

# Hillesley

## PRIMARY SCHOOL



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May 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to term 5! I hope you have had some time to look at the curriculum information we sent out last Friday. It is a rather short term but a very busy one.

SATs - Next week sees the return of the SATs and our Year 6 children will be sitting their SATs papers every morning, except Friday. Parents of Year 6 pupils have already received information about the tests and the timetable. It is very important that we support our Year 6 children by making sure they are punctual and ready to start the tests on time. Year 6 children will be invited into school at 8.45 for some last minute reminders, quiet preparation time and some toast if they want a little extra breakfast, with Mrs Cooper before the tests begin soon after 9am. Mrs Cooper and I will be administering the tests so if you wish to speak to us please either email or leave a message with the office. I am sure that everyone wishes the Year 6 children well. It is very important that Year 6 children are well-rested, had a good breakfast and calm start to the day and are on time so the tests' start times are not disrupted for the other children. The afternoons will be as normal with all the regular lessons and activities. After the last test on Thursday, we are going to provide some hot chocolate and a few treats to mark the completion of the tests.

Key Stage 1 Year 2 SATs will also be taking place in the coming weeks but these are not timetabled as Year 6 SATs and Mrs King has more flexibility to administer when it is most appropriate and in a way that does not feel like exam conditions but more like regular class activities!

Trips and Events - Our Year 4 children will be going on a short trip to Cam Woodfield School on 24<sup>th</sup> June, to take part in a production called "In the Net". This is a fun, interactive and engaging theatrical show that teaches the children about the dangers of the internet and being online. Mr Whitbread will accompany the children and they will travel by coach with children and staff from the British School and join a few other local schools at Cam Woodfield. This is always a very worthwhile event and has a part to play in supporting the children's understanding of how to stay safe online. Technology moves on so quickly it is sometimes hard for parents to keep up! Year 4 parents will receive further communication about this event in due course.

Our Year 5/6 children will attend a secondary school experience day at KLB on 7<sup>th</sup> June. This is additional to taster days for Year 6 at their receiving schools. Mrs Cooper will be accompanying the children for the day and parents will receive a separate letter with details of drop off, pick up times and what the children need to wear and bring with them. This is for all Year 5/6 children, not just those intending to go to KLB and they will be spending the day with some Year 5/6 children from other primary schools.

Year 5/6 Residential – a parents' information evening will be held here on **TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 5.30 -6.30pm.** Information about the trip and a kit list will be provided at this meeting.

Transition to secondary – taster days and visits from Year 7 staff are in the process of being arranged. You have probably already received a letter from the secondary school regarding taster days/induction information for your Year 6 child.

The Queen's Jubilee – a special event will be held on **FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 1.15pm** for parents to attend. We are hoping to sing a few songs and hold an “afternoon tea” on the playground with tea, squash and cakes! Prior to this event the children will be learning about the Queen and her reign and take part in a “Dance through the decades” workshop. The children will all receive a special book mark to commemorate this very special event. There will also be a special Jubilee ‘Street Party’ themed lunch provided by Caterlink on this day. A letter about this will be sent next week.

Devices in school – again on the note of technology and appropriate use, the children are not allowed to bring devices such as phones and ipads or tablets into school. Devices used in school are carefully monitored and restricted by filters and systems set up to safeguard the children but devices from home would not be able to access these safeguards. There is also an issue of breakage and losing these personal devices. The children do not need their devices in school and if they have them in school in contravention to these rules, then the devices would need to be put safely in the school office for collection by the parent and child at the end of the day. Please make sure that your child does not bring in a phone or other device as we are seeing this happening more frequently. There is a growing trend for parents wishing to “track” their children for safety reasons, however, your child will not need to be tracked whilst in school as there are all the safe-guarding, school-based requirements in place. PC Mark Weedon will visit our Year 5/6 group again on 16<sup>th</sup> May to talk to them about online relationships.

Whatsapp groups amongst children, along with the use of other social media platforms, continue to grow with more and more schools and children experiencing negative mental health impacts from such usage. There are legal, minimum ages set for these groups and platforms and it is not advisable for primary aged children to be using them. Parents need to be aware of what their children are doing online.

Clubs have resumed this term with Forest Schools Club every Monday, Football Club on Wednesdays, Sports Club on Thursdays and Chess club and a Dance Club at lunch times for KS2.

There is much to look forward to in the coming weeks including sports days and Year 5/6 residential.

No-Mow May– You might notice that the grass areas at the front of the school, might look a little unkempt but we are trying to encourage and support wildlife by taking part in No Mow May! The area will be tidied up later in the term.

New Head Teacher - Mrs Hayward, our Chair of Governors, sent out a message earlier this week to say that Mrs Lucy Chandler has been appointed as the new head teacher from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. There will be a chance for Mrs Chandler and I to work together in the coming weeks, to make the handover and transition as smooth as possible. It feels rather strange for me as I work through my final terms here at Hillesley, but I am sure that Mrs Chandler, the governors and the staff will continue to make the school a happy, vibrant and successful place for the children and the wider community.

Reminders- **CLASS 1 TIMETABLE** has changed with Forest School now on Thursday afternoons and Diddidance on Friday afternoons for term 5 and 6. PE continues on Thursdays so the children need to come into school in their PE kits and bring a change of clothes/footwear for the afternoon at Forest School.

As the weather warms and the Sun hopefully shines more, please make sure your children have their water bottle and a sunhat and put sunscreen on in the mornings, particularly on days when the children will be outside more. The teachers will make use of outdoor spaces for lessons where appropriate, such as our recent Science Walk for KS2 to look at plants and habitats. PE will take place outside and over at the field as we prepare for sports day in July and take part in summer sports such as cricket, racket sports and rounders.

Regards

Jayne Pedley

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