

Dear Parents



**Welcome Back!**

Welcome back to the start of a new term here at Hill Top. A particularly warm welcome to Mrs. Nolan who rejoins the Hill Top team as our new SENDCo. We also welcome Mrs. Westbrook, our new Year 4 teacher and Mrs. Davidson-Wood who joins as our new Year 5 teacher. Mrs Sykes also joins the team as our new Parental Involvement Worker. Clearly Hill Top still has Covid related routines and practices in place which at times will cause both you and us challenges; please bear with us as we adapt, improve and amend them as we learn what works best - but we do thank you for your words of support and encouragement during these tricky times.

**Work in school over the Summer**

As always, there has been a hive of activity at Hill Top over the summer break. Most of the work has been going on behind the scenes - joinery, painting and decoration, boiler and electrical updates - all of which will continue to improve our building and efficiency. We are due to have a small extension built to our school over the next few months which will improve the efficiency of our office area in terms of being able to meet and greet visitors to school in a more effective way.

**Class Dojo**

Class Dojo is an app that we now use right across school and is increasingly our preferred method of communication to get important information to you about school events, trips, visits, school closure in bad weather, celebrate good work etc. Please, please, please ensure you all download the app. You should all have received an invite via email to join your child's page - if you have not received this email or need it resending, please contact the school office.

**Start and End of the Day - queuing and handover**

On the whole, we are reasonably pleased with how we are managing to get all our children into and out of school safely and quickly and, although we are still looking at ways to improve this, we must thank you for the support and patience you have shown us with this challenge.

It is more crucial than ever now, with rising Covid-19 cases, that when you are collecting and picking up you do so as safely as possible.

I don't especially want to bark or shout orders at you - but we would be grateful if:

- a) you do not arrive too early and cause pavement congestion to other pedestrians;
- b) you are queuing on the pavements, please allow enough room for other pedestrians to pass by safely;
- c) it is especially tight when Y3 and Y4 are being picked up, as Nursery are also leaving just 5 minutes before at the same gate. With this in mind, could Y3 parents queue down (so the end of the queue is on Lower School Street) and Y4 parents queue up the footpath (so the end of the queue is towards Common Road).

We will continue to tweak and adapt these arrangements over the next few days.

### **Lunchtime Assistants**

We are looking to appoint two new lunchtime assistants who can work Monday to Friday between the hours of 12 o'clock and 1 o'clock in supporting our children in the dining hall and out in the playground. If you would like to join our hardworking lunchtime team, the application form is on our website and can be found here. (<https://www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk/school-n/job-vacancies>) or use the QR code below.



### **Parking on Zig Zags**



It is likely to be increasingly busy at the start and end of the day, due to all children having the same starting time, can we please ask you not to park on the zigzags outside school - they are there to keep everyone safe.

### **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 Signs / Symptoms and Protocols**

We recognise that there are an awful lot of mixed and confusing messages out there about the symptoms of Covid-19 that we need to look out for and take action. For Hill Top, we are using the Bradford guidelines, which state the key symptoms are:

- 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)

If any of our children display any of these symptoms in school or have displayed any of them at home, it is essential that they should stay at home and arrange for a test.

We have produced a FAQ sheet which is available on our website - [here](#). Or use the QR code.



## How to access testing

If you have symptoms, either log on to [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 if you have no internet access.

## 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

Adequate ventilation in schools is essential, and this means leaving doors and windows open. This is not a problem at the moment but as the autumn kicks in, children may require extra layers - we will send more advice out about this later.

## Parents of children with SEND

Our new SENDCo, Fiona Nolan, will be contacting all parents of children with SEND to arrange meetings over the next few weeks. Letters inviting parents will be sent out in the usual way. The meetings will take place in school.

In the meantime, please be assured that we are all working hard to continue to meet your child's individual needs within the current, often challenging constraints.



## Shine Time Assemblies

Although we have planned Shine Time Assemblies as if we were living in a non-Covid world, our current restrictions linked to our Risk Assessment means we will not be inviting parents into school at the moment - we will review this on a fortnightly basis as we look at the impact that the return to school has on Covid cases at both national and local levels.

We can however hope.....and we have set some dates for Shine Times etc. this term - please do not get cross with us if we feel we have to cancel - if we do have to cancel it will be with heavy hearts but we will be cancelling with the intention of keeping the whole Hill Top community safe.

So the provisional plan is to continue with our special Class Shine Time Assemblies on Friday mornings from 9.00am through to 9.30am. Each class will be hosting special assemblies to share work they have been doing in class in an entertaining way. As we used to do, you will be invited back into your child's classroom where you will be invited to stay up until 10.30am. During this time, you will be able to see your child at work and speak to the class teacher about his / her targets. Shine Time dates are as follows:

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Year 3 Shine Time  
Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Nov - Year 3 Shine Time  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Nov - Year 4 - Shine Time  
Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Year 6 - Shine Time

(If we are not inviting parents into the school building at this time - we will Zoom the 'Shine Times' to enable you to watch from your devices)

Other classes will be having special Open Mornings for parents on the following dates:

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Sep - Year R Open Morning

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Oct - Year 2 Open Morning

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Oct - Year 1 Open Morning

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Nov - Year 5 Open Morning

### Weekly Awards

As you know, weekly, we distribute a whole host of awards...Child of the week, Tidiest Classroom, Attendance Cup etc - all of which are enthusiastically received. As a Church school, we will also be presenting our Christian Values Award, in the form of a small cross that can be worn on the collar / lapel of a polo shirt.

This award will be given to children who have demonstrated in how they behave the particular Christian Value we are focusing on in school in each particular term. This term we will be looking at **'Friendship'** and will be exploring what this means and how we can demonstrate it in our everyday lives.



### School Newsletters

This first newsletter of the school year will be the only paper copy that will be distributed to all parents. We now ask all parents and carers to access electronic copies of our newsletters. There are several ways in which to do this:

**The Hill Top App** - there are details on our website on how to find and download this.



**Our school Web site:** Another way to access the newsletter is to subscribe on the school website: [www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk](http://www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk) (Go to 'Parents', choose 'Newsletters' and then scroll down the page to the subscribe section.) The newsletter is also available to view direct from our website. If none of these are possible for you, you can request a paper copy from our school office. Our newsletters contain useful information and exciting opportunities so please don't miss out!

### School Uniform

School does not stock school uniform, book bags or pump bags. Instead you can order these on line at <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/> and just look up our school. Uniform is also available from The Uniform Shop on Darley Street in Bradford.

We do stock a very small supply of pumps in school which cost £3 per pair.

### 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 cooked 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 hot school lunches over the next few months:

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - a Chinese themed Lunch

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October - a Mexican themed lunch

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Milk Money**

We no longer collect milk money. If you would like your child to have milk, please register on-line at [www.schoolmilkuk.co.uk](http://www.schoolmilkuk.co.uk) where payment can be made.

Milk remains free to all children under the age of 5 years old



### **After School Clubs**

We are running a range of after school clubs which will start next week. Please look out for letters, dojo messages etc. in the next few days. Places can be booked on Parent Pay:

Clubs include:

Day	Led By	Club	Year Group
Monday	Jimmy's Martial Arts	Martial arts	Years 1-6
Tuesday	Bradford City	Football	Years 1-2
Wednesday	Bradford Bulls	Tri Golf	Years 1-2
Thursday	Bradford City	Football	Years 3-6
Friday	Bradford Bulls	Badminton	Years 5-6

### **PFA Events**

Our PFA will be organising a series of fundraising events to support our next whole school development project during the course of this term. Clearly given the current climate, there will be significant restrictions and challenges faced with any fundraising events.

A full diary will follow their first meeting of the new school year which will be arranged very shortly.

### **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. More details are available from our school website.



### **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. More details are available from our school website.



## Reading Challenge

You should by now have received a copy of the Hill Top Reading Challenge - an annual initiative where we set all year groups the challenge to read, access or have read to them books that we think will widen their interests, challenge their thinking and capture their imaginations. Certificates are awarded to all children who manage to read 15 books (or more) of the books that are linked to their year groups. The list has been adapted from a list of books recommended by BookTrust - the UK's largest children's reading charity. We have also put the list on our school website (from the Home Page, go to School, then Curriculum, choose your child's year group and then click on Reading Challenge).



## Mental Health and Well Being

This, quite rightly, remains a key priority for Hill Top during the course of this school year - Mindfulness Lessons will continue to be led by Ms. Turner our Learning Mentor. We will also promote our Well Being Passports which are a range of 20 activities per year group that we would like all children to access during the course of the year - some of these activities (which range from planning and cooking a meal to walking to the top of a hill!) will be done as part of the school curriculum, but we will also be encouraging our families to participate in some outside of school hours. The Passports are also available to see on line from our Home Page, go to School, then Curriculum, choose your child's year group and then click on Activity Passport.

## 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 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Please return your permission forms that will be sent out in the next few days - 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 flus.



## 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

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

**D. Martin - Head Teacher**