

# Hillesley

## PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter for 2021. It has been a busy term and although Covid continues to impact, nevertheless, we have carried on with “normal” school life with a full curriculum.

The performance of the Nativity – “It’s a Miracle” – filmed on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, went very well and I am sure you will be very proud and entertained when you watch the film! Information about how to access the film will be sent by email. An enormous amount of work goes into these productions but it is always worth the effort. The children get so much from these productions as they learn more about working as a team, reading and expressing lines, acting, singing, dancing and all the other skills needed to take part. Throughout my years at Hillesley School, I have come to realise that the most significant outcome of taking part in these events is how the children grow in confidence and rise to the occasion. I want to say thank you and well done to all concerned, including the parents for providing the wonderful costumes and for patiently listening to songs and dialogue at home. We were not entirely sure how the children would react to the lack of an audience and to being filmed – there were several cameras and microphones around the room – but they coped brilliantly and seemed to enjoy the whole experience.

As the children have worked so hard during terms 1 and 2, we have spent some time this week on fun, Christmas activities including Christmas crafts, a Christmas party and a DVD with popcorn. Some work has been done this week too, but the children have more than earned their treats this week!

Update on covid guidance regarding the Omicron variant – As we are now faced with a rising tide of Omicron and Delta infection across the country updated guidance has and continues to come out to schools to review risk assessments and to inform parents of changes to testing requirements.

The latest guidance relating to the changes to testing states:

### **Daily testing of close contacts**

From 15<sup>th</sup> December, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing should be undertaken even if close contacts are within 90 days of confirmed infection. The 90 day pause is only applicable to routine asymptomatic testing.

The guidance states that daily testing should commence when identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace. We recommend that schools also advise daily testing for close contacts that they have identified within their settings.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

This is a rapidly changing situation and we continue to keep abreast and ahead of necessary changes.

There is an inset day on January 4<sup>th</sup> and teachers will work hard to prepare for whatever circumstances we find ourselves in at that point. Keeping the school open is always the main priority and although Head Teachers are often in a position of “second-guessing” and predicting what will happen next, please be assured that we will follow guidance and adapt our practices and provision to provide the best we can for our children and local community. It has been a continual cycle of decision making that has been both fraught and very tiring and our decisions are always made with the best of intentions. I thank you all for your continued patience and support.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff for their amazing efforts to keep the school fully functioning and for going above and beyond their contracted work to make sure the children receive many opportunities and support. I am sure you will be pleased to know that our TA Ms. Sargeson, has had her baby girl and all is well. Thanks also to the FOHS for their amazing fund-raising and thanks go to the school Governors for their assistance and strategic support.

### **Message from the Chair of Governors – Gillian Hayward**

*A few weeks ago I wrote to let you know about Jayne’s plans to retire from her role as our Headteacher. Since then, we have had several helpful meetings with the Local Authority and the Diocese to explore our options and we have also spoken with some other Heads about different models that are developing in schools. This process will continue into the new year and we are feeling very positive that we will have a plan in place by the summer that will ensure we continue to give our children and staff the leadership and support they need to continue to thrive in Hillesley.*

*I will keep you posted when there are specifics we can share, but in the meantime can I say thank you for your support this term and wish you and your families a very happy Christmas.*

Best wishes,

*Gillian Hayward on behalf of all the Hillesley Governors*

**Breakfast Club** will continue to run next term on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We have introduced a shorter, half-hour session from 8.15am – 8.45am (£5) as well as the full hour session from 7.45am (£10). To book your child a place at any of these sessions please go to Parentpay and choose the option you require. If your child has not used Breakfast Club since September you will also need to complete this [Registration Form](#).

School opens on **Wednesday January 5<sup>th</sup>** and any urgent updates will be sent out as and when necessary.

I sincerely wish you all a wonderful Christmas and I hope you and your families have a joyful and peaceful time.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Best wishes,

J. Pedley

**Growing Together in Learning and Life**