



Happiness  
Esteem  
Achievement  
Responsibility and Respect  
Truth  
Spirituality and Service

# Hilltop Junior School

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Head of School: Mrs A Waite

## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th September 2018  
Newsletter No: 1

**Attendance w/beg:** 5 September 2018

Whole School: 97.19%

Classes of the week: 3F, 6LT & 6G with 100%

**Well done!**

3F: 100%	3LA: 98.77%	3RV: 98.77%
4A: 93.21%	4G: 97.62%	4PD: 96.55%
5H: 98.81%	5K: 94.87%	5P: 90.38%
6G: 100%	6LT: 100%	6W: 96.55%

### Letters Home This Week

Social networking  
Year 3 Swimming

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome everyone back to school and look forward to an enjoyable and successful term. It was lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their uniforms. We are delighted to welcome new parents to the school and look forward to working with you closely. Please remember, if you do have any queries/concerns, come and talk to us by making an appointment with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Newsletters are issued every week on a Friday, and are also posted on our school website. Please take the time to read them as they will keep you up to date with events in school.

It has been fantastic going into the classrooms and seeing the children enjoying their learning. This week, they have been learning how to tie knots, balloon sculpting and how to play card games. Their enthusiasm has shone through with extremely happy faces, excitement and the perseverance to be successful has been wonderful to see. A positive start to what is going to be an amazing year.

Throughout this half term, the Directors of Learning and Lead Practitioners from Hearts will be in school, each week, supporting the learning in class. The children will be working with them, either in the class as a whole or in groups, along with their class teacher.

We are also finalising our plans for trips and/or visitors to the school to further enhance children's first hand experiences when learning in support of the curriculum. More information will be available over the next few weeks.

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Mr Greenwood, our Site Manager, who is leaving us today. We wish him well in his new role.

Please make sure that you keep up to date with our Twitter feeds and information on our website.

**Week Beginning: 10th September 2018**

**School Dinners**

Week 2



### Upcoming Diary Dates

#### September

- 20 Upper School Curriculum Evening
- 21 Jeans for Genes
- 24 School Photographer
- 25 Lower School Curriculum Evening

#### October

- 1 Assessment Week
- 9 Whole school open morning
- 12 Last day of half term
- 29 Children return to school
- 29 Year 6 Residential Visit to PGL Liddington

#### November

- 6 Parents Evening 3.30 to 5.00 pm
- 7 Parents Evening 3.30 to 5.00 pm and 6.00 to 8.00 pm

#### December

- 3 Assessment Week
- 7 HJSA Disco
- 12 Lower School Production
- 13 Lower School Production
- 19 Last day of Autumn term

**"Hilltop Mums and Dads"**

We are disappointed to have to share our concerns regarding the above social media account. A number of parents have printed some of the postings and reported them to the school as of grave concern. These include discussions where children can be identified (if not named), allegations about spending by the school and Trust which are false and some highly insensitive postings about adults in the community. The site itself says parents who join must "not tell tales to the school". The site excludes some parents from joining and in our view is divisive and does not represent the Hilltop schools' community or the values of the school. We have asked the administrators to remove the Hilltop name from the title as some of the discussions are actively encouraging negative campaigning against the school.

We want parents to know that this site does not represent us, our school, our pupils or most of our parents.

We completely respect the right of all adults to engage in on line discussions but will continue to investigate where postings are potentially libellous, lead to children being identified or are upsetting /harassing of others (including the school) or where the site brings our school into disrepute. Thank you.

Mrs K Mackenzie  
Executive Headteacher  
Hilltop Infant and Junior Schools

**School Uniform**

Can we please remind you that girls should not wear any big bows, just plain red Alice bands, in their hair and long hair should be tied back. Also, girls may only wear red, grey or black tights. Skirts, shorts and trousers should be charcoal grey and not black. Shoes should be black. Thank you.

**Music lessons - Guitar**

We currently have vacancies should your child like to learn to play the guitar. The current cost per term is £75 (for low income families there is a £46.50 voucher available towards the cost). If you are unable to buy an instrument Essex Music Services offer a very reasonable hire service. All the necessary information and forms can be obtained from the school office. Places are allocated on a first reply basis.

**Medication**

Can we please remind parents that all medication, **including asthma pumps**, coming into school must display the chemist sticker clearly showing patient's name, date and dosage. Without this we cannot administer the medicine. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Foreign Language lessons**

Please be advised that this year we will no longer be teaching Spanish but will be teaching French. This will help pupils joining our feeder schools (Beauchamps and Bromfords) who both teach French as part of their foreign languages curriculum.

**School Menu**

Please find attached our revised menu for September. Please ensure your child is aware of the choice for each day if they are to have a school dinner.

**Attendance/Term Dates**

Please find attached **Term Dates for 2018/19**, which includes a summary of our Attendance Policy for your information. Please remember that Headteachers may no longer grant any leave of absence during term time. Leave of absence will only be considered under 'very exceptional circumstances' and family holidays do not come under this criterion. For all children to gain the greatest benefit from their education, and to raise standards of pupil attainment, it is vital they attend school regularly and on time.

**Jimmy Greaves football academy**

Jimmy Greaves football academy will be coaching boys and girls from 5 years to 18 years at Beauchamps High School on their new 3G pitch. Please see their website for further details and to make a booking: [www.jimmygreasacademy.co.uk](http://www.jimmygreasacademy.co.uk)

**Clubs**

This term we will continue with outside agencies running some of our After School Clubs. This will give the children a greater variety of clubs to choose from, as well as some of the more traditional in house clubs such as Choir. For clubs run by outside providers there will be a small charge payable to the instructor. For in house clubs, you will receive a letter next week, giving you a password to log on to our on-line system in order to reserve a space for your child, which are allocated on a first reply basis. We are currently arranging extra-curricular clubs and details will follow in our Newsletter next week.

**Reading Books**

We are currently in the process of re-organising the children's reading books in our school to support their levels and to provide a varied reading list of recommended books. This process will take some time to establish and we thank you for your understanding whilst we are going through this transition. Children will be issued with their first reading book by the end of next week and we will keep you informed about our development in this area of the curriculum.

**Parking**

It is very important to us that children and their families feel safe and happy on their way into and out of school. Can we therefore please remind you that cars should not be parked on the road markings, on bends, across driveways or on pavements. No parents or carers should drive onto the school site unless by prior arrangement with the office staff at the Infant or Junior schools.

Please would all parents/carers take extra care to park safely and appropriately. Staff are currently needing to spend time dealing with cross parents and neighbours and this time would be better spent teaching and caring for your children.

Please pass this message on to any adults who also currently drop off your children to school.

Thank you for your continued support to keep our school a safe place for everyone.