

## Hill Top CE Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents



### Welcome to Hill Top

This week, we welcome three new members of staff to Hill Top. Mrs. Arnold, will be working alongside Mrs. Brotherhead in our Nursery, and will be replacing Mrs Binns who will begin her maternity leave shortly. Mrs

O'Hara will be joining our Key Stage 1 teaching team for two mornings a week, and Mrs Greiff will be working four mornings a week within our Key Stage 2 team. Although it is the strangest time to be joining a new team, we are sure they will enjoy their time here at Hill Top and will make an enormous difference to the learning and well-being of our children in these difficult times.

### Lockdown

We still face significant challenges both as a school and wider community during the existing national lockdown and the tier approach to restrictions post lockdown where it looks highly likely Bradford will face the highest tier and as a result the tightest ongoing restrictions. The light at the end of the tunnel appears to be the vaccines but until their true availability and safety has been explored fully, we will continue to keep your children as safe and as happy as we possibly can - despite the lack of normality we are facing.



### Secret Santa

Christmas may be a bit different this year; but we are trying to keep the Christmas spirit going by having our annual secret Santa stall.

**How it works:** Parents / Carers pay £2 per present on Parent Pay by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

On Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> December, each class will get the opportunity to decorate a paper bag and choose a gift to give to a loved one. Bags are sealed and we advise you pop them straight under the tree to 'isolate' before unwrapping on Christmas Day.

**Why do we offer a Secret Santa?** Children love being able to give their parents, grandparents, siblings and loved ones a special gift chosen by them.



**Where do the profits go?** All profits go to the Parent and Family Association who raise funds to provide opportunities for the children e.g. the climbing frame in the Key Stage 1 playground and the 'Little Lodge' in the upper playground.

**How many can you buy?** As many as you like! We have set a limit of 10 on Parent Pay but if you want more please let the office know.

If you would like to be more involved with the PFA please contact Sarah Barker our Parent Liaison Worker - [sarah.barker@hilltop.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.barker@hilltop.bradford.sch.uk)

### Reindeers visit to Hill Top

As Santa will be self-isolating in preparation for the big day, we have managed to secure a visit to Hill Top from a couple of his reindeers and sleigh on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The reindeers will be here for the majority of the day so every class will get an opportunity to visit them.

The PFA have kindly agreed to support the considerable travelling expenses to get the reindeers to school (the North Pole is some distance away), but we are hoping that parents would also support the costs by donating a minimum of £1 via Parent Pay. Our school fund account will be significantly compromised this year due to the inability to organise a Christmas Fayre and other fundraising events.

Depending on what the restrictions are at the time, we could do with a couple of parent volunteers (elves?) who could support the reindeers outside (you will need to wrap up warm!). If you can commit to the day, please give school a ring.



### Santa Dash



Also on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, we are organising a festive Santa dash around our school field to Christmas music and wearing Christmas jumpers.

This is part of the Bradford School Games Team who are supporting the School Games National Santa Dash 2020! This event coincides with National Christmas Jumper day too! By taking part we will be joining thousands of other young people across the country. Although we will be dashing around our school field, there is no set distance to this event - it's about having fun and raising smiles.

Children and staff will be taking part by adding a bit of festive cheer to their running apparel - so why not wear a Santa/Elf hat, paint your nose red, wear a bit of tinsel, or some antlers!

We are once again asking for a £1 donation towards the cost of this which will be used to offset the cost of prizes (for those who are enjoying themselves the most!) and hot chocolate and marshmallows for all participants.

We could do with a couple of parent volunteers (more elves?) who could organise the hot chocolate and marshmallows from the gazebo (again, you will need to wrap up warm!). If you can help, please give school a ring.

### Christmas Parties

We are consulting with the children on how best to organise Christmas parties for each class.

Nursery will be having their parties - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December (pm), and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December (am).

Reception are having a 'Polar Express' themed party on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Key Stage 1 will be having their Christmas Party on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, whilst Key Stage 2 will be having theirs on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

More details about the parties will be given nearer the time.



### Nursery Places for January 2021 - very few remaining

We are now in the process of making telephone calls and sending offer letters out to all parents and families who may be wanting a place at our Nursery from January. We are often left with disappointed families who thought their children were on our list - if you are in any doubt whether or not a child is on our internal list, please speak with our office. Can you please spread the word to any families who might not currently have children at Hill Top, but may be wanting a Nursery place from January to contact our school office with their child's details.



### Christmas Dinner - Key Stage 2



School Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Key Stage 1 and Reception children benefit from free school meals - but Key Stage 2 will need to let us know if they would like a school meal on this day. If they do and don't normally stay for school dinners, please pay via Parent Pay.

Can you also please let us know by completing the google form questionnaire sent out via text message earlier this week.



### Christmas Surprise

As we are unable to perform our traditional nativities this year, each class across school are working on a Christmas video surprise which will come your way at some point during the final week of this half term. There may be a little surprise from our staff too!



### Office Raffle

Our school office raffle is always very popular and hamper prizes are donated by staff - in normal circumstances this creates a significant amount of money towards our school fund. Virtual raffle tickets will be available to purchase via Parent Pay. We will write your names on any strips you wish to purchase. We recognise this will not be a bigger fundraiser as Tickets cost £1 a strip (we normally sell tickets at productions, Christmas fayres etc), but we are hoping that you might be in a position to support.

### Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards can be brought into school from next Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. All cards will be put in the class post box and not opened until after each weekend (leaving enough time for quarantining). They will then be distributed on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This means the last day that Christmas cards can be brought into school will be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.



### Advent 'Acts of Kindness'

We will be promoting our School advent calendar this year via our school Twitter feed and Class doJo.. Follow us at @HillTopCE. Our Advent Challenge this year, is based around daily acts of kindness and my goodness we could all do with a few of those in our lives at the moment. Do please share your acts on Twitter, don't forget to tag Hill Top in.



### Our School Christmas Tree

Traditionally we have made the Christmas tree in our main Reception and the Christmas trees in our classrooms into a 'Generositree' whereby we placed presents and gifts under the tree for children of all ages to be distributed by the NSPCC the week before Christmas.

I know many of you have asked, but charities are not in a position to accept these gifts this year due to virus transmission. We hope you and your family can find other ways this year to show generosity and support this half term Christian Value (perhaps by engaging with our 'Advent Acts of Kindness')

### Laptops to support Home Learning

The DfE have provided Hill Top with their allocation of three (!) laptops to support any children, who do not have access to devices, and enable them to access home learning if they are having to self-isolate due to Covid-19. If your child would like to loan one, do contact school and we will arrange for it to be dropped off for you if you are unable to collect it yourself.



### TT Rockstars

Well done to Ralphy (Y2), Samuel (Y3), Amelia (Y4), Joseph (Y5) and Declan (Y6) who were our TT Rockstars Class Champions in our recent competition. They scored the highest points in their respective classes during the course of the week and their mathematical inspired prizes will be given out later this week! We are very proud of all our children's efforts in this



competition.

### Harvest Non-Uniform Day

Thank you to all of you who supported our non-uniform day for Water Aid last week - the charity 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.

We raised £210 - many, many thanks.

### Flu Immunisation

We are aware that some children missed their flu immunisation (either through illness, self isolating or late return of forms) when the nursing team were in school a few weeks ago. The school nurse team will be in

**STAY WELL  
THIS WINTER**

again soon for a catch up of missed children - we are hoping that this will be before we finish for the Christmas break.



### Lunch Times

Whilst we are still facing tight restrictions in school, our lunch times are far from normal. Our lunchtime menus and grab bag rota for children are both on our school website. Go to the Parents Tab and drop down to School Lunches and Milk or follow this link:

<https://www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk/parents-n/school-lunches>

For children who are taking the grab bag option, we are now offering **at least two hot meal options on a daily basis** to all our children.



### Remote Learning

Whilst many children or family members of children are awaiting test results or members of the household are having to self isolate as a result of track and trace or a positive test for Covid-19, there is still an expectation that school provides work for all children remotely.

We have created an area on our website where teachers are putting up daily plans for children to follow - some of this work will mirror the work being done in class during your child's time of absence. The work will be in the form of on line videos, worksheets, activities, website recommendations, spelling lists etc.

Go to the School Tab and drop down to Home Learning and access the tab linked to your child's specific year group to find the planning for this week.

On this tab, you will also find links to a whole host of other home learning websites, which we will continue to update - all children have got their own log in details for TT RockStars, Purple Mash and Oxford Reading Tree - please ask if you are not sure what their log in details are.

### 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 money is 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! 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.**



### **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**

happy 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 have now been created (we will populate the lists later this week):

**Nursery:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/35GTN64XKHZJ4/ref=bnav\\_topnav\\_lists\\_1?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/35GTN64XKHZJ4/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_1?)

**Reception:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/39QXT1DF1UGDL/ref=bnav\\_topnav\\_lists\\_2?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/39QXT1DF1UGDL/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_2?)

**Year 1:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/176KLWPQCMXLA/ref=bnav\\_topnav\\_lists\\_3?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/176KLWPQCMXLA/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_3?)

**Year 2:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/1EPPH0VC2YXLA/ref=bnav\\_topnav\\_lists\\_4?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/1EPPH0VC2YXLA/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_4?)

**Year 3:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/WL4DC0DB8J1C/ref=bnav\\_topnav\\_lists\\_5?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/WL4DC0DB8J1C/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_5?)

**Year 4:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/337AQR4J0EXT?leftNavSection=Shopping&ref\\_=a\\_bls\\_inv\\_sl](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/337AQR4J0EXT?leftNavSection=Shopping&ref_=a_bls_inv_sl)

**Year 5:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1ZUTR53HBLIN8?leftNavSection=Shopping&ref\\_=abls\\_inv\\_sl](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1ZUTR53HBLIN8?leftNavSection=Shopping&ref_=abls_inv_sl)

**Year 6:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/BPXH56EVI9T7?leftNavSection=Shopping&ref\\_=abls\\_inv\\_sl](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/BPXH56EVI9T7?leftNavSection=Shopping&ref_=abls_inv_sl)

**ClassDojo**

ClassDojo is 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).

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.

### 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.

### 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:

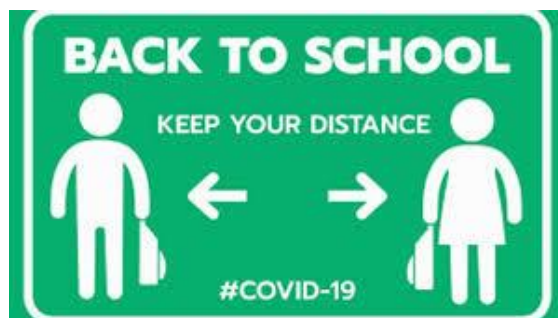
- Fever (temperature of 37.8 °C or higher) and/or
- new, continuous cough and/or
- loss or change in normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

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 keep school informed at every step of this process.

**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-isolate 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](http://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**

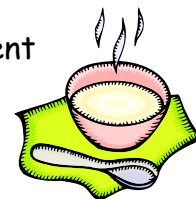
- Avoid using public transport and travel on foot or by bicycle if possible

**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 requesting 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.

### **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.

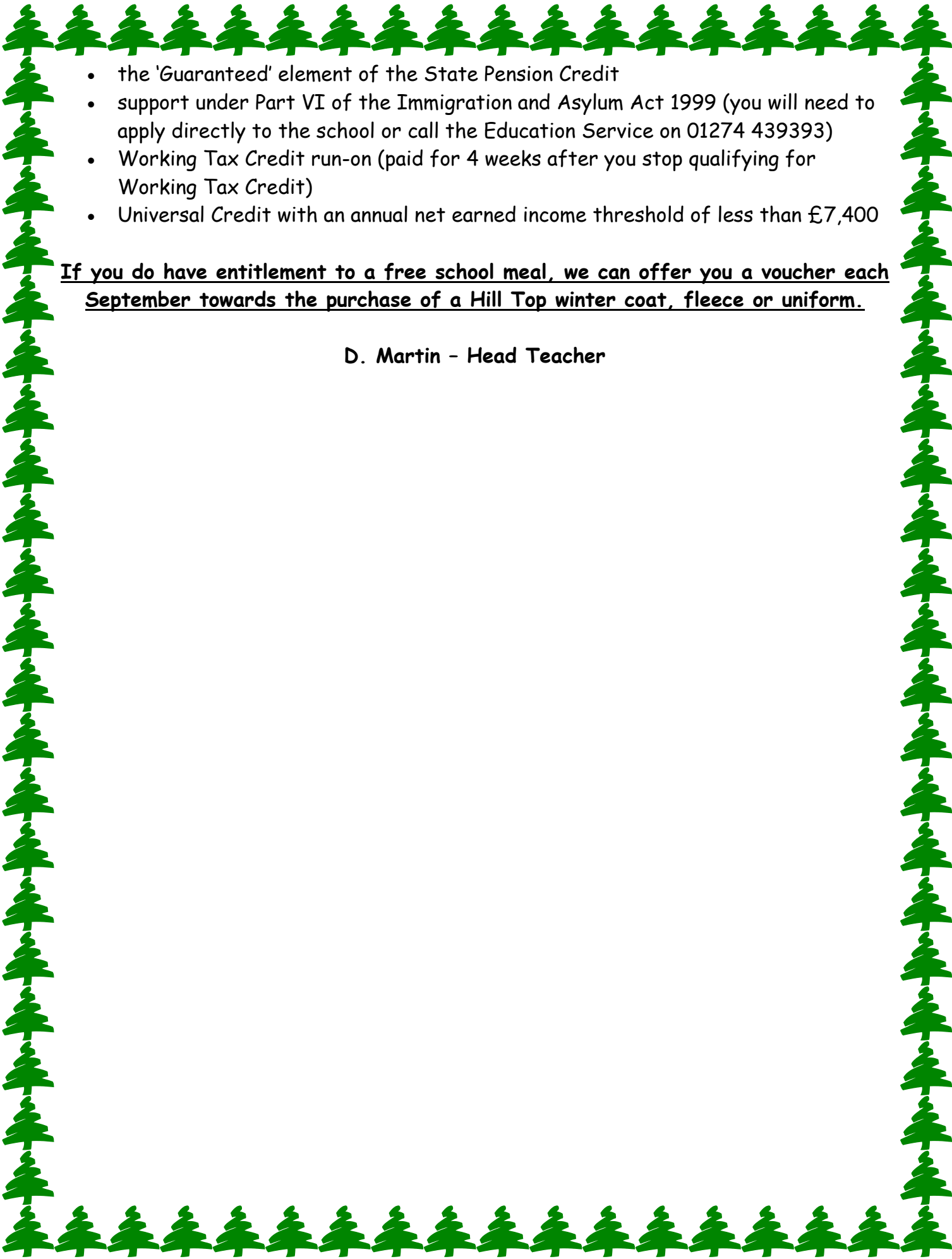
### **Free School Meals**

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

**Free  
School  
Meals**   
**Are you entitled?**



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- 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

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

D. Martin - Head Teacher