

Dear Parents

Harvest Non-Uniform Day - Friday 6th November

As we are unable to have our usual Harvest celebrations with parents in school this year, we still feel it is very important that we continue to support people less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year.



To make it simple and safe for everyone, we have decided the simplest and most effective way to do this will be to have a non-uniform day on Friday 6th November - where we will be supporting a charity called Water Aid. Water Aid are doing some fantastic work in bringing clean water to areas of the world that cannot access it, to enable people to wash their hands, keep their homes and hospitals clean and protect against COVID-19. It is hard to comprehend how these people are managing to keep themselves safe during these horrible, horrible times with no access to something we take so much for granted - a plentiful supply of water.

Blue is the colour of the Water Aid charity so for our non-uniform day we are asking our children to wear something (anything) blue - we are also asking that you give a minimum donation of £1 (via Parent Pay - please do not send any money to school). We think we have set Parent Pay up so if you want to make a larger donation, this is possible. Thank you for your support with this.

To find out more about the work of Water Aid, follow this link: <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>

Birthdays in School

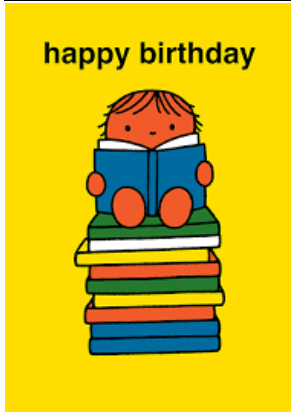


For a long time now, we have been allowing children to bring in small bags of sweets or individually wrapped sweets to share with their class mates when it is their birthday. For the most part sweets have been carefully selected by parents to ensure that the chosen sweets are safe (ie free from nuts and/ or other common allergens).

We have always had the dilemma of being a school who promotes healthy eating and trying to keep safe our increasing number of children with (sometimes severe) food allergies, so we have taken the decision to ask parents/carers not to send sweets into school when it is their child's birthday. We also recognise the other hopefully short term risk (due to Covid-19) in respect to the contamination of things being brought from home to school.

We do however want to offer an alternative option for your child's birthday to be acknowledged and celebrated in school, especially as birthday parties and get togethers are impossible to organise at the moment. We are proposing that on the day of your child's birthday that they can come to school in non -uniform, so that they feel special. On these days, we expect children to dress in clothes and footwear which are suitable for a school environment and the activities which they may be taking part in.

A Book on a Birthday



To tie in with new arrangements that we want to put in place for birthday celebrations, we also want to introduce our 'Book on a Birthday' scheme. We are asking each class teacher to contribute to an Amazon Wish list of books that would be useful for their class library and / or their topic work they do. As we are incredibly limited with fundraising events we are looking at ways that we can improve our reading book selection in an affordable way. On your child's birthday we are asking you to consider buying a book for your child's class from our Amazon wish list - we will share and update the list as often as needed. As soon as the book arrives in school, we would attach a birthday sticker inside the book alongside a birthday bookplate saying that this book

had been donated to school by your child (with their name) on their birthday (date). How lovely would it be for other family members / their school friends to see books in our school donated by (y)our children and being enjoyed for years to come.

We welcome your thoughts on this idea - it will of course not be compulsory or even expected, it would just be a lovely way of leaving a book as part of a birthday legacy for your child at Hill Top. Our Amazon Wish Lists will be available after half term.

Christmas at Hill Top



I think we already know that Christmas is going to be very different for many of us this year, but we are absolutely determined that it will not lose the magic and sparkle that is very much needed for our Hill Top children.

Please rest assured that Christmas will be made an absolute priority next term, as we plan and prepare to ensure our children get the full Christmas experience.

We are currently planning:

Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 9th December

A Santa Dash - Friday 11th December

Our PFA are organising the usual Christmas Secret Santa Shop fundraiser, Our Reception Class are considering a Polar Express type Christmas Party - with pyjamas, hot chocolate and marshmallows and we are very excited about the prospect of each class producing their own Christmas video montage which will be shared with all parents.

Of course, there will be other things, but sadly things like our Christmas Fayre, Christmas theatre trip, Christmas evening Nativity productions and Carols in the Playground we expect will all have to be cancelled this year.

ClassDojo

We have recently introduced a communication / sharing system across school so we can share with you some of the things we have been doing in class during these strangest of times.



Throughout the day the children are awarded points for positive behaviour, such as working quietly, completing homework on time, full marks on spellings etc. The children have been responding well to the system and enjoying earning points, and we are expanding its use.

Class Dojo has a 'Class Story' facility (similar to Twitter) where we are able to share with you activities we have been doing in class, and whilst we are unable to currently have Open Mornings and Shine Times we feel this may be an ideal alternative way for you to feel involved in your child's time in school.

You should all by now have received instructions for joining Class Dojo (which can be done on laptops, phones, iPads etc).

(Please note that the messaging service on ClassDojo is unmonitored, but once connected you should be able to see your child's points progress and the Class Story and be able to engage in these).

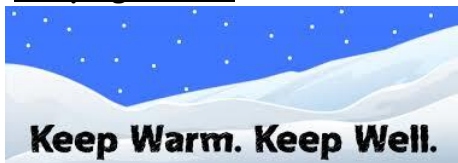
Additionally, should a class bubble ever be forced to self-isolate, ClassDojo may prove a useful way of sharing work between the teacher and the class. The system itself is private/secure to Hill Top and the individual class bubble. Comments have to be approved by teachers and are only visible within the bubble.

Parents Consultation



Thank you all who engaged with the slightly unusual consultation afternoon / evening that we held last week via the telephone - for the most part, it ran quite smoothly. If, for whatever reason, you did not manage to make an appointment with your child's class teacher - do please contact them to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time. The teachers may have some time on Monday 2nd November as we have a staff training day in school that day and teachers could be released for short periods to make telephone calls.

Keeping Warm



School needs to be kept well ventilated at the moment, which often means doors and windows need to be left open. Although we will keep the heating on at all times, inevitably classrooms will not be as warm as they would normally be.

Some compromises will need to be made at times, especially as the temperatures start to drop and late autumn / winter sets in, as we cannot expect the children or staff to work in unsuitable room temperatures. Please ensure children wear an extra layer on cold, windy days (we are still taking children outside for learning where appropriate) and please be aware that our uniform suppliers are now producing Hill Top fleeces, which can be worn inside and outside.

School Photographer

The School Photographer was in school last week and took photographs of all children who were in school that day. All orders have to be completed before Friday 6th November, and the easiest and safest way of placing this order is online.



Tissues in School



Whilst we have a supply of tissues in school, we are clearly getting through quite a lot as we are constantly encouraging our children to sneeze and cough in the most hygienic way. We would encourage our children, if possible to bring in their own pocket size packet of tissues - thank you if you can support us with this.

COVID-19 Reminders

Please do not put the Hill Top Community at risk by not adhering to the local / national restrictions regarding the spread of Covid-19.

If your child or a member of your household develops one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8 °C or higher) and/or
- new, continuous cough and/or
- loss or change in normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)



it is crucial that the whole household self isolates and arranges a test for the person who is showing the symptoms. Tests are not needed for the rest of the household unless they too are showing symptoms.

If the test is negative, the household can stop self-isolating as long as no one else within the household is showing symptoms.

If the test is positive, the household needs to continue to self-isolate for two weeks, for the infected person, the self-isolation is 10 days unless they remain ill with a fever.

Please do not....

*Send your child into school with any of the symptoms - if you do, we have to isolate them in school. They will be supervised during this time (this presents a risk to the member of staff supervising the child as well as the need for a deep clean of the area once your child has been collected). You will be asked to come **immediately** to collect them and arrange a test.

*Send your child to school if someone else in your household is showing symptoms - arrange for that person to have a test.

*Send your child to school if someone in your household is awaiting test results.

If Hill Top has a confirmed case (with a positive test result), the child or adult concerned will need to self-isolation for 10 days and their school bubble and family contacts will need to do the same for 14 days.

How to access testing

If you have symptoms, either log on to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access. Contacts without symptoms should not get tested unless they develop COVID symptoms or are advised to by Public health.

Hygiene

- Wash hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds, using soap and water
- For coughs and sneezes: [catch it, bin it, kill it](#)
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using standard cleaning products

Social distancing

- Limit contact with other people
- Stay 2 metres apart from people where possible
- Wash your hands regularly
- Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

Travel

- Avoid using public transport and travel on foot or by bicycle if possible

Face coverings

- Should be worn by most people when in enclosed spaces, such as on public transport, in taxis, when visiting a hospital, in shops and supermarkets and whenever we are indoors with people who are not part of our household or bubble. **We are now also recommending that parents wear face coverings when they are dropping / collecting their children at the school gates.** (This is only intended to keep you and others safe in what is often a busy time)
- Should not be worn by children under the age of 3 and are not required for children under the age of 11.
- Are not required where there is a [legitimate reason](#) for someone not to wear one, such as a physical or mental impairment or disability
- In primary schools where social distancing is not possible, head teachers have the discretion to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to wear face coverings in busy communal areas.

Dinner Money - KS2 children only



A reminder that those of you who wish to take up school dinners the prices are £1.90 per day or £9.50 per week. Dinner monies are now paid via Parent Pay on line. Our kitchen staff work really hard to produce school dinners of the highest standards and in line with the governments Healthy Eating agenda. I can thoroughly recommend them! Our kitchen staff are planning some special themed days to promote our school lunches over the next few months:

Thursday 5th November - a Bonfire Night themed lunch

In order for dinner money debt not to be allowed to mount up, we will recommend the sandwich option if debts equate to more than two weeks worth of dinners.

After School Clubs

We are hoping to run some year group after school clubs starting over the next few weeks. Please look out for class letters.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8am and still proves excellent value for money at £3.05 a session. This now has to be booked via Parent Pay This includes both child care in a warm, comfortable, child friendly environment as well as a choice of a filling breakfast package.



After School Care at The Lodge

Our after school care facility for Hill Top children at the Lodge continues this term. The children who accessed it last year really enjoyed it and we hope that it continues to provide a valuable service to working parents. The sessions begin after school and run up to 6pm.

Flu Immunisation

All children from Reception through to Year 6 will be given the opportunity to have the flu immunisation in the form of a nasal spray. This is due to happen on Thursday 5th November.

Thank you all who have returned your permission forms - this year, more than any other year, it is important that our children and consequently the whole Hill Top community are as protected as they possibly can be from seasonal flu.

**STAY WELL
THIS WINTER**

Free School Meals

Whilst we know that all children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal - this is known as the Universal Free School Meal offer - it is very important that they, as well as the parents of any Key Stage 2 children, still register via the [Bradford Council Website](#) if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit
- the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (you will need to apply directly to the school or call the Education Service on 01274 439393)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400

**Free
School
Meals** 
Are you entitled?

If you do have entitlement to a free school meal, we can offer you a voucher towards the purchase of a Hill Top winter coat, fleece or uniform.

School Holidays

Just a quick reminder that we break up this Friday 23rd October 2020 and return to school on Tuesday 3rd November 2020. We hope you have a good break. Please stay safe.

D. Martin - Head Teacher