

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday 12th November

Newsletter 1 Term 2

Dear Parents,

How lovely it was to see most of you face to face for our parents' evenings! I would like to express my thanks for your compliance with mask-wearing and keeping a distance. Many schools have maintained the online parents' evenings but we wanted to go ahead with face to face with reasonable mitigations to keep everyone as safe and well as possible. Yesterday we received updated guidance and you have received some information about this already. The pressure on our hospitals and the high infection rates, particularly amongst the young and school populations, makes it important that we continue to be vigilant to protect our school and wider community. I am expecting more guidance at the end of November and until then we will continue to follow guidance and keep the measures we have in place.

The Christmas Production –“It’s a Miracle!” is now being shared and practiced. Your child will bring home a letter today that tells you what character they are playing and some suggestions for costumes. Please let us know if you have any problems. Can I also remind that the children have to move around and maybe dance in their costumes so please bear this in mind! **The deadline for costumes is MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER** as dress rehearsals are scheduled for that week. I expect you will be hearing some of the songs at home over the coming weeks too! We are planning to hold three performances this year instead of the usual two. This is to try to make sure as many parents as possible can come along. There will be two afternoon performances on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th with the evening performance on Tuesday 14th. We will send out more information about tickets and covid mitigation measures in the coming weeks. We are also planning to film a performance just in case there have to be last-minute changes and for those who might not be able to attend.

You will also receive **curriculum information** this this week. This is always such a busy time of year as we make sure we continue with the regular curriculum as well as the preparation and rehearsals for the Christmas production. I know that this can also be a rather busy time at home too but we ask that you help your child continue with any homework and regular reading. Parents of Year 2 children are reminded that weekly spellings are now on Google Classroom as well as a set of Maths games children can play to reinforce the work on place value done last term.

Breakfast Club update – the Breakfast Club has been running since September and Miss Suggitt and Miss Scudamore do a super job of providing breakfast and a calm, fun way to start the day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Those children attending are enjoying their early start. We do not have as many children attending as we had hoped and we are very keen to encourage other families to use this childcare facility. The current format is for an hour before school 7.45 – 8.45 with breakfast provided. Being mindful that other families may be needing a slightly early start we are going to trial a two-tiered system so option 1 would be the hour and breakfast as stated but we are planning to have a second option of 30 minutes, so 8.15 – 8.45am without breakfast. We will make this option available from January on the ParentPay booking system. Parents would need to book and pay in advance so we know exactly who to expect for each session. It would be useful to have an indication of possible take-up for this

second Breakfast Club option so I would welcome an email to the school office if you think you might use this second option in the new year.

After school childcare is currently provided by Hawkesbury After School Club and a small group of children are collected by taxi or a parent and taken up to Hawkesbury for after school care, again on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The feedback is that the children enjoy their time there and get a chance to make a wider circle of friends.

This is going to be a very busy term as we lead up to the fun of Christmas. We have several charity events and I thank you for your support with these. The children really do benefit from these events as they have a chance to look outward and think about what is going on in the wider world. Reverend Russell joined us to lead a special Remembrance worship on Thursday 11th November and KS2 children paid a visit to the village war memorial as part of the Local Studies topic.

We will be celebrating things we have done and achievements outside of school at our forthcoming **Celebration Worship planned for Thursday 2nd December**, 9.05am in the OCH. (Please send in any awards, certificates etc by Tuesday 30th November) As we have limits on numbers I would politely request that just one parent or adult per family attends and all adults wear masks. There will be ventilation and hand-sanitiser.

Lots to do and look forward to!

Just a few reminders – a few children are forgetting to bring in their water bottles so please remind them to pack these every morning.

Reading books and reading records – make sure the children have these with them every day.

KS1 still need forest school clothing every Thursday and all the children need to come into school in PE kit on Thursdays. Friday swimming continues and the children will be assessed during the coming weeks so look out for any awards' letters at the end of the term.

With many thanks and best wishes for the weekend,

J Pedley

Headteacher