

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter | Term 6

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to term 6, the final term of a rather tumultuous year for all.

I am pleased to say that everyone here is well and happy. The recovery curriculum has been diligently put into operation by teaching staff and having just completed our final assessments for this academic year, we can see progress being made with children moving back into the expected ranges for their age groups.

I hope you found the curriculum information, sent out last week, useful and you will see that we are maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum whilst also running the catch-up, recovery work. The children seem happy and coping well with school generally. We provide opportunities for them to voice worries and concerns, both vocally and written and as a part of PHSE (personal, health, social education).

Lots of chances to be outside are also being taken with our extended breaks and using our outside spaces. A good example of this was in KS1 last week when we spent practically the whole day outside – first in the Friendship Garden and covered area we did some science work on planting and growing, then some dance and movement, followed by PE and games lead by Sharron Bates from KLB with our older children assisting as young play leaders. The year 4/5/6 children have all been awarded a certificate for their participation in the young play leaders day and I am sure many of them will continue with this type of activity such as the Sports leaders scheme run when they move on to be are pupils at KLB and other secondary settings. Well done to our year 4/5/6 for showing a mature attitude and trying really hard. A few of the children made comments about how they hadn't realised how difficult it is to be the "teacher" or leader of groups and how much they had learned and enjoyed doing this play leadership course.

The year 4 group were able to go to the allotment yesterday as there were no thundery downpours!

Next week the **whole of KS2** will be going to the **Forest School** site with myself and Miss Scudamore with Hannah Druett running the session for us. Parents need to **send your KS2 child into school on Monday 21st** dressed in appropriate clothing (including long sleeves and trousers/leggings), with a change of footwear and waterproofs if needed.

Then on **Wednesday** we are off on our **whole school trip to the Badminton Estate**. The children need to wear school uniform but please make sure there are no bare legs – so leggings or joggers – this is important to prevent tick bites and getting stung by nettles. **Your child will need a packed lunch, a bottle of water, a waterproof jacket and sun hat in a ruck sack** but please make sure your child does not bring any unnecessary items. Please make sure you do not book a hot school lunch for this day. The coach will **leave school at 9.10am** and we need to leave promptly. If your child usually arrives later than 9.10 then please make sure you come earlier that day. We would hate to have to leave without anyone but we cannot delay our departure. We should be back at school by 3pm. If it is sunny on Wednesday, please make sure you apply suncream to your child before they come to school. Also, as the pollen levels are very high at the moment and the children will be outside for most of the day, if your child suffers from hayfever and takes a regular antihistamine, please make sure they have taken it before coming to school. (If you have already requested that your child be given medication such as top-up antihistamine during the

school day, staff will of course take that medication with them on the trip and administer as necessary, as they would do at school.)

Reminders – **Class I** will be visiting the **Forest school site for two weeks – Friday July 2nd and 9th**. On Friday June 18th and 25th Class I are continuing their science investigations in the outdoor spaces on the school site.

Thank you for remembering to send in a water bottle and sun hat each day. Some children are still not bringing in their reading books and reading record books and we ask that parents assist us with this.

I also make a plea for the return of any reading books that might be at home. There is a box in the lobby for the collection of these books. We are still missing books so if you could take a look at home to check if you have any and return them, would help us enormously.

On the subject of books, work towards a new library area is well underway and ongoing. We recently organised for the librarian for Gloucestershire schools to pay us a visit and audit our reference library. The fiction and reading books library was audited previously. The librarian also spent most of the day here working with Mrs Cooper, who is our English and Literacy lead teacher, in planning and recommending new books. We now have a comprehensive list that we can take to the main book supplier hub used by many schools. This hub is based in Birmingham and schools are able to work with them to purchase the appropriate, recommended books at a good discount. The FOHS are continuing with their amazing fund-raising efforts to help us update our library resources and we send our thanks to them and to all who have donated so far.

Sports Day – After much discussion amongst staff, we were optimistically hoping to hold an adapted, socially distanced sports day event during the last week of term with added risk assessments and maintenance of bubbles/protocols. However, I have contacted the SHE unit (Health and Safety) at GCC this morning for an update and the strong message I received was that we cannot hold an event with parents in attendance and we are not to encourage groups larger than 30 outside. I was also told that the Delta variant is now in a number of schools across the county and rising quite rapidly. Younger people and children are not yet vaccinated, and this leaves schools particularly vulnerable at the moment. The government will review the data in two weeks so if there is any change to the guidance and we can hold an event that parents can attend, then we will of course do all we can to arrange this. Sadly, I was told that the data is currently indicating that any changes to the guidance, particularly for schools, is unlikely in the next 4 weeks until we break for the summer term.

Staff will arrange for the children to compete in sports day events in their PE lessons, with stickers awarded for winners and participants, as they would do during a normal sports day event, so we are trying our best to make sure they do not miss out. I completely understand parents' frustration about such restrictions and measures, as I love sports day too! However, I am duty bound to follow the guidance provided by GCC about this.

Covid cases in the county and indeed in the whole south west, are sadly rising. I am tasked by the government and GCC to urge people to get vaccinated if they have not done so yet.

KLB Year 7 transition - unfortunately, we have today been informed that due to the rising number of Covid Delta variant cases locally and the delay in progression to Step 4 of the government roadmap, KLB have decided to cancel their Year 6 induction days for pupils starting Year 7 in September, which would have taken place for some of our Year 6 pupils next week on 25th June.

School photographs – at this time of year we arrange for group photos of Year 6 and Reception, and our regular and trusted photographer will be coming to school soon to take the photos of the Year 6 leavers and the Reception group, at the end of their final, and first, year at Hillesley School respectively. We will let you know the date in advance – it will hopefully be one day next week. The photos will be taken outside, with the photographer adhering to covid safety precautions. Prints will be available to order. Whole school, individual and family group portraits are usually taken in the Autumn term. It was not possible to do this last autumn due to covid restrictions, but we hope

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this will be possible this year, so we are talking to our photographer about this and we hope to have dates for you before we break for the summer. Can I remind parents that any photographs of children in school uniform, need to be treated with due attention to safeguarding. It is advised that posting on the internet is not recommended if the school logo, school name or name of the child can be identified. Also we have some children whose parents specifically choose not to have their children's photographs made public for various reasons. Parents should not share any photographs which contain other people's children without their knowledge and consent.

Out of school provision – there will be a Breakfast Club run by the school for a few mornings a week, depending on take-up rates. We will shortly send out more information about this provision for September. Parents will need to book and pay in advance for the whole short term – September to October half-term.

The parent led committee who are hoping to set up after-school care provision, are progressing and hope to be up and running in the new academic year. More information about this will be sent out in due course.

Headlice – unfortunately, head lice have been spotted in school again today, so please make sure you check your child's hair carefully over the weekend and if you find any lice or eggs, treat appropriately. It is recommended that hair is checked regularly to make sure no eggs or lice have been missed. Long hair should be tied back in school. Thank you for your support with this.

Best wishes for the weekend,

Jayne Pedley