

Hill Top CE Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter - 29th June 2021

Dear Parents

Staying Safe

As the government continue to plan to reopen our country fully following the Covid-19 pandemic, it remains clear that we are not out of the woods yet. We urge you to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe and adhere to all the rules, recommendations and regulations linked to staying alert, safe and social distancing.

New guidelines for schools now mean that if a child has a positive Lateral Flow Test, parents / carers should inform school of this as we are advised to close the bubble until it has been confirmed whether the test is positive or negative through a full test. Please help us to keep our community safe by adhering to this advice. Of course if the test comes back negative, the bubble can return to school, otherwise the bubble will need to complete a period of self-isolation.

KEEP
•EACH OTHER•
SAFE

Staff leaving us



This time of year is always a sad time as invariably staff will move on - this year is no exception. I guess what makes it even harder this year, is the fact that we cannot give them the kind of send off we would normally give people as they move on from Hill Top.

Mrs. Elliott will be leaving us this school year - she is retiring from teaching and planning to spend more time enjoying her freedom and holidaying no doubt. Kim has been at Hill Top for as long as I have been head teacher, in fact she was one of my first (and best) appointments. As SENDCo and a key member of the Senior Management Team at Hill Top, she has been instrumental in the development of our school, as well as being an outstanding colleague and practitioner; from a personal perspective, she has been a good friend and confidant not only to me but to many members of staff, both past and present. Clearly she knows Hill Top and our families inside out and she is going to be incredibly missed. We wish her a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

Mr. Middleton is also leaving Hill Top this summer as he takes up a new role as Assistant Head at a primary school in Calderdale. James has had an important teaching role here at Hill Top both in preparing our oldest children for the next stage of their learning journey, but also as our Maths lead. He has become a popular member of our team and has been instrumental in ensuring that our Maths provision was always of a high standard. We wish him all the very best.

Mrs Allanson - who has been a part time teacher since 2018 has taught right across Key Stage 2 here at Hill Top and she too will be leaving us as she is moving to another part of the country to be closer to her family. Caroline has been incredibly hard working, committed and without a doubt has shown significant flexibility in her roles here and we do hope and trust that she will not be a stranger to Hill Top once she has moved.

Mrs Barker - Sarah is leaving her role as Parental Involvement Worker as she too is moving on to pastures new this summer. Although she has not been with us for that long, she has made the role her own, and she has supported many of our families during the trickiest of times. She will be missed and we wish her all the very best.

Mrs O'Hara - Claire has worked at Hill Top as support of our Covid Catch-up Programme. She was appointed to support our KS1 children as they returned to school following the significant disruption they have had over the last 18 months. The children and staff in KS1 have enjoyed working with Claire and we wish her well.

Mrs Arnold - who has been covering the maternity leave of Mrs Binns in our Nursery, will also be moving on with the return of Mrs Binns. Getting a strong practitioner to cover maternity leaves is always tricky and we were very lucky when we found Angela who brought a wealth of Early Years' experience as she joined our Nursery team. Thank you Angela, for stepping into this role in the most challenging of circumstances - we are very grateful and you will be missed.

Mrs Bleazard - will not be leaving Hill Top as such, although she is moving from a class based teacher to be our Music specialist and she will be teaching music right across school. Music is without doubt her passion and we know our children will benefit from her enthusiasm and specialism in this subject.

Transition Plans

Clearly transition work / days has been compromised significantly this year because of the pandemic. We have put a plan together to ensure our children get an opportunity to spend some time with their new class teacher.



Transition Day will be Wednesday 7th July. Year 6 would normally visit their secondary schools on this day, but because of restrictions, this has been cancelled for many schools. On our in-school transition day, they should come to school as normal - they will be taught in another area of school enabling the current year 5 children to access their new classrooms.

To save any gate or time confusion, we are asking all children to arrive and leave school at the times and gates that they currently do with their current class. They will be met at the gate by their new teachers for next year and will be dismissed from the same gate and time that they usually finish.

Teachers for Next Year

Our teachers and support staff for next year are as follows:

Nursery - Mrs. Binns and Mrs. Brotherhead

Reception - Miss Fuller and Miss Wallace.

Year 1 - Miss Padgett, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Ward and Miss Hewson.

Year 2 - Mrs. McKee and Miss Dawson.

Year 3 - Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Balaam, Mrs. Lupton, Mrs. Bacakoglu, Miss Robinson and Mrs. Tailford.

Year 4 - Miss Parsons, Mrs. Westbrook, Mrs. DeKlerk and Mrs. Beautiman

Year 5 - Mrs. Davidson-Wood and Mrs. Wroot

Year 6 - Mrs. Greiff and Mrs. Davison.



Mrs. Nolan is also returning to Hill Top in September as our new part time SENDCo.

Nursery Transition

We will also be offering a transition for the Hill Top Nursery children who will be attending our Reception Class in September on the same Wednesday as main school transition. Miss Fuller will come and collect them from Nursery, so our nursery parents don't really need to do anything different - this is just for your information only.

Free School Meals (FSM)

We know that during this unprecedented time, many more of our families may have become entitled to FSM (including those children in R, Y1 and Y2 who already get them under the Universal Free School Meal offer) and we urge you to apply for the FSM option.

The eligibility criteria to apply for FSM includes those of you who are currently entitled to:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400, (£616.57 per month)
- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit Child
- Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit and an annual household income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



If you fall into one of these categories, **please, please, please** follow the link below:

<https://bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

...it is a straightforward form to complete; if you need any help or have any questions about this scheme, please do contact us.

As an added incentive to you all, any new children who are now added to our Free School Meals list, will be given a £25 uniform voucher. Please see the office for more details.

Please note that children on free school meals are not identified in any way shape or form in school and are known in the most part by our office staff only.

After School Care Club in The Lodge and Breakfast Club

We will update you just as soon as we know what the guidelines might be about schools offering wrap around care in the form of Breakfast Club and The Lodge in September (particularly those rules governing drop off and pick up). We are hoping that these will return to normal.



School Uniform

School does not stock school uniform, book bags or pump bags. Instead you can order these on line at www.myclothing.com and just enter our school name or postcode BD12 0TL. You can also purchase them from The Uniform Shop, 50-52 Darley St, Bradford BD1 3HN. Please ensure you order uniform in plenty of time for the start of the new term, and can we remind the parents of our Year 4 children that as they move into Year 5, the colour of their sweatshirt and polo jumper reverse.

Hill Top CE Primary School Lottery

One of our supporters continues to win a cash prize each week. At the moment these cash prizes are small. We would love to get more supporters and increase the prize fund! Please see the details below of how to sign up and be in with a chance of winning. Your weekly ticket purchase will mean that Hill Top receives funds which will be used to improve our school grounds. We would love to build a canopy over the Reception Class playground, continue to improve the small, outdoor space to the rear of Y1 and also add some resources to the upper playground. We can't do it without your support, so please sign up and encourage friends and family to do the same.

To start supporting, visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Search for: Hill Top

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



Extra vigilance please

Can we ask your support in being extra vigilant of our school premises over the summer holidays as it is this time of year where we become especially vulnerable people accessing our school site when school is closed. We do have CCTV - both external and internal and we have a security firm who visit the school site several times over night. We ask if you do see anyone on our school site who you think shouldn't be there, you report it to a member of our school staff or you can call 101 and report the fact that there are trespassers on the school site. 999 would be the number to call if you felt that an emergency response was required.



A personal thanks

I'm not quite sure where this year went - it doesn't seem two minutes since we started back in September. It has been without doubt challenging but I've always had the support of an incredibly hard working team here at school - the teachers, governors, nursery nurses, support staff, admin staff, PFA, cleaning staff, lunchtime and kitchen staff - who give their time willingly, enthusiastically and endlessly to ensure that our children, your children, get the best possible opportunities here at Hill Top. An enormous thanks to each and every one of them...for all they do.

Thank you too to you the parents - your involvement, commitment and support (even in the darkest of days) in your desire to move our school forward is very much appreciated.



What next?

Next year promises to be exciting, but to be honest, I would just be happy with 'normal'; plans include:

- Development of Vocabulary across school;
- Our EYFS begin a new curriculum from September, so it is only right that we have a focus on our Early Years offer;
- Programmes centred on ensuring y/our children are not disadvantaged long term by the long school closure we have had in the last two years and
- Continuing to develop Collective Worship and RE across school.



More details will follow in the new school year.

I hope you all have a safe, restful and sun filled summer. We hope to return to school on Thursday 7th September.

Des Martin, Head Teacher