



Hillstone News

Dear Parents, I hope you are keeping well and in relatively good spirits in these tough times. The staff are all missing the children terribly. A lot of my family have had birthdays during the lockdown and we've missed big special parties. I know that's the same for some of you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Hoife-Maureen Nally-Meah 6

Clarissa Wallace 4

Gabriel O'Neill 8

Jaydon Cooper 10

Savannah Kelly 9

Frankie Collins 9

Brooke Collins 9

Lacey McGuire 11

Harry Winters 4

Matthew Slater 5

Emma Gagin 4

Ahmed Mushtaq 9

Izac Ben Farhat 10

Kacey Wahab 8

Caylum Hammond 5

Freddie Jarvis 5

Sofia Bradley 6

Jenson Lay 5

Talia Grimason 5

Archie Hall 10

Rhyli Hewitt 8

Harrison Phillips 11

Leo Edwards 10

Scarlett Patton 4

Kiera Murtagh 10

Corey Hill 4

Annabelle Robinson 9

Roland Nally Meah 4

Lexie Mitchell 8

Alyus James 5

Summer Shrimpton 11

Keanu Blackwood 8

Amelie Hemming-Earp 11

Kyle Gavin 8

Tiyah-Blu Ricketts 7

Daniel Green 10

Josh Flynn 10

Callum Mann 4

George Cooke 5

Free School Meals

Sorting out vouchers for FSM has been a logistical nightmare. In Week 1, we provided food bags which contained £20 worth of food. In week 2, Birmingham provided supermarket vouchers worth £15 per child. You should have received these via a code sent to you by text. In weeks 3 and 4 (Easter holidays) you should have received vouchers from the national scheme sent via your e-mail address. To cover week 3 and 4 Birmingham also sent out vouchers codes for nursery aged children, which were sent via text message. Chef is putting breakfast bags together consisting of bagels, sachets of porridge and a large catering tin of Heinz baked beans.

Assemblies

I know how much you enjoyed the Easter assembly featuring the Spring Chicken.

Look out for this weeks, which will be to celebrate St George's Day on Thursday.



Mental health Help for 11-25 year olds

A new free online resource has been launched for supporting young people from year 6 (aged 11) up to 25. Obviously most of our children are younger than this but I know many of our parents have older children at home and may find this useful .

The full offer, including online self referral can be accessed at www.kooth.com. Kooth is linked into the wider mental health support from Forward Thinking Birmingham and offers:

- ◆ Online mental health counselling and chat services from midday to 10pm during the week and 6pm and 10pm at weekends.
- ◆ Peer to peer support through moderated discussion forums
- ◆ Self-care tools and resources to build resilience
- ◆ Early response to and identification of emotional well being and mental health problems
- ◆ No waiting lists, referrals or thresholds to access the service.



Learning at Home

For the first few weeks, children have had access to our learning at home portal on the web site. You do not need a printer for the children to complete this work. Early Years have been using Tapestry to set work and have had communication with parents. From next week, we are opening Hillstone Virtual School. Each day your child's teacher will send a video message with information about the learning for the day. They have planned and sourced the best online resources for your child's learning. Sometimes they will suggest clips from the BBC bitesize website or Oak Academy materials. Sometimes it will be a project that the teachers suggest or one of the existing online platforms that we already use such as Times Table Rock Stars. This will not be as good a learning experience as they would have if they were in school but will keep their brains active. Our main motive in providing this work is to keep the learning ticking over and to help you give your child some structure to the day. Do not let it become a source of stress for you and your child.

Children and parents will be able to send a message to their teacher at the bottom of the virtual classroom; they may want help with a concept or they may be really proud of something they have done.

A few families and parents are not easily able to access online learning. They may not have the internet or only one phone on which to access the learning for a number of children. If this is the case we can provide home learning packs. These will not be as good as the Virtual School, as there will be no new learning. They are really about consolidation and practice. If you are struggling with the learning at home, telephone the school and we may be able to help you. We can also provide you with an exercise book if you need some paper.

