

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

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Newsletter 2 – Term 6

Dear Parents,

First I wanted to say how well the children did at our sports day events and I hope all parents saw the photographs, certificates and stickers that the children brought home to share with you. It was sad that we could not ask the parents to come along as we would usually do, but the children still enjoyed it and took part with enthusiasm and a sense of fun.

All the children seemed to enjoy our school trip to Badminton last week. It was so good to go out on a trip again after these difficult months and the sense of enjoyment was palpable amongst the children and the staff! Throughout the day we were complimented on the children's super behaviour, sensible attitude, very good listening and questions they asked throughout the day and as we departed, several organisers and guides again said that the children had been a credit to the school during the entire day.

KS2 also had a visit to the forest school site where they did some topic related activities. KS1 have been busy in the Friendship Garden, looking after their sunflowers, planting and tending seeds, making bird scarers to protect the seeds and building a bug house!

As we enter the last two weeks of the school year, we still have lots to do!

KS1 children have two more **forest school sessions – today, Friday July 2nd and 9th. KS2 children have a Fencing Experience day, Thursday 8th July**, when I expect to hear “on guard” called many times! **They will need to come to school in PE kit on this day.** There are **PE sessions today, Friday July 2nd and 9th** with Mr Guest our PE coach who then says goodbye to move to Newcastle to begin a professional rugby career. We wish him well in his new career.

A past pupil, who has recently gained her degree in astro-physics, has agreed to come and talk to KS2 about her journey from primary school onward and PC Weedon, our school beat officer, will be coming to see the older children as they prepare to move onto secondary school.

The teachers are also busy updating the pupils' profiles and writing end-of-year reports. You will receive your child's report during the last week of term.

End of term - We are fast approaching the most emotional time of the school year when we say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils. The last part of their time at primary school has been affected by covid of course but we have tried to ensure they have had and continue to have a very positive experience as they leave us. Their transition days, planned to take place during these last few weeks have sadly been called off by the receiving secondary schools, however I know that they will face the new challenges well-prepared by their time here at Hillesley School. **On the last day of term, Friday 16th July**, we will hold a **special leavers' event in the playground to which the year 6 parents are invited.** We ask that a maximum of two parents/family attends per year 6 child and we will send out more information to year 6 parents soon. The rest of the children and staff will also be in the playground to say goodbye, see the year 6 presentations and to hear year 6 relate their memories of their time here. We are sorry that we cannot invite everyone in for the leavers' event this year, or hold it in the church as we have done in the past.

After this event the children will have their school lunches then have a playtime. **Parents can come and collect their children, with siblings being collected first at 1.30pm to 1.35pm, and then those without siblings from 1.35pm – 1.40pm.** Teachers will then spend the rest of that day and the following week carrying out end of term work in their classes; preparation for September; training on government changes to phonics and preparing the school for contractors (who are repairing the wooden floor in the school hall; work to be carried out on an asbestos ceiling to ensure it remains safe into the future and the work to the new library area). Loads of furniture and resources to move and to keep us busy!

The online Reading Planet resources and the Storytime magazine subscriptions end soon. These were taken up during the lockdown periods to help provide more reading resources for the children at home.

You may have already seen on Google Classroom some information about the Summer Reading Challenge, run nationally with local libraries, and this year in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund, with a theme all about nature and wildlife, which your child can access and take part in during the summer break if they wish to. [Summer Reading Challenge](#)

I would like to again sincerely thank parents for their patience, support and good humour throughout what has again been an unusual and challenging year. The covid restrictions have cast a shadow over many aspects of normal school life yet I am amazed at the resilience and adaptability of the children who have seemed well and happy at school. In many schools across the country children have displayed mental health problems and other issues caused by school closures, self-isolation, illness and a very disrupted time. I am so very pleased to report that here at Hillesley, we have come through these troubled times relatively unscathed. In the new school year we are hoping that restrictions change and we can revert to more normal practices. The guidance and updates are sent out from the DfE (Department of Education) then the local authorities/health and safety add their more localised detail and then it is sent out to head teachers. Throughout, head teachers have supported one another and discussed the particular nuances that might apply to their individual schools and although it might appear that some schools have taken a slightly different approach at times, this is often due to logistics, staffing and practicalities of the differing school sites and facilities. The bottom line has throughout been to maintain the best provision possible for the children whilst adhering to guidance to control infection rates and comply with PHE, Health and Safety and certain legalities. It has not been an easy course to steer and I am truly thankful for the adaptability and support of all staff (who have probably forgotten what a proper tea break is!) and the support, compliance and understanding of the parents and wider community.

Very early in the autumn term we will send out timetable and curriculum information and hopefully good news about updated guidance. If you have any questions, concerns or a matter that needs to be discussed before the end of term, please contact us using the admin or class emails. Although we have not been as available as we would normally have been pre-covid, we are always ready to listen and respond to any concerns you might have. You will receive your child's report during the last week of term but this will be the last longer newsletter for this academic year so I wish you all a happy, healthy and sun-filled summer break.



Jayne Pedley

Head Teacher

Growing Together in Learning and Life