If you have any concerns or need to ask the teachers a question about the way in which your child has re-settled or if you have an urgent concern about their progress, please email using the [admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk) address and your messages will be forwarded to the appropriate teacher. I am pleased to say that the children seem very positive about being back at school.

Wrap around care – we are always conscious of the need for morning and after school childcare for some families, however we cannot run breakfast or after school childcare provision if it means there is a loss and a cost to the school budget. Purse strings are always very tight of course! In order to run such wrap around care the school would need a minimum, constant and consistent take up in order to employ staff and pay for running costs including energy, water and other usage costs. In the recent past the breakfast club take up rate was very low, in fact at one point just one family were using it and so it was running at a loss and hence had to cease. To make such care possible there would need to be a daily take up rate of at least 7 children. We will send out a short questionnaire after Easter and I would be grateful if all parents complete it so a clear picture of take-up and need for this provision can be gauged.

After school activity clubs and school trips – the covid guidance says that after school clubs should not resume unless there is an urgent need for care that cannot be provided in any other way, and that trips should not be arranged. However, Mr Whitbread is running twice weekly chess club at lunchtimes for KS2 children. Hopefully as restrictions and the pressures on teaching staff lessen we can re-assess the situation with regards to clubs and school trips.

The go kart can no longer be used to compete in the Renishaw events as it is too heavy and no longer suitable. We can keep the go kart and use it for an engineering club in the future once the covid restrictions are lifted and teachers have more time to spend on clubs. This type of activity is only suited to the older children because of the nature of the materials and equipment that needs to be used.

The allotment – in order to keep this going we really need parents' help. Staff do not have the time to look after the allotment. We will endeavour to take all the children up to the allotment in turns, during the summer terms, but we have a catch up and recovery curriculum as our main focus. The children get outside as much as possible through Forest School for KS1, PE and extended breaks for all. The other issue during the school day is the staffing to take a group out of lessons whilst also having staff in school delivering regular lessons. We are always extremely grateful for assistance from Rachel Preece and David Darlow who help us run allotment groups and keep the allotment going but they cannot take a group of children during the school day without a member of staff. Parents could help with the allotment by running an after school group which would not need staff input but would require a regular commitment from volunteers. During the summer terms we will schedule some trips to the allotment for groups of KS2 pupils if possible. This will probably be on Thursday afternoons during what would normally be KS2 Science lessons. The class teacher will remain in school to deliver a science lesson to those remaining and the TA will

accompany a small group and volunteers to the allotment. If there are any parents who would be interested in helping with the allotment after school or digging and tending, please let us know.

The school has been a busy, productive place during the past four weeks since full re-opening and the classroom staff have been working hard to re-establish school expectations and to see what gaps are there in learning for each child. This assessment and catch up work will continue after Easter. We are maintaining a balance between catch up curriculum and making sure the children have some fun, learning activities during afternoon sessions.

During the Easter holidays if any member of your family has a positive test for Covid or are contacted by NHS Track and Trace, please inform Mrs Pedley by calling 01454 260372 and leaving a recorded message. It is important that you inform Mrs Pedley, particularly during the period between April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> as other members of the school community might need to self-isolate.

Please note, the [admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk) email will not be checked during the holiday period. The [head@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk) email will be checked occasionally but should not be used for anything requiring urgent attention.

School starts again for Term 5 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

I hope you all have a good Easter break and that we are all soon able to see loved ones far away.

Best wishes,

J. Pedley