



# Hillstone News

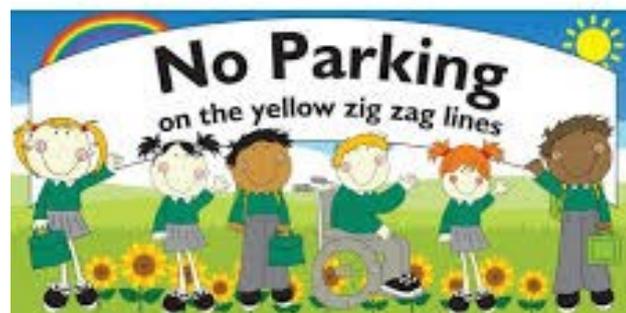
pos	class	played	won	drew	lost	lates	points
<b>1</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>RN</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>2L</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>1Y</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>RM</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>2DS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>

pos	class	played	won	drew	lost	lates	points
<b>1</b>	<b>4T</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>6B</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>3E</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>6K</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>4F</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>5K</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>

Every week I sit down to write a newsletter to keep you informed about upcoming events and to celebrate some of the great stuff we have been doing. Every week, I seem to get so busy, the newsletter just drops of my 'to do' list. Before I know it, weeks have gone by and I haven't sent one out. I will try and give you an overview of some of the great things we have been doing and a look forward to the last week of term and a look forward to the New year.

### Logo Competition

Thank you to all the children who entered the logo competition for the Birmingham Children's festival. I entered the best 6 and we are currently waiting to hear if one of our designs has been selected.



For our children's safety please do not park stop on the zig zag lines.

### School closures and Teacher Days

School will be closed for voting on Thursday 12th December.

There will be two training days on January 6th and January 7th. So children are due back to school on Wednesday 8th January.

## ATTENDANCE

RM	91.0%
RN	92.5%
6K	94.5
3E	94.5%
2DS	94.8%
5K	95.5%
4F	95.8%
4T	95.9%
6B	96.15%
5B	96.3%
3B	98.3%
1Y	98.3%
2L	98.5%
1T	99.7%
Whole School	96.2%

Nearly every child had the flu vaccine administered at school by the school nurse. I hope that protects them from the worst of winter flu. I know many schools have had to close because of norovirus, but our attendance at 96.2% is still above national average so I think we have weathered the worst of it.

## Outdoor Learning

Children get so much benefit from learning in an outdoor environment. Nowadays it can be harder than ever for children to just be allowed to play outside. We try to ensure a good percentage of our curriculum involves taking the children outside for their learning. We are so fortunate in the grounds we have. Mrs Edwards is responsible for outdoor learning and forest school and she has made a request for some resources. Can you help?

### Resources for outdoor learning games

- Newspapers
- Bottle crates
- Carpet tiles
- Planks of wood/scaffold boards
- Tarpaulin
- Rope
- Saucepans
- Frying pans
- Toasting forks
- Drain pipes/tubing

### Clothing Donations

- Wellies
- Waterproof coats
- Waterproof trousers
- Gloves



I recently took gardening club to Packwood House at the request of the National Trust, to plant bluebells. If you get chance you might want to visit in June when there should be a carpet of flowers—we planted 4,000!



Year 6 at Woodlands

## Drama

Another useful tool to support learning is drama. As a Platinum Arts Mark school, we have close links with a number of prestigious companies. We currently have an Actor in Residence from the Birmingham Rep. Bhavik's work helps support the topics that the children are learning about, so that they get a deeper understanding. We also work with Language Alive, a theatre in education company who use interactive workshops to help the children explore the use of language in their topic. Our year 3 are now working with the National Theatre and their performance of 'The Snow Queen' will be shown next week.

Once again, our year 6 children entered the Shakespeare for schools festival. People often consider that Shakespeare is more suitable for secondary pupils but our children really get to grips with it. They love the stories and enjoy exploring the language. They started the season with a visit from Shakespeare for kids, who performed Macbeth. It is very impressive to hear our year 6 pupils comparing themes in different plays. Drama group also performed Twelfth Night at the MAC theatre.



## Trips and Visitors



Learning always becomes much more embedded if it is a hands on experience.

Here are just a few examples of some of the experiential learning that our children have been involved with this term.

Reception children became palaeontologists as part of the Dinosaur Day



Year 2 visit Sudbury Museum of Childhood. They played with some old fashioned toys and compared them to toys today.



Year 4's learn how the ancient Egyptians would mummify a body at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

## Learning about Faith



It is important that children learn about and understand different faiths as well as people with no faith. As part of this programme, children visit different places of worship throughout their time at Hillstone. I am always impressed by how respectful our children can be and their willingness to learn about something different.

We also have special assemblies to celebrate and recognise British traditions and values.

We held a Harvest Festival and Mr Farr wrote a very moving remembrance service, supported by our talented choir.



We are currently in the middle of Christmas performances. Although we have had far less this year, so we are not losing too much curriculum time on rehearsals, we have planned or have already performed nativities in early years. Our year 1 children performed their nativity at Southfields Farm, complete with live animals.

# Hillstone Stars



## 4th October

Zaion Thomas-Preece  
Mia Cairns  
Louisa O'Farrell  
Lexi-Leigh Hickman  
Ocean-Siena Simons  
Jonas Barnett  
Maddison Caldicott  
Riley Evans  
Summer Bropwn  
Evie Harford  
Denior Shirzadeh  
Teagan Reeves  
Jayden Morris

## 11th October

Lacie-Rose Baker  
Jake Johnson  
Mia Sandford-Smith  
William Skinner  
Amelia-Rose MacMillan  
Matthew Murtagh  
Brogan Whale  
Eli Reading  
Ahmed Mushtaq  
Melissa Blakeman  
Mason Bowen  
Amari Lewis

## 25th October

Harlee Shaye Ricketts  
Frankie Dickerson-Doyle  
Zohaab Yasir  
Milene Pasternak  
Lily Hinton  
Poppy Lucas  
Skye Burkett  
Kacey Wahab  
Jasmine Holdsworth  
Evie Sale  
Jack Bellamy  
Louie Ray Gregory



## 15th November

Enya Kew  
Archie Vincent  
Lyla Green  
Neve Clark  
Eva-May Evans  
Dylan Hancox  
Shayon Octave-Johnson  
Keira Long  
Naalah Gordon-Morton  
Braiden Floyd  
Cruz Pryce  
Bradley Pendry



## 22nd November

Lana Latchford  
George Cooke  
Bella Zhu  
Ayaan Mohammed Hussain  
Denis Delaney  
Jacob Mobbs  
Shay Hall  
Tia Waite  
Sian Caldicott  
Ruby Roberts  
Huma Mushtaq  
Rylie Walker



## 29th November

Essa Henderson  
Talia Grimason  
Aofie Nally Meah  
Luke Skinner  
Olivia Watts  
Atalia Keeling  
Jaide Lowe-Vagdama  
Jessica Griffiths  
Alex Cooks  
Mason Bowen





ART + science = PROGRESS

We have put STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) on our school improvement plan because we believe this is where we need to ensure that our children are ready for the future. All classes will be taking one of the existing topics and 'Steaming up' to ensure that the children are given problems and challenges for which they have to design solutions. Our year 5's worked with Birmingham City University on their topic of Energy. They researched climate change and visited the Steam House in Digbeth, where they designed future solutions. Two of their designs are going to be made into products and will be on display at the University.



## Community Events

Our brilliant PTA have organised the Halloween Disco, Bonfire Night and a Christmas Fair. These events take a huge amount of time to organise and run, which they give voluntarily. They provide brilliant fun for the children as well as raising much needed funds for the school. They are always desperate for more help. Contact the office if you can spare some time to join.





## Charitable Events

We are always proud of how our children step up to the mark and participate in events designed to support others less fortunate than themselves. What good citizens they will be in the future!

All of the food that was collected for our Harvest Festival was donated to the Kingfisher food bank. They wrote us a lovely card to say how grateful they were.

This Christmas we are once again collecting for Crisis at Christmas. Please see the attached flyer which will give you ideas for items that we are collecting to help those that find themselves homeless at Christmas time. Matthew Green, from Crisis will be joining us for our Carols Round the Tree and collecting our donations on Friday 20th December.

**THANK YOU**

**Hillstone Primary School**

*...for raising a fantastic*

**£555.82**

to help disadvantaged children and young people across the UK

Receipt no. GFM20070 0326604 04039

BBC Children in Need | twinkl  
Proud Schools Partner

The receipt is decorated with various colorful patterns and shapes, including a red gear, a yellow and blue target, a blue and yellow dotted circle, a yellow and white dotted circle, a yellow bear with a bandage, a red and orange striped circle, and a blue semi-circle.

## Choir

Mr Farr has been out and about with our choir and some musicians. They sang at Birmingham Airport for the switching on of the Christmas Lights, at our local Church All Saints, for their Christmas Fair and a wonderful concert at the historic St Paul's Church in Birmingham, with several other schools.



## Dining at Hillstone

Another strength of Hillstone School is our magnificent food offer. As you know, every year all primary schools take part in the National Child Measurement Programme. Our results of this have steadily risen for the last four years. We have received the results for this year, which take in to account the weight of reception children and year six children. Our results show a 1% decrease in overweight or obese children. This may not sound very good but in the context of national figures it is huge. Recently, as some of you may have seen, Leeds became the second city in Europe to reverse childhood obesity after Amsterdam. Their results were down 1%. So we are very happy with our results, to not only halt the increase but to turn it around.



Without doing scientific research we can't pin point exactly what the cause of the decrease is but surely our whole school approach to health and wellbeing is starting to pay dividends.

A massive well done to everyone! If you would like further information on the results then don't hesitate to come and have a chat with us! As well as our dining experience, we ensure that food technology is embedded in our curriculum. All children get chance to work with chef to produce meals that fit in with their topic.

Y4 children have been making Egyptian bread.

## Sports

Since the start of the academic year, our children have taken part in nineteen sporting events or fixtures. Our Cross Country boys and girls team are currently top of their leagues with both teams finishing first in all three of their league races. On top of this, both teams also won the annual relay race, which was made up of year 5 or below children due to the year 6 classes being on a residential.

Our boys and girls football team also both have had a fantastic start to the season, winning all of their league games. The boys also have had a brilliant accomplishment in winning the ESPSFA cup for the first time in our schools history, beating the Oval 7-1 in the final. The girls team sit at the top of their league. We have three children who represent Erdington and Saltley District, of which the boys team, are doing incredibly well winning all of their matches so far this season.

Our children have also had brilliant success in the School Games Level 2 events.

Year 5/6 basketball- winners

Year 3/4 football @ AVFC- 3 wins and 2 draws

Sports Hall Athletics- 1st place

Para Football- 1st place

Para Athletics- 1st place

Year 3/4 dodgeball- 3rd place

We are once again running our intrahouse competitions, in which our aim is for every child in KS2 to represent their house team at least one intrahouse sports event during our school year. These events are organised and ran by our Sports Council.

Our first competition was Boccia in which Warwick were the winners.

These points contribute to house points at the end of the year.



## Last Week of Term

Monday 16th December

Y6 Shakespeare exhibition 3pm in dining hall

Tuesday 17th December

Nursery Christmas Performance  
Y3 Performance of The Snow Queen

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Dinner

Thursday 19th December

Staff Panto and Christmas Parties

Friday 20th December

Carols Round the Tree



Thank you to all the parents who come in to school for workshops, to watch performances and support community events. That positive relationship between parents and school, which we have with the vast majority of our parents, makes such a difference to children's performance at school.

I'd also like to say thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to write and say thank you and make positive comments to staff. It helps the staff to feel valued and I know they are an incredibly hard working staff.

Happy Christmas to you all

