

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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January 14th 2022

Term 3 – Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a good Christmas break and I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the staff, for the wonderful cards, messages and presents received. Welcome back to the new term! The children have all settled well. Last week we sent you the curriculum information for this term. These programmes of study are now well underway.

Key Stage 2 are learning about the Anglo Saxons and Vikings and we are planning a special Play in a Day workshop with the Konflux theatre group, to bring this topic alive. We are also hoping to go on a school trip to Glastonbury Abbey, where we will take part in Anglo-Saxon workshops and get a chance to look around the abbey.

Key Stage 1 are busy with their topic about Pirates and they too will take part in a shorter workshop with the Konflux theatre in which they will take part in some special story telling.

We are also arranging a visit from Explorer Dome which will be set up in the OCH and the children will have an opportunity to experience the vastness of space and take a look at the stars. Key Stage 2 are learning about space in science this term and the planetarium dome provides a chance to experience the awe and wonder that comes with this learning.

Covid updates – there are a few changes to the guidance from next Monday - please follow this link to read more. [Self-isolation for those with COVID-19 can end after 5 full days following 2 negative LFD tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-those-with-covid-19-can-end-after-5-full-days-following-2-negative-lfd-tests) Many schools are facing difficulties, particularly with staff illness and absence so we need to continue to be cautious and vigilant so we can keep our school infection free and fully open. I really appreciate the support we have received from you all in relation to this ongoing situation.

Music lessons with Mr Kempner, a specialist music teacher from the Gloucestershire Music Hub, have started this week and will continue for 10 weeks in total. All the children seemed to enjoy the first session and the challenge of playing a recorder! The air was filled with sound! As we are making use of the Music Hub, there is an opportunity for parents to buy a recorder for £10 and for children to have free access to one of the Glos music centre foundation ensemble orchestras. Please see an accompanying information sheet. In the past children have gone on to join local, junior orchestras and continued to learn an instrument, so this might be something you and your child would like to pursue.

This term we are not running Sports Club, as the weather tends to be too cold, wet and dark, but Mr Evans is here every week and teaching gymnastics to the children during Term 3. We will hopefully resume the club after February half term. Mr Whitbread continues to run Chess Club at lunch times for KS2 children. There will be more clubs starting during the course of Terms 3 and 4.

The Breakfast Club is still going well and attended by 4 or 5 pupils on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There is now an option to book a shorter session 8.15 – 8.45 without breakfast. Some children also attend after school care at Hawkesbury and travel there at the end of the school day by taxi/car. If you would like more information please speak to the small parent committee who are now working with the Hawkesbury Committee. A parent

Governor, Katharine Knight, is helping organise this and is very willing to provide more information to parents about this wrap-around care provision. You may remember that last year we asked parents to complete a survey regarding this wrap around care. We will be sending out this survey again in the coming weeks, as it is important to plan ahead and have an idea of the need for such provision.

The FOHS have their first meeting of 2022 on Jan 24th. Please speak to Jasmine Watson if you would like to attend. Many of the previously mentioned trips and extra events are funded by the FOHS so please continue to support their efforts. The funding means we can plan these enrichment and extra events so it is vitally important.

A separate letter will be sent out today about a Parent Governor vacancy. The closing date for applications is Friday 28th January.

Regards,

J. Pedley