

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter 3 Term 5

28th May 2021

Dear Parents,

During these final days of Term 5 the teachers have been carrying out assessments and the news is positive! We are seeing a shift back to children operating within the expected AREs (Age-related expectations). We will continue to work on this catch-up during Term 6 in core subjects but we will also make sure that this is balanced with varied opportunities for the children to have fun experiences too! Even though it has been rather soggy weather, we have tried to get outside as much as possible. I looked back over this very disrupted school year and even though we have been faced with periodic, partial closures, Class 1 have been to Forest Schools 23 times since September; we have made a few allotment visits (although a few have been postponed due to very heavy rain and high winds) and all the children have had extended outdoor breaks and take their core subjects work outside when appropriate. Thanks to Rachel and Hannah for helping with allotment and Forest School. The teachers sometimes use outside spaces to enhance their lessons as Mr Whitbread did for a maths lesson on measurement for example and to test out some Roman arches and aqueducts made of card, to see if they would carry water! We are hoping that the last term brings more sunshine so we can go over to the field for all PE lessons. We managed a few field sessions for KS2 this term with rounders' skills and games enjoyed by all! We also had our special Chance to Shine Cricket day and although the weather was a little unpredictable that day, all the children got to spend half a day over on the field learning and practicing their cricket skills! All the children also took part in the National Daily Mile run and were rewarded with a certificate for this. We are very mindful of making sure that all aspects of outdoor learning spaces enhance and relate to the curriculum and we need to make sure we maintain a good balance between the curriculum objectives that we are required to teach by law and are accountable to Ofsted and other outside regulators for, with the children's needs and well-being. With this very much in mind, we are reviewing all outdoor learning opportunities including the Friendship Garden, the allotment, Forest Schools, welly walks, the playground and field, for the new school year ahead.

PC Weedon has been to see our y5/6 to talk about online relationships, peer pressure and keeping themselves safe online. I have also done a PSHE session about drugs education with the older children. In Term 6 y5/6 will take part in the SRE lessons during the week beginning 14th June. The children in both key stages took part in a national competition run by the Royal Mail, to design a postage stamp to celebrate heroes of the pandemic.

Looking ahead to Term 6 – wow – action-packed! We have a fencing (not real swords) taster day; Sharron Bates from KLB is coming to run a Young Play Leaders day; we have a whole school trip to the Badminton Estate run by the Countryside Outdoor Learning Alliance, as well as regular PE with Mr Guest. Class 1 will make two trips to the Forest School area and do some science outdoor learning in the Friendship Garden and we are hoping to take all KS2 class up to the Forest School area to do some enrichment activities related to our current topic on The Ancient Romans. Towards the end of the Term we are also planning a whole school welly walk. There will be some classroom- based learning too, in case you were wondering! Re-scheduled allotment visits – Thursday June 10th – year 5 and Thursday June 17th for year 4.

During June our Year 6 will take part in an online Cathedral Leavers' Service. KS2 are also busy working on two combined projects – The Young Leaders' Award, subsidised by the Diocese and initiated by the Diocese of York and

also through this project, they are considering ways in which we can take a lead on matters relating to plastic usage and climate change. So far we have studied some past inspirational leaders, considered what good and bad leadership can look like, looked at areas that concern us about climate change, examined why and how we need to look after trees and the world around us. This project will continue in Term 6.

There will be an event to mark our year 6 leavers' on the last day of term. The detail of this will be finalised once we know if the covid restrictions are to be changed before we break up for the summer. Sadly, in light of the most recent developments with the Indian variant, any relaxation of restrictions for schools look unlikely and will need to stay in place until the end of the school year in July. We are working with new intake parents and also the receiving secondary schools that will be welcoming our year 6 in September. Transitions have been made more difficult due to the restrictions but we are trying to make sure that the children have adequate preparations.

The FOHS have been very busy with their fund-raiser to make improvements to the school library facilities – the fund-raiser is called “Hillesley to Hogwarts”. During Term 6 the teachers are hoping to hold some reading events with the children to contribute to these efforts. The Gloucestershire Schools' librarian is visiting us soon to go through our rather ancient reference library and to provide us with a list of up to date books that we will aim to purchase. The FOHS help with this library update is very welcome indeed. If you haven't supported this fund-raiser yet and would like to make a contribution, please see Jasmine Watson or Rachel Preece. They are doing a truly amazing job!

A small group of parents are also in the process of forming a committee to develop and run some after-school provision in the new school year. I am sure more information will be coming to you about this during Term 6.

Governors continue to meet regularly via remote means and are supporting the school as ever. We welcome our new parent governor Katherine Knight to the board of governors. There will be another parent governor vacancy at the end of the autumn Term if you are interested in joining. Please speak to existing governors or ask via the school office for more information.

You will receive your child's annual report towards the end of Term 6 in which we will give you some information about your child's progress but as ever, if you want to speak to a teacher please do email the class emails or admin or you can call the school office. I am often outside at home time so if you want to speak with me, please let me know when you see me.

Schools will play a part in contact tracing for any new covid cases reported during the first two days of the half-term week, up to 31st May. If any member of your family has a positive test for Covid or are contacted by NHS Track and Trace within 2 days of last being at school please inform me by calling 01454 260372 and leaving a recorded message. It is important that you inform me, as other members of the school community might need to self-isolate.

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

I wish you all a happy (dry and sunny! Fingers crossed!) half term break and I look forward welcoming all the children back to Term 6 on Monday June 7th.

Regards,

J Pedley

Growing Together in Learning and Life