



Weekly Bulletin

With kindness, respect and gratitude, together we aim high in all we do

Headteacher's message:

This weeks bulletin is a little longer than usual as it importantly includes a summary of the Spring Parent's survey and some information about how the Friends of Hillside (PTA) fundraising has been used and is planned to be used next year. We look forward to seeing as many children, extended families and friends at the Summer Fair next Friday .

Adam Khan—Headteacher

Sports and Wellbeing Week

Mrs Moore made sure the whole school took part in National Sports and wellbeing week by arranging some brilliant activities. On Monday, the children had fun with the Helsby Rugby Club inflatable. Children practiced their throwing as well as thinking about sports-



manship, teamwork, enjoyment and discipline. On Tuesday Y6 sports leaders helped deliver 'pick and play' with KS1 classes. On Wednesday, children were able to 'Tri-Golf' and finally on Thursday, the whole school enjoyed a Dance session with Jamie-Lee (Evolution Dance).



Onwards soon to scouts!



Albie (Y3) went to the cub camp for two nights in Cox's Wood last weekend. By completing the activities he was awarded the Chief Scout Silver Award for collecting all his challenge badges during his time in cubs. Well done Albie!



School meal price increase

Unfortunately, from September our external catering provider is increasing their prices due to rising costs. The cost of a paid meal in KS2 will be £2.80 per day /£14 per week.

If your circumstances have changes you may be eligible for Free School Meals, you can [check FSM eligibility here](#).

Link Club prices stay the same

As Link Club is managed internally, the Governors have taken the decision to freeze the current prices.

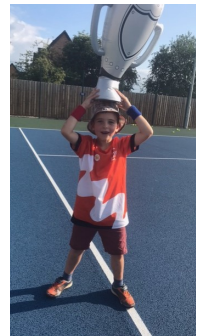
Sports Day Monday 3rd July

We look forward to see you all at this years sports day at our Proffits Lane site (KS2 at 09.45am KS1 at 1.30pm).

This year we have introduced a slightly different format for KS2. The day will start with a carousel of 4 events where each class will have 10 minutes on each event. They will be competing as coloured teams and parents will be free to support their children from the side-lines of each event. This will be followed by Years 3 and 4 competing in a hurdles race and Years 5 and 6 competing in the tug-of-war. The morning will conclude with year group sprints open to all children.

Isaac is player of the week!

Isaac (Y1) has been improving his tennis skills taking part in a six week tennis course with Mike Heard at Helsby Tennis Club. On Wednesday, he won player of the week.—Well done Isaac!



Cheshire Show Champions

Our 29 strong choir and band performed brilliantly at the Cheshire Show on Wednesday.



Well done all who took part. The children were a particular credit to the school in the way they carried on like professionals in light of some biblical weather!



Parent Feedback

Thank you all who contributed to the Spring parent survey. The full survey results are available for you to see on the school website, [link to Parent Survey results](#) (parent information/parent and pupil surveys).

Of the 67 parent responses:

96% agreed that their child is happy at Hillside.

96% agreed that their child feels safe at school.

90% agreed that school celebrates children's achievements.

94% agreed that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.

83% agreed that the school sets an appropriate amount of homework.

96% agreed that the school makes parents aware of what children are learning throughout the year.

90% agreed that school provide experiences that teach cultural and religious diversity.

90% agreed that school provides enough sport and physical development opportunities.

90% agreed that school supports children's wider personal development including confidence and well being.

90% agreed that parents and extended family feel included in the school.

85% agreed that the school seeks out parents views and encourages involvement.



A small sample of the positive comments have included:

'We couldn't be happier—what a fantastic school'

'Fabulous teacher who is obviously passionate about the children and their development and this translates to the children'

'They look forward to going into school as they have a good bond with their teacher, good friendships, and they enjoy the work they do'

'They feel they are treated with importance and know that they are looked after'

'Lots of opportunities provided to all children, both socially and academically'

'My child enjoys going to school and seeing his friends and learning in a friendly environment'

'There are great role models and appropriate discipline within the school.'

'Extremely happy with the support my child has received and the communication regarding my child's needs'

'...the weekly round-ups are really useful so we know what our son has done each week'

'I believe the balance of communication is set right'

'My child's teacher is understanding of my child's needs and is providing him with tools he needs to succeed'

'Loved the wellbeing activities recently, the children came home talking about them'

'I feel lucky to have such a great relationship with school'

As reassuring as it is to have had such a positive response, we will always aspire for **all parents** to be happy with our provision and so your feedback is essential for us as a school to further improve. **Where parents have not agreed but have left their reasons, this feedback is of particular use.** Where parents have not elaborated on their choice to disagree (or opted for 'do not know'), the feedback is more difficult to act on.

Our goal is for our children, staff and community to be enacting our guiding values of kindness, respect, gratitude and aiming high for all children to thrive. Teaching all children to be kind, all of the time, is a challenge in all schools and is very much a focus of our current work on behaviour and relationships.

We give all feedback consideration, and would like to share the following in response to the few concerns raised, or to simply inform you of what is currently in place, but you may not have been aware of.

Please do get in touch with your child's class teacher, in person or using the class email, if you have any concerns about their school experience. Staff can also make themselves available to meet before or after school when possible. You are also welcome to speak to me at the gates or contact me through the school office, if a solution has not been met.

Adam Khan—Headteacher



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In response to some of your other comments:

Taking part in inter-school competitions: We take part in all 32 Frodsham and Villages School competitions. 12 of which are inclusive festivals and 20 are competitive events.

Homework: We are reviewing our homework policy this year and will seek parent voice alongside national education guidance.

Formality of Easter/ Christmas Services: We changed the format of the Easter assembly this year to be 'What Easter means to me' which has already received positive feedback from parents. Christianity is the predominant faith acknowledged by our Christmas and Easter assemblies. That is informed by our school context and the majority community faith.

Children's Wellbeing: This year we have promoted 'The 5 Ways of Wellbeing' in assemblies and across school. We will be doing at least three wellbeing days next academic year and have a new personal development resource which will be shared at a parents evening in the Autumn 23.

The teaching of Religious Education: All religions are covered within our RE curriculum (available on school website).

Opportunities for public speaking: Speaking aloud is part of the national curriculum and a part of daily class routine. In addition, this year, children have had the opportunity to speak at poetry recitals, Harvest, Christmas and Easter assemblies. We have planned to provide more opportunities to speak in front of an audience next year.

Sports opportunities in Link Club: Sporting equipment is available as part of free play. As this is a new provision for school, we will of course explore how we can improve the service and experience for children.

Celebration of children: Informal/ individual celebrations are part of our daily routine. We currently have weekly team point awards, Friday Top Table and monthly class teacher award. This 1/2 term we have introduced our fortnightly Headteacher's Tea and starting September we will be adding additional further academic and personal development celebrations. **Please note that none of our existing awards are based purely on achievement.**

KS1 after school clubs: We have recently introduced Y1 running club in addition to the clubs that have taken place this year (Y1/2 Recorders, Y1/2 Sing-a-long, Y1/2 Lego & Small World, Y2 Cookery Club, Y1/2 Football, Y1/2 Art Club). We will of course look to extend this provision. We are mindful that our youngest children are very tired by the end of the day.

Permanent KS2 football and netball clubs: We want to offer a variety for all children. This year we have run Netball club for two full terms and Football club across the age range for (Y3/4/5/6 Autumn Term, Y1/2 Spring). Our staff provide clubs in their own time.

Please note that we do not charge for any of our staff-led clubs (other than a small charge for cookery ingredients).

We will look into more permanent clubs to be run by external providers but are conscious of cost to parents and therefore inclusion of all children.

Celebration assemblies: This has been changed to 9.05 to enable more parents to join in person and via Zoom.

Our expectations of children: We feel it is important to set high expectations and are conscious of mental wellbeing in achieving them. We are often surprised by what young children can do.

Grandparent involvement: We will continue to provide parent/grandparent events in Reception and Y1 we will look to roll out similar opportunities for the rest of school. In the spring term, we will host a family day where family members are invited to work with their child/children in school. We are very lucky to have several grandparent volunteers and are always looking for more!!

Timings of parents evenings: Our 2 formal parents evenings will be till 7pm.

Communication with parents: We expect all teacher to communicate effectively with parents. This includes a weekly round up, open line of communication using class email (to be responded to within reasonable time frames), weekly tweets and speaking directly with parents when needed.

Beyond the above minimum expectation, it is up to class teachers, aside from their core task of teaching, to tweet when possible.

Inclusion of all children in positions of responsibility: We strive to be inclusive and try to track every child's Hillside journey so that over the course of each year/ their time at Hillside, they have had a range of opportunities.



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How you have helped us this year

I appreciate that the current financial climate has been a huge challenge to many families. As a school, we have also seen many of our costs increase dramatically whilst our local authority and central government income has diminished.

Our vision at Helsby Hillside is to provide quality learning from a rich curriculum. We would not be able to offer our children the wide range of experiences they deserve without the additional funding we receive through your support of Friend of Hillside events. Fundraising from these events (break-the –rules days, tea-towel sales, school discos , Christmas Fair etc), have enabled the school to deliver its rich curriculum as well as making certain trips/ residential more affordable for all parents.

Thanks to the voluntary efforts of the FOH team, these events have also been fun and memorable experiences for the children to enjoy and community to come together.

This academic year, you have **already helped** the school to the tune of £6500 with the:

- ◆ Full payment of the panto coach cost
- ◆ Subsidising coach costs for every class (trips and some of the residential)
- ◆ Full payment of visiting sports workshops
- ◆ Full payment of visiting Drama/ Theatre workshops
- ◆ Full payment of the Science workshop
- ◆ Contributing to our Coronation Celebrations
- ◆ Planned refurbishment of the KS2 outdoor classroom
- ◆ Development of the Reception class pergola and purchase of new play and storage resources
- ◆ Supporting some families with trip/ residential costs



Next year, we would really appreciate your continued support so that, in addition to much of the above, we can:

- ◆ Further develop the KS1 trim trail
- ◆ Purchase new books across the school
- ◆ Further develop the KS2 climbing wall area
- ◆ Contribute to a grant application for a KS2 interactive wall game (£8000)
- ◆ Contribute to a grant application for on site Cricket Nets (£6000)
- ◆ Replace some of our school iPads

So a huge Thank You!

In preparation for the Summer Fair, 30th June, next Friday will be a non-uniform day where children are asked to bring in bottles.

friendsofhillsidefundraising@outlook.com [Click here for school lottery!](#)

Contact details:

Please contact the school office to notify or request absence at: admin@hillside.cheshire.sch.uk

or call 01928 722 991

Website links: [School website](#) [Absence request](#)

[Administering medicine consent](#) [Lunch Menu](#)

[Family Support Information](#) [Full School Diary](#)

Diary Dates 2023:

June 30th FOH Summer Fair

July 3rd Sports Day (KS2 at 09.45am KS1 at 1.30pm)

July 7th Music Concert 9.15am

July 10th /11th Y6 HHS Transition Days

July 11th Whole School 'Going up' Transition Day

July 15th FOH Family Fun Day at School Field

July 17th Rock Steady Concert at 2.30pm

July 20th Year 6 Leavers Assembly—1.30pm

July 21st End of Summer Term at 2pm (back 06/09/23)

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