



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 21st September 2018
Newsletter No: 3

Attendance w/beg: 17 September 2018
Whole School: 97.07%
Class of the week: 3RV with 99.62%
Well done!

3F: 98.52%	3LA: 98.15%	3RV: 99.62%
4A: 98.89%	4G: 96.07%	4PD: 97.59%
5H: 97.14%	5K: 94.07%	5P: 98.85%
6G: 93.93%	6LT: 98.62	6W: 93.79%

Letters Home This Week

Jeans for Genes

Bienvenue en français

What a fabulous start to French last week! It was wonderful to see the children so excited to be learning a new language. They have really embraced their learning so far, and have all joined in learning how to greet each other in different ways. Their enthusiasm is fantastic with many children completing work of their own at home. Well done everyone! Or should we say "Bien fait tout la monde!"

The children have also been learning to play the recorder and 3F had their first swimming lesson today, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We look forward to hearing their successes as the weeks progress.

Within class, the children have been working on place value in Maths and Upper School have been letter writing and writing character descriptions in English. Lower School have been writing their Minotaur descriptions.

Attendance

Since the beginning of term, we have been closely monitoring across the school, as we are aiming for 100% in all classes. Our attendance figures have improved this term, so far, which is fantastic. However, there has been a dip this week. Let's make a big effort for next week. May I remind you that for your child to have the best opportunities to achieve academically, they must be in school every day. Congratulations to the many pupils whose attendance has been 100% (270 pupils this term).

Week Beginning: 24th September 2018

School Dinners
Week 1



Upcoming Diary Dates

September

- 24 School Photographer
- 25 Lower School Curriculum Evening
- 26 Year 6 Liddington Meeting

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

Curriculum Evening

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Upper School Curriculum Evening, where we shared some of the learning your children experience every day and you were able to meet your child's teacher. We hope you enjoyed the tasters from our lunch menu too. Photos are on our Twitter page. Please complete our survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HPD2Y2T> so that we can receive your feedback for future events. A link is also available on our website.

Lower School Curriculum Evening is on Tuesday 25th September at 6.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

MDA VACANCIES

We have 2 vacancies to join our amazing and dedicated team of Midday Assistants in supporting the children at lunchtimes. Application packs are available via the school office.

Message from Kerry Westbrook, School Counsellor:

I am Kerry Westbrook, your school counsellor. In 2000, I studied and gained qualifications in psychology. It then felt a natural progression to take up a diploma in therapeutic counselling, after which I qualified as a therapeutic integrative counsellor in 2006. I worked for St. Lukes Hospice and Thurrock Mind during my time studying and then CAMHS. After joining the Wickford Cluster schools in 2012, my portfolio has increased to 7 schools across the area.

I am very passionate about supporting the emotional well-being and promoting good mental health of our young people, their families and the school staff, taking care of them during the school day. Married with 3 grown up sons, I have a vast amount of life experience to draw on, as well as my counselling skills and having connections with many outside agencies to be able to offer holistic support that is child centred.

Please ask a member of staff for me to contact you if you would like to book a confidential consultation.

Free School Meals

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Registering for free meals could also raise valuable extra funding for the school. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

To check if your child is eligible, please contact the school office who will be pleased to provide you with further details of how to apply.

Clubs

We are still organising more clubs and to date, these are the clubs that are in place:

- Dodgeball:** Run by Elite Sport started 13th September for all years from 3.15 - 4.15 pm. £3.50 per week.
Tennis: Run by Sports4Fun, will commence in October (further details to follow)
Football: Years 3/4 run by Mr Herring on Fridays from 21st September, 3.15 - 4.15 pm.
 Years 5/6 run by Mr Waterhouse on Tuesdays from 18th September, 3.15 - 4.15 pm
Netball: Run by Miss Fellowes on Mondays, from 17th September, 3.15 - 4.15 pm
Dance: Run by Mrs Ayeni and Miss Arthur on Mondays, from 17th September, 3.15 - 4.15 pm
Choir: Run by Mrs Leech on Tuesdays, from 25th September 3.15 - 4.10 pm booking details to follow
Cross Country: Run by Mr Kitchen on Fridays, from 21st September, 3.15 - 4.15 pm.

Music lessons - One place left for woodwind! (saxophone, clarinet or flute)

We currently have one vacancy remaining should your child like to learn to play a woodwind instrument. 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.

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.

Year 2 to 3 Transition

We would like to ask all parents of pupils in Year 3 for their views on the transition arrangements this year, by completing a short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WQY3CKK>. There is also a link on our school website. Your help in collating this information is much appreciated.

Parent Partnerships

All staff from both Hilltop Junior and Infant schools began working together this week to further develop and strengthen our partnerships with parents and carers. As the weeks progress, further information will be shared with you as to how you can be involved.

Jeans for Genes

A big thank you to everyone who helped us raise £255 today for this worthy cause.