

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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February 4th 2022 Newsletter 2 Term 3

Dear Parents,

Now that we are looking towards term 4, fewer Covid restrictions, lighter evenings and hopefully improving weather, we have been considering clubs for next term.

We have spent some time asking the children what they would like to do, as any club needs a minimum take-up rate to make it viable and worth running, particularly when there are additional costs involved.

The clubs that we are proposing for Term 4 are;

Forest Schools Club Years 3-6 <i>this is an out-of-school club run by the Forest Schools Provider</i>	Mondays after-school 3.25 – 4.15pm Hannah Druett
Football Club Years 2- 6	Wednesdays after-school 3.25 – 4.15pm Football coach tbc
Sports Club Years 2-6	Thursdays after-school 3.20 – 4.15pm Mr Evans
Nature and wildlife Club years 5/6 only	Mondays lunchtime 12.30 -1pm Mrs Preece
Chess club Years 3-6	Thursdays lunchtime 12.30 – 1pm Mr Whitbread

There would be a charge for the after school clubs and this could also be dependent on take-up rates.

Forest Schools' out-of-school club – the children would be able to get changed in school at the end of the day and would be taken up to the site by Hannah and a regular, parent volunteer. Parents would need to collect their children from the Forest Schools site at 4.15pm.

For those with children in years 2 – 6 please see the attached form where you can register your child's interest for these clubs. A paper copy will be sent home with your child. Please only sign up to the clubs if your children will be highly likely to attend. **Forms should be returned by Thursday 10th February.** Once this information has been returned we will look at the viability of the clubs and then contact you with more information.

There will hopefully be some other clubs on offer during Terms 5 and 6, such as Dance Club and a Cooking Club (Cooking Club will have sessions for year groups from both key stages, including Reception and Year 1), as well as a possible Making Club for KS1. Information about these will be sent to you in due course.

All the children are taking part in the poster competition for the Hawkesbury and Horton WI show. The competition is all about making our gardens wildlife and bug friendly. There is an event run by the Hawkesbury and Horton WI, at Hawkesbury Village Hall on Saturday 12th February 10.30 – 1.30pm for anyone who would like to go along. For more information contact Louise Roberts louise.roberts622@btinternet.com

School lunches – The children might have told you about recent, temporary changes to the way in which the lunches are packed, delivered and served. The Gloucestershire County Council contracted company used is Caterlink, who provide for many schools in the county. The reason lunches have been differently packed and served is due to severe staff shortages due to covid. Parents were not informed as the changes were to be a very temporary measure and the food is prepared by the same company/kitchens, with food choices remaining the same. The change is in the delivery and packaging. We were informed that this would be for a matter of days but this situation has now happened for two weeks due to ongoing staff shortages but it is hoped regular service will be

resumed next week. I am afraid that this is an evolving situation and we were given little notice. Caterlink are doing their best to keep the service going and I can assure you that the quality of food remains the same but the perception of the children about the food might be changed due to the packaging. The food comes in individual, sealed trays and there are no “seconds” so some children find this disappointing. I again stress that this is a very temporary situation that will hopefully resolve soon. Caterlink have a website where parents can find out more about their services and products <https://caterlinkltd.co.uk/>

Road closures – we have been told that there will be a temporary road closure to Kilcote Road and access by car to the front of the school will be restricted February 9th – 11th. Bristol Water have assured me that they will make sure emergency vehicles will have access if needed and they will also make sure Caterlink school lunches can access the school site. They also said that the lane behind the school, Chapel Lane, will be open to provide a means of access.

Events coming up include **The Konflux Theatre Play in a Day** on 15th February and parents are invited to come and see the performance at the end of the day in the OCH at 2.50pm.

KS1 parents are invited to the **Class 1 Pirate Morning** 9.15 – 10.15am. Mrs King has sent out some information about this event.

The next round of **Parents’ Evenings** will take place in the week beginning April 4th and sign-up appointment sheets will be available in the school lobby from 21st March. In the meantime if you have any queries or questions about your child’s learning or welfare in school please speak to a teacher at the end of the day or send an email or contact the school office.

Parents are also invited to attend a short **music performance of the recorder groups** when the children will have the chance to showcase what they have been learning with Mr Kempner, our visiting music specialist. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

All the children will get the chance to enter the “**Explorer Dome**” on Friday 1st April when they will be able to experience and learn about the stars and planets.

Trips - to **Glastonbury Abbey** to learn more about the Anglo-Saxons for KS2 happens on Tuesday 5th April and KS1 are off to the **Bristol Aquarium** to learn more about sea-life on Wednesday 9th March. All the children will be visiting **Dursley Library** on 4th March as part of our World Book Day celebrations, and we are also hoping to have a visit from The Cotswold Book Room during that week to deliver our non-fiction books and officially open our new library – we are very grateful to parents and local residents who kindly donated funds for these books.

Allotment and outdoor spaces – Key Stage Two children will spend an afternoon session at the allotment so they will need to bring a change of clothes and footwear – **Year 5/6 Friday 11th February** and **Year 3/4 Friday 18th February**. Class 1 children continue to go to the Forest School site every Friday afternoon and Hannah has kindly agreed to host all the children, **KS1 and KS2 at the Forest school site, on Friday 8th April**. Some parents have raised questions about KS2 children using the Forest School site more often in curriculum time and as much as we would love to do this we must put the curriculum as the priority and although there are some opportunities that lend themselves to this learning environment, there are others and many that do not. The KS2 teaching staff carefully plan in detail and use outdoor spaces when the opportunity arises but the needs of the KS2 curriculum and progress of the children within this curriculum, are many and demanding so need to be carefully planned. Opportunities for outdoor learning spaces are factored in when useful and meaningful to the learning, for example in Science we recently went on a science walk around the village looking for signs of Spring; some Maths measurement work was carried out outdoors; during our Local Studies topic we walked around the village and visited the church. If the outdoor spaces lend themselves to enhancing the learning, teaching staff try to make use of them. There are of course many aspects of KS2 learning that require the classroom, interactive teaching boards,

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computers, extended recording, writing and so on that are not able to take place in an outdoor space. KS2 children still have an afternoon break, something that did not happen pre-pandemic and we introduced this to make sure the children have some downtime and fresh air half way through the afternoon. The re-development of the Friendship Garden will certainly provide more outside opportunities for all the children and I am very grateful that the FOHS are keen to work on this project. My thanks also must go to Rachel and Hannah who always agree to helping the school with outdoor provision.

It is so good to be able to plan these and other events as the year progresses and the shadow of Covid diminishes. Schools still need to keep some extra protocols and vigilance in order to minimise pupil and staff absences that sadly continue to impact all schools and education providers. School staff and associated staff continue to test regularly and **we ask that if your child shows signs of being unwell that you continue to make use of LF tests so we minimise any spread of covid.** For the latest guidance updates please refer to [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection)

Schools are being told to carry out local risk assessments and emergency planning according to local infection rates and outbreaks.

SATS – these are to go ahead this year and will take place in May. Further information will be provided after half term.

We also looking forward to marking the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** with an event and some activities in school. More information to follow!

Parent Surveys – thank you to those parents who have returned the surveys and if you still haven't done so, please return by Wednesday 9th February. The children and the staff also have an opportunity to complete surveys so a wide range of views are considered and results of these surveys will be collated and findings considered by the school leadership and governors. There will be a **meeting for parents** with the school leadership once all the survey results have been collated and analysed. At this meeting we can share ideas and answer questions that parents might have. The date of this meeting will be agreed at the next full governors' meeting and should take place during Term 4.

I apologise for the length of this letter but there is so much to share!

Please remember that you can contact me or the school staff if you have any pressing concerns.

Regards,

J. Pedley

Headteacher