



HILLTOP INFANT SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



### Snow Closures

I would like to thank all families for their understanding throughout the snowy weather. I do understand how difficult it can be for parents and carers to be uncertain about whether school is open or not. It is never an easy decision for a headteacher to make but I would like to reassure you that I need to have genuine concerns about the safety and well-being of pupils or staff before I decide that the school will close. Liaison with Mrs Waite from the Junior School also takes place so that the whole of the Hilltop community is clear about arrangements and so that families are informed as soon as is reasonably possible. I do know that many families have benefitted from the new text messaging service and we have continued to use the school website and local radio. All of these arrangements for informing families will continue.

*Karen Mackenzie*

### Road Safety Walks

Reception and Year 2 classes will be taking part in road safety walks on Monday 1st and 8th February. Please check your child's book bag for letter giving information about dates, times etc. It is very important that reception children have a hand to hold for these walks. We are very grateful for your support.

### Parking

Please remember that parking or driving onto the school grounds at any time is not allowed. If you have specific needs e.g. disability, please speak to the school office.

### Bad Weather Arrangements



Announcements will be made on the Breaking News section of our website. There will also be information broadcasts by local radio stations on:

Heart FM on 102.6 and 96.3 fm  
BBC Essex on 103.5 and 95.3 fm

The school will be open unless you are sent a text message or information is updated on the website, or the local radio.

### Kingsland Stay and Play Toddler Group

As some of you are aware, the Community Centre at the Memorial Park is due to be remodelled and will soon form part of the Wickford Children's Centre facilities. The Kingsland Toddler sessions are temporarily being held at Hilltop Infant School. The sessions run from 10-11.30 am on Tuesday mornings in Class 6. Chrissy Burgess who runs the group, would be delighted to welcome any Hilltop parents and carers who have pre-school children. Please contact Chrissy on 01268 571581 if you are interested in coming along with your child.

### Disability Equality Scheme

We would like to thank all the members of our school community who replied to our questionnaire about disability in December. The governing body will shortly be reviewing our Disability Equality Scheme and will give you further information about developments in the near future.

Wednesday 13th January 2010

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School Meals - next week will be Week 1

### Policies

Later this week the schools draft Literacy Policy will be placed on the school website. We would be grateful for the views of any parents and carers about the policy. Please contact Mrs Mackenzie by e-mail or in writing if you have any views which would help us in finalising the policy. Thank you.

### Birthdays

We know how excited children feel when it is their birthday and we love to help them celebrate in a variety of ways. However, we do ask that parents and carers do not send in bags of sweets or cakes for us to distribute when it is their child's birthday. For a variety of reasons parents may not want their own children to eat sweets and cakes, these can include allergies, religious reasons, problems with teeth etc. We also do not want any families to feel pressure to send in birthday treats because other parents have. We are a healthy school, which means that we encourage a varied diet including treats and children do understand that sweets and cakes are not always a bad thing. We hope that you understand and will continue to support us with this matter. Thank you.