

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter | Term 5

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to term 5! There has been much sunshine for the first few weeks of term and everyone is in good spirits and a positive mind-set. It is remarkable how adaptable the children have been during the covid restrictions. The risk assessments and safety/cleaning protocols remain in place for the time being as we slowly see the easing of restrictions. Guidance for most aspects of school has not changed yet and this is because the government want to proceed with caution to avoid further periods of lockdown and disruption.

Last week you received the curriculum information for this term and I am sure that you will see that we are trying to maintain as broad and balanced a curriculum as possible. The partnership between school and home is so vital for primary aged children and in particular with the development and progress with those basic skills of regular reading, practicing phonics and times tables. Research shows much evidence of the positive impact of parents reading with and listening to their children read. Just 5 or 10 minutes a day can accumulate over time to make a remarkable difference to the progress and attitude to reading that, in turn, can have a big influence on success at secondary school. In the autumn term we are hoping to run an information workshop for parents about reading and phonics.

On the subject of reading, it is important that parents show that they value reading with their children and sign the yellow reading record provided. This also helps school monitor the amount of reading that the children are doing. I am also putting out a plea for reading books to be returned. When reading books are “lost” at home for a number of weeks, school staff have problems making sure there are enough phonic readers for the younger children and older children can be frustrated, waiting for a book that another child has not returned. Please have a good look at home and see if you have any reading books that need to be returned. A box will be placed in the school lobby from Tuesday 4th May so please just place any returned books in it.

Hopefully in the autumn many of the usual enrichment activities can resume but for now we are still bound by covid protocols. There are several things to look forward to however! On Friday, during their PE sessions, all the children will take part in the National run a mile initiative. All the children will also take part in a special cricket event run by Gloucestershire Cricket Board and Chance to Shine charity on Wednesday 12th May. Please make sure your child wears PE kit that day as well as on Fridays for PE as usual. The older children have written thank you letters to the Wotton Lions to thank them for their kind donation of £100 to buy new headphones. A number of new headphones have been purchased and are being used!

KS2 children will all have a session at the allotment this term;

May 6th – Year 6 May 13th; Year 5 May 13th; Year 4 May 21st; Year 3 May 27th.

Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing and footwear on those days. Hopefully we can repeat these sessions again in term 6.

KSI continue to enjoy Forest Schools every Friday afternoon and all the children seem to look forward to their PE sessions with Mr Guest.

In June Mrs Bates, Sports co-ordinator at KLB, is coming to work with the children on the Young Sports' Leaders' project. The juniors are also working on a project called the Young Leaders' Award, initiated by the Bishop of York and subsidised by the Diocese for some schools who have agreed to take part. This project will include examining what leadership looks like, learning about inspirational leaders and coming up with initiatives in school that the children can lead. We are currently looking at climate change and plastic usage and the children will be suggesting ways they can lead changes both in school, at home and in the local community.

Huge thanks to all the parents who have completed our online survey regarding before and after school care and thanks to the FOHS for assisting with this initiative. The data is being analysed and it is hoped that if there is enough interest, a small parent-led management group can be set up to run and manage this provision. We are hoping that there will be enough interest to make it viable. If you have not yet completed the survey please do, we need the opinions of all parents on this, even if you are not interested in wraparound care – it is equally important to know if parents don't want this provision. The survey can be accessed here and the deadline has been extended until Tuesday 4th May. [Hillesley Primary Wraparound Care survey](#) This wrap around provision is not to be confused with periodic, after school clubs that are run by teaching staff. These are enrichment clubs and activities and are run only for a number of weeks at a time, so do not provide the out-of-school childcare that some parents might need on a regular and sustained basis. Currently there are no after-school clubs due to restrictions but we are running lunch time clubs such as chess and running club.

Plans for Sports Days, trips and other, regular summer events are still on hold due to the covid guidance restrictions but we are hoping to resume some of these as restrictions ease and guidance is changed. It seems that the infection rate, although still low in the south west, has begun to increase again in most areas so the need to proceed with caution must remain for a while longer. I also need to remind parents that if your child has any symptoms of illness, particularly those associated with covid, such as a dry cough, or raised temperature, then please keep them at home. We need to continue to be vigilant and very cautious as the virus is still out there in the community.

Reminders - please make sure you do not bring your dogs onto the school premises. Dogs are strictly not allowed on the school site. I appreciate that you might wish to make dropping off and collection time a dog walk but respectfully ask that you keep your dog outside the school gates. This has been school policy for many years for several very good health and safety reasons.

School is closed on Monday 3rd May and I hope you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend!

Best wishes

J Pedley