



HILLSTONE NEWS



8th September 2017

Welcome back to everyone - I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. We began the term by having a training day for the whole school and governors, where we reviewed our work from last year and chose new improvement targets. We were pleased with all the activities and work that went on last year and we are delighted with our Ofsted report. The Inspector was highly complementary about our school. One of the issues that came out of the discussion was about improving communication with parents. We do feel we try hard by creating a weekly newsletter, Tapestry for early years, twitter, web site, group call and regular letters about specific events. Our Governors mentioned that more detail is needed, so that you know the exact times of events and that you are given plenty of warning. We will try our best to do this and I have spoken to the children about remembering to hand over letters to parents! Our other school improvement targets are:

- ◆ Raising standards in reading
- ◆ Raising standards in mathematics
- ◆ Raising standards at key stage 2
- ◆ Improve communication with parents
- ◆ Introduce growth mind sets



I know growth mind sets does sound like a bit of a trendy American term. We hope to explain more about it to you over the forthcoming year. We know that some of our children do not cope well if something is hard or challenging for them. I had this conversation with the inspector and that is why one of the development points in our inspections reads "Staff help pupils to acquire the confidence and skills to handle failure, as well as success, in their learning, so as to be able to learn from mistakes". I think you will find this work interesting as a parent and so we will be sharing this with you over the year.

We have some brilliant things planned for the year ahead and I hope you will enjoy being part of them. However, there may be times when you are not happy with an aspect and I would like to remind you to come and talk to a member of staff about any issues you may have. Do not vent your anger on facebook—this often gets out of hand and children can be very embarrassed by something written in anger. Nor does it provide a good example for children in how to solve problems.

Assemblies

As we were struggling to fit in all of the curriculum time we need, we have decided to play around with the timetable of assemblies a little, to see if this can help create more lesson time.

We are therefore going to trial a new timetable. The assemblies will now take place on Tuesdays and Friday, starting at 2.30pm. Do let us know what you think of this change.

Sir Readalot here!

Good to see you all back in school. Remember, I will be looking out for children who have read to an adult at home three times in the previous week.



Attendance

Attendance improved last year to over 96% - Hooray!

However the number of lates also increased. We will have a focus on punctuality this term. Remember your child will not be able to attend the golden adventure if they have more than two lates in a term.

Friends of Hillstone

Our parents' support group is a small but happy band who contribute hugely to the life of the school. If you look on the website they already have events such as bonfire night and a spooky ball planned for this term. They desperately need new members. If you can join them in the staff room for weekly meetings, that would be great. If you are unable to attend weekly day time meetings, you could offer to help out at one of the community events.

Dining @ Hillstone

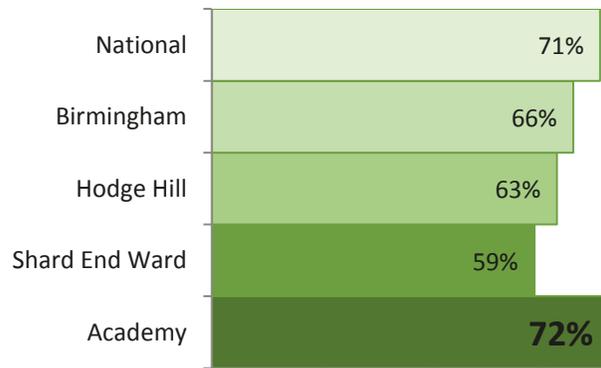
Although it was a little uncertain for a while, the provision of universal free school meals for all children in Reception classes, years 1 and years 2 will continue. We want to encourage healthier eating and so the initiative that we introduced to last years reception class—whereby children are not allowed to bring a packed lunch — will now continue for those year groups. Chef is very keen to work with parents on this issue and you are welcome to book a lunch and come and eat with your child at any time so you can see the range of meals on offer and taste the quality of food we offer. You might want to join the SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) to help us to continue to improve and be innovative. I would ask that you do try and support us on this or at least be open to listening to our approach. Children will not want to try and move away from crisps at lunchtime if they think their parents don't want them to either.

Hillstone Primary School

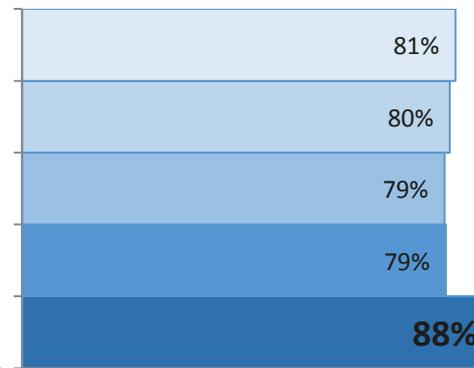
Year Ending: 2017
DfE: 3302434
Type: Academy converter
Location: Shard End Ward, Hodge Hill (B34 7PY)
Ofsted: Good (05/02/13)
Year Groups: R - 6

| | Academy | Ward | District | LA | National |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Primary Roll / Ave Roll: | 417 | 348 (8) | 500 (35) | 347 (326) | - |
| Free school Meals: | 35% | 39% | 29% | 27% | 14% |
| Disadvantaged: | 58% | 55% | 42% | 40% | 25% |
| EAL: | 3% | 16% | 66% | 45% | 21% |
| BAME: (Y1 - 6) | 24% | 41% | 84% | 64% | 24% |
| IDAC1: | 0.39 | 0.44 | 0.34 | 0.31 | |

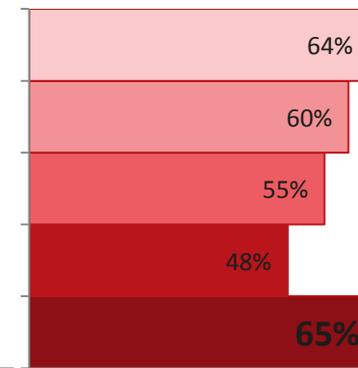
EYFSP
% Good Level of Development



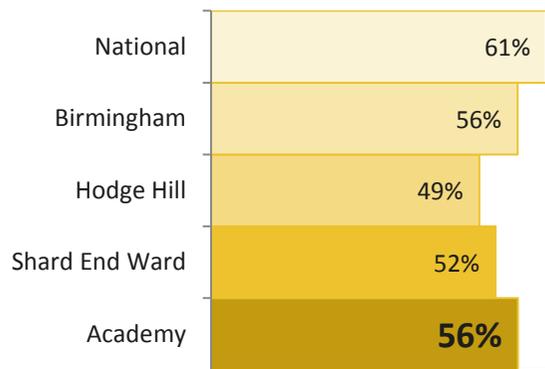
Phonics
% Year 1 Working At



Key Stage 1
% EXS+ Reading, Writing and Maths



Key Stage 2
% Reading, Writing TA and Maths at Expected Standard



Key Stage 2 Average Progress

