

Hill Top CE Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter - 12th October 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome to new staff

A warm welcome to both Miss Khan and Miss Cocks who have recently joined our Nursery team with Miss Cocks also supporting children over the lunch time period. After October half term, we are also welcoming Miss Kavanagh who will be joining our Lower Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistant team. We said a sad goodbye recently to Miss Robinson who has worked in a number of support roles at Hill Top over the last ten years. Kelly always showed a great deal of flexibility and commitment to whatever role she took on and she was a well-loved member of staff. We wish her all the very best in her new role and we know she will not become a stranger to the Hill Top community.



Building Development



We were due to have some extensive work done over the Summer both in our Nursery outdoor area and around our main Reception area with a small extension being built to make our office area a larger space to meet and greet people effectively and safely. Supply issues and Covid restrictions meant that neither of these developments happened, but we are now hoping that work will start on both areas at October half term.

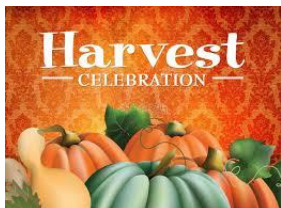
Class Dojo



Class Dojo remains 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. As such, newsletters, such as these, will only be sent out on a monthly basis.

Photographer in School

Our school photographer will be in school this Friday 15th October to take individual photographs and siblings photographs. We will not be able to have pre-school siblings included in the photographs this year - it will be just Hill Top children (from both Nursery and main School). Please wear full uniform on Friday (even if it is a PE Day).



Harvest Worship

We are organising our first post Covid 'performance' to a live audience on the last day of this half term. Years 1 and 2 will be putting on a 'Harvest' production for which they have been rehearsing songs and practicing lines. The production will take place at 1.15pm in our school hall and we will be

issuing just the one ticket per child (this is due to space in the hall and keeping things as safe as we can given the current climate).

Children will be released for home straight after the production - at 2pm. Children in the rest of school can also be collected early on this last day of half term. Children in Years 4 and 6 however, due to Swimming and externally taught Art lessons, will be released at the usual time of 3.15pm. We will film the production and make it available for everyone to see it after the event. It will not be zoomed live due to the manageability of this.

Harvest Non Uniform Day

This year we will be supporting Christian Aid as part of our Harvest Celebrations as a church school. Christian Aid is a charity whose aim is to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and with everything that is going on across the world at the moment we feel that this is absolutely a relevant charity to support. We will have a non-uniform day (please wear appropriate clothing for school and the weather) on Thursday October 20th to raise money for this global charity. We are hoping that you can support this by donating £1.50 (you can donate more) via Parent Pay.



Parking on Zig Zags



Mornings and afternoons are increasingly busy, and with more unpleasant weather and darker evenings ahead, can we please ask you not to park on the zigzags outside school -they are there to keep everyone safe.

Bradford City Tickets

We will be distributing tickets to those of you who pre-ordered tickets for the Bradford City matches later this week. Bradford City are delivering them on Thursday.



Christmas Events

We have made the sad decision to cancel our Christmas Fayre this year - those of you who have been to them will appreciate how packed they are and how it would be impossible to keep everyone safe.

This is a significant fundraiser for school and we will be looking at other fundraising events to offset the impact of not having a Christmas Fayre will have on our School Fund account.

Please be assured however that we will make Christmas exciting for our children and we have a whole host of events planned including:

Thursday 2nd December - Nursery and Reception Christmas Productions (9.30am and 2.30pm)

Wednesday 8th December - KS2 Christingle Service (2pm and 6pm)

Thursday 9th December - Afternoon Nursery Christmas Party

Friday 10th December - Reception Class Polar Express Event

Friday 10th December - Secret Santa Shop
Monday 13th December - KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14th December - KS2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 15th December - Morning Nursery Christmas Party
Wednesday 15th December - KS2 Theatre trip to Leeds to see Wendy and Peter Pan
Friday 17th December - Key Stage 1 to lead whole school Carols in the Playground at 1pm. (all welcome)

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](#).

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.

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. As the autumn has now kicked in, we do encourage children to wear extra layers - Hill Top fleeces are the preferred option - we would prefer children to wear plain fleeces and not ones with sporting logos.

We are continuing to manage Covid cases as carefully as we can and whilst we still continue to have regular cases, we remain very appreciative of parents and their response to us requesting PCR tests for close contacts. Getting this right for every case causes us no end of worry and angst I promise you - and we are learning something new or having to consider something new every time we have a case.

Shine Time Assemblies

Although we had 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 (our first trial is the KS1 Harvest) - we will continue to review this as we look at the 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 12th Nov - Year 4 - Shine Time

Fri 19th 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 5th 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

Electronic copies of our newsletters are available in a number of ways:

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 (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!



App Store

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 20th October - a Mexican themed lunch

Friday 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.

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 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 after half term. 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	Hockey	Years 1-2
Thursday	Bradford City	Football	Years 3-6
Friday	Bradford Bulls	Kwick Cricket	Years 3-4

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 shortly.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8.00am and still proves excellent value



for money at £3.05 a session. This now has to be booked via Parent Pay and 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 6.00pm. More details are available from our school website.

Flu Immunisation

This was due to happen on Monday 4th October, but was postponed due to NHS staffing shortages. I am calling on a daily basis to reschedule without much luck which is frustrating as we know as much as you how important the flu vaccine will be this year.

**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 code towards the purchase of a Hill Top winter coat, fleece or uniform.

D. Martin - Head Teacher