



Hillstone News

A very warm welcome back to all children and parents. I hope you all had a great Christmas and I wish you all a happy new year. Thank you so much for the donations for Crisis at Christmas. I was so proud of our school as we sang carols around the tree on the last day of term and saw all the wonderful donations that our children had given for people less fortunate than themselves.

I'd like to offer congratulations to Becky Ballett in the office who gave birth to a little boy on boxing day.

As always Hillstone has some exciting events to look forward to this half term including our choir being asked to perform the Birmingham Cantata at the Council House for a civic event for the councillors and Y5 performing their own compositions at the Ruddock Centre. I will get a list of dates out to you by the end of the week.

Unfortunately as well as Becky's good news we will have a very much depleted staffing complement in the office. Becky is on maternity leave, Kerry Cartwright our business manager is still absent until the end of January as is Lillian Hepburn. In their absence there is going to be some work that we simply cannot cover and I would ask for your patience and forbearance whilst we try to manage this difficult time. Kate Hickinbottom does not work on Wednesdays so Jason King and I are going to try to help out on Wednesday mornings if we can. As the first day back tomorrow is a Wednesday, I would suggest that you don't try to make payments tomorrow; if you wait until Kate is around on Thursday—you will get a much more efficient service!

A reminder of your school councillors for the year. Do go to them with any ideas you have.

Children return to school at normal time tomorrow. You might remember before Christmas that I mentioned we would no longer be accepting wacky headbands (unicorns and cat's ears) in school. I would like to see all children in full uniform please; black shoes or trainers, grey or black skirt or trousers, Hillstone jumper or cardigan. Hillstone sweatshirts for our year 6 pupils. Some children choose to wear a tie which looks very smart. We have a range of uniform for sale in the office including warm woolly hats, reflective safety scarves and waterproof jackets. Don't forget to send your child in with coat and gloves on these cold days as they will be going out to play.

Sometimes this gets forgotten if you bring them to school in the car in the morning.

