

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter 3 – Week 4 Term 1

Dear Parents,

First of all I would like to thank you for using the changed drop-off and collection so well. We are finding that there is a smooth start to the day and lessons can begin on time - polite reminder for those few who might not be aware that the children need to be in school by 8.55. They can start arriving from 8.45. If your child is late after the register closes, then we are obliged to mark them as late in the register, but more importantly a child who is late often misses valuable, start-of-day input or activities.

Can I also remind parents that we need advanced notice of any changes to regular collection, so if your child is being collected by another adult, even one known to us such as another parent if your child is going for a play date, we need to be informed of this if you are asking the other adult to collect your child. A phone call is usually the best way if this is a last-minute arrangement as teachers cannot always access emails during the day.

The new library area is coming along but sadly we have not yet completed it as we have been hindered by delayed deliveries of furniture. Most of the new shelving is up and reading books are available for the KS2 children to access under supervision. We have also ordered some lovely book display stands, brightly coloured seating, a large rug and a staff member is busy making some big cushions and story bags. New display boards have also been ordered. We very much hope that these items will arrive by half term so it can be completed. New books purchased are already in use. The idea of the library area is very much to encourage reading and the layout and design of the space is all about the books and reading. We are making it as bright and inviting as possible and I will be pleased to invite parents in to see it once it is completed.

The children are enjoying their weekly PE sessions with Mr Evans and Mr James and KS2 are also benefitting from the opportunity to take part in the weekly sports club.

This term and possibly next, Mr Whitbread is running a chess club for KS2 and it is hoped that after half term there might be a music club for KS1 children on Tuesdays. More information will be sent out about this.

Other exciting events include our trip next Tuesday to Berkeley Castle – thank you for your quick responses returning the permission letters. The Church Harvest Festival is this coming Sunday Oct 3rd and the school's Harvest Festival at the church takes place on Tuesday Oct 19th at 2.30pm. Parents are welcome to join us for this service if covid circumstances allow – more information will be sent out nearer the time. Parents' evenings will be held (in-person if possible) in November in the second week after half term and the sign-up sheets for appointments will be available in the lobby from Monday 18th October.

Thank you for helping your child remember to bring in their reading book and their water bottle every day. These items are very important to the well-being and daily routines in school. KS2 children will be given the opportunity to change reading books daily on arrival at school. It is not always possible to change these books during the afternoon sessions. Please remember to read with and listen to your child as frequently as possible and to make a quick note in the reading record book so teachers can see where the children are with their home reading.

As the weather is now becoming considerably colder and we need to keep the building well-ventilated to mitigate spreading germs, your child needs a jumper, cardigan or fleece as well as their rain coats for outside. Please name these items as at this time of year the children do take these clothing items on and off! If you have been given a jumper or cardigan from another child who has outgrown it, please re-name it as this can sometimes cause confusion and end up with the children taking home the wrong clothes!

Next week some KS2 children may bring home a “manifesto” sheet to fill in if they wish to be put forward for the vote for our new school council. This is optional for those who wish to be considered for school council.

The next government school census day is Thursday 7th October. If you have a child in Class 1 please could you book a school lunch for census day. The uptake of Universal Infant Free School Meals is recorded by the census and used for a funding calculation, so it is important that we have as many eligible children (those in years R, 1 & 2) booking a lunch as possible. If your child wants a packed lunch on the day, please just send them in with it as usual, but leave the booking on the Parentpay system so our recorded meal numbers are as high as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes for a good weekend,

J Pedley

Head Teacher