

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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October 22nd 2021

Newsletter 4 Term 1

Dear Parents,

This is the final newsletter of Term 1! I can't quite believe it is the end of the first term but here we are.

Well done to everyone for their efforts and support. It has been an interesting time to say the least. The start of term was dogged by covid and then towards the end of the term we have seen some children and family members test positive. I am hoping that the half term break acts as a fire-break and along with the vaccine programme in our local secondary schools, we can be optimistic that things will improve next term.

At the Governors AGM meeting recently we said a heartfelt thank you to Melanie Gibbs for being our Chair of Governors for the past year. Melanie was a huge support for myself and the school through some tricky and complex times of the pandemic and lockdown periods. Melanie remains on the board of governors so we will still benefit from her vast knowledge and support as Gillian Hayward now takes over as Chair person. Gillian has a wealth of experience, as all three of her children came to this school and she has served as Chair at Hillesley and KLB in the past.

Other new Foundation governors include Mairi Frith - another experienced governor and village resident, and Louise Williams, who is also a parent at school.

The Harvest Festival went well and how lovely it was to be back meeting in St Giles and having the opportunity for the children to share some words and songs with those who were able to attend.

Last week I, and the PE coaches, took the Year 5/6 children along to the first football tournament for many months. Again, it was a great feeling to be out there doing these things again, albeit with some restrictions.

The children have also enjoyed the weekly outings to Dursley pool for their swimming lessons and they had a great time at Berkeley Castle on the recent whole school trip.



The children are in good spirits and keep the school staff on their toes! We have been busy, busy, busy! Lots of good work going on in the classrooms and we have tried to get outside as much as we can. Class 1 continue to enjoy weekly trips to Forest School and Class 2 managed two visits to the school allotment. We have also been taking the KS2 children out and about as a part of the Local Studies work we have been doing. The children have done an investigation of the church and surrounds as well as a trip to the playing field for some landscape sketching for Year 3/4. As part of

our science work some children have also been outside looking for signs of Autumn and how trees change.

The staff recently decided on the Christmas performance and we will be going into full rehearsal mode in Term 2. Hopefully we will be able to hold performances for full audiences but we are looking into filming it too, just in case, and for grandparents and others that may not wish to attend a crowded venue. More information about this will come out next term.

Thank you to those parents who have already signed up for Parents' Evenings. If you have not done so yet, the sign-up sheets are still available in the school entrance lobby.

Assessment week takes place week beginning November 22nd when the teachers will carry out more standardised assessments to measure progress.

Our annual Stay Safe workshop this year focuses on Anti-Bullying and this takes place on November 8th. Class 1 have their Stay and Make event on November 9th and a separate letter has been sent to parents by Mrs King with more information about this event.

We also look forward to an NHS Thank You non-uniform day on Friday November 12th. Other charity events will be Children in Need day on Friday 19th November and Save the Children Christmas Jumper day on Friday 10th December.

Looking ahead to December, as well as the Christmas Production, we will also be holding Celebration Worship on Thursday 2nd December at 9.05am. The FOHS are hosting a Christmas wreath and pudding making evening on Saturday 4th December.

You will receive "Dates for the Diary" sheets listing all these events, and we very much hope that they will be able to go ahead. As always, we will be closely observing the local and national covid situation and will adhere to the latest government and local authority schools' guidance.

I think we all need to have a good rest at half term ready for the extremely busy term ahead!

I wish you all a good half term and I want to again say thank you for your continued support for the school.

Best wishes,

J. Pedley