



HILLTOP INFANT SCHOOL



Headteacher Commendations

I was delighted to give out lots of Headteacher Commendations at the end of last term.

Home Learning

Many thanks to the families who hear their children read regularly and carry out other homework activities every week. Unfortunately, many children are not working on their homework activities frequently enough to help them make the best possible academic progress so we have decided to introduce a Home Learning Award covering the next four weeks. This will be sent home tomorrow and the challenge will start on Saturday for all classes. During this four week period we will not be using reading diaries as everything will be recorded on the homework challenge sheets. Each week that a child completes the homework challenge they will receive a special sticker and children who successfully complete all four weeks will be invited to a pyjama film evening on Wednesday 22nd February.

We know that some families find it difficult to fit homework in to busy lives so Mrs Mackenzie is holding a "Top Tips" for homework meeting on Tuesday 17th January at 2:45pm (pre-school children are welcome). Mrs Mackenzie is happy to email these "Top Tips" to working parents and carers who are unable to attend but would like some ideas. It is essential that school, families and children work together so that the challenging expectations of the National Curriculum are achieved and children are prepared for the next stages of their education. We expect all children to be involved with the homework challenge and look forward to some great progress!

Parent Consultations 25th & 26th January 2017

Letters have been sent home today with details about Parent Consultations taking place at the end of the month. Class 7 will be having their consultations at a later date in February to give Miss Wood a chance to settle back into class. Class 8 will be taking place on 24th January from 1-4pm and on 26th January from 3:20-7:30pm. All other classes will be on 25th & 26th January.

Please note that each consultation lasts for 10 minutes. **These meetings are intended for adults only and children should not attend.**

Please ensure that you attend these consultations as teachers will not be able to make additional consultations other than in exceptional circumstances (please speak to the office staff if this is the case).

Thursday 12th January 2017
Newsletter No 16
[School Dinners](#)
Wk beg 16th January week 3

Letters sent home this week:

Parent Consultations
Class 1—Forest School

Attendance w/beg 02/01/17

Whole School 96.56 %
Class of the week
Class 5 99.19 %

Craze of the Week

The craze for next week will be Top Trumps. Children can bring in their own Top Trumps for lunchtime.

CLC—Friday 13th January

Classes 7 & 8 will be going to the CLC for a sing-a-thon on Friday morning. They will be back at school in time for lunch.

EYFS Tapestry Workshops 18th & 19th January

If you haven't already done so please can you return your reply slip for the EYFS Tapestry workshops. If you require an additional letter please ask at the office staff or they can be found on our website in the letters home section.

Please see over the page for more news.

Writer of the Month—November

Congratulations to Jake, Rosie, Toby, Harry, Isabella, Benjamin, Henry and Reggie who were our Writers of the Month for November.

Snow

As you may be aware, it is often the case that severe weather occurs over the winter months. It is always our aim at Hilltop to keep our schools open but there may be occasions when the schools will need to close if there is heavy snow or other extreme conditions. It is not necessary for all staff to reach school but we do need to have sufficient staff in school to ensure that children are safe. Some of our teachers and teaching assistants live some distance from school and it is possible that they may not be able to reach school in the event of severe weather. The safety and well-being of our whole community is always our primary concern.

Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs Waite liaise about school closure and will aim to make a decision at the earliest possible time.

If the schools need to close, all families will be informed via text messages, emails and the school website. It is very important that you keep us updated with any changes of mobile numbers and that you make sure your primary contact phone remains charged and switched on. Occasionally parents do not receive messages because their phone is turned off or because they have changed their numbers.

If the school remains open and you do not feel that it is safe for you to travel then please let us know. It may be possible for you to walk into school even if you normally drive but we realise that this is not an option for everyone. Please try not to phone the school office to check if the school is open. We need to keep the phone lines open to ensure that staff can call in and so that we can make emergency arrangements.

Please make sure that your children come to school over the winter with warm clothing, including hats and gloves. If it does snow, we shall be enjoying the opportunity to spend time outside together.

We would like you to remember that we will be keeping the schools open wherever possible.

Forest School

Forest School will be starting again next week with Group B. Class 1 will now be going on Tuesday afternoons.

Playtime

It was an absolute pleasure to be on playground duty today with our Year 1 & 2 classes. Many children were running around in a very energetic way having lots of fun, others were walking around quietly chatting and others sat eating their morning snack. It was a pleasure to see how our children interacted with each other and how they resolved minor disagreements without adult support. Children carried snack bowls and Our Little Rotters carried out their composting duties efficiently. Several children came to talk to me about what they had been learning in class and others wanted to discuss topical issues such as whether it was going to snow and had I heard of Mr Trump!

Money Fortnight

Money Fortnight begins next week. This supports the children's maths work, gives them real-life opportunities to understand about money and raises their financial awareness. Each class will be making a variety of things will be sold before, during and after school. This year, profits raised will be split between school and the Little Haven's Hospice. The sale of goods will begin on Monday 23rd January. Each day that week children who wish to, may bring in up to 30p a day and 50p of Friday 27th, to spend in school. Please ensure money is in a named purse/wallet, please do not send your child into school with loose change. On Friday 27th January a market will be set up in the afternoon during school time. Each class will be offering something to sell during this time. We thank you in advance for supporting Money Fortnight.

Mrs Ready