



# HILLSTONE NEWS



9th September 2016

Welcome back to everyone. I hope you all had a super summer holiday. I would particularly like to thank the PTA for doing such a magnificent job with their 2-week summer play scheme. The PTA organise and run this on a voluntary basis and I know both children and parents are very grateful for such great provision during the long holidays. Some families chose to take part in my 'diary' competition and or the book bench trail. I have been really impressed with the quality of entries. Everyone who entered will get a Hillstone ruler and pencil and there will be a prize for the winning book bench trail and the winning 'diary'. We have an exciting year ahead of us with new trips and projects and initiatives planned as well as old favourites. We try to keep trips and residential as cheap as possible for you, subsidising heavily in many cases. Nevertheless it can be a shock if you suddenly have to fork out for something particularly if you have more than one child at school. Can I suggest you start a savings scheme at the office. Parents who have done this in the past have found it tremendously helpful. You can add money whenever you wish. Staff meet on the first teacher training day every year to discuss where the focus of our new school improvement plan will be. We collect evidence based on data, government requirements and comments from our school community. This year we have given ourselves seven major targets to concentrate on these are:



1) Raising standards in reading 2) Raising standards in mathematics ; particularly times tables  
3) Equalities 4) Safeguarding; particularly e-safety 5) Early Years 6) Growth mindsets 7) Parental engagement

## Dining @ Hillstone

Many congratulations to Benjamin Barnett now in RL who has sent in their family recipe for Italian meatballs which is now part of our menu. Benjamin and his family will be invited to a VIP lunch. Do you have a family recipe that you would like to see on our menu? Chef has designed our new menus for breakfast, snack and lunch. All delicious; often organic and fair trade and all meeting food standards. Some meals have been chosen by the children as their favourites. We will continue to have special theme days. Do go on to the web site where chef has published these. If you have any concerns over allergens or any aspect of our food provision, please come and talk to chef. Look out for the Fast Food Festival coming soon where chef will teach you how to cook delicious fast food healthy meals and then sell the ingredients at cost price. Children will no longer have to purchase carton of squash at lunchtimes. A choice of diluted orange juice, milk or water will be available with school dinners at no additional cost. At snack time children may purchase a snack which included a drink for 35p a day (25p in infants). During learning time, children have access to water in their water bottles.

## Sponsored Event

The sponsored challenges will take place next week., mainly on Friday. This will help us raise much needed funds for the school as well as help children with their core skills. Each child will have one spelling challenge and two maths challenges. When they have completed their challenge they will bring home a letter to tell parents how they scored so they can collect their sponsorship money. The money raised will be used to buy new resources to support outdoor learning relating to maths and English.

## Attendance

I would like attendance to reach 96.5% this year if possible. You may remember that the government threshold for persistent absence has now been set at 90% and parents will be fined if their child's attendance falls below this over time. We have had a parent who has been taken to court over the summer holidays.

The Reading Fairy is back from her holidays and looking for children who have read to an adult at home sometime in the previous three days so she can Give them a book prize.



## Before and after school safety.

Breakfast club opens at 8.00am and a register is taken of children as they go through the door. If your child does not attend breakfast club they are your responsibility until the start of the school day at 8.45 and you should remain in the playground with them. The exception to this is year 6 who are allowed to walk to and from school on their own with parental permission. However, once on site, they MUST not leave the playground.

## Being a role model

One of the biggest concerns of the day is children's language and communication skills. Please do not use mobile phones on site. We want to encourage talking and listening to our children. I would also ask that when you come into the reception area, you do not continue to wear headphones. This is just about role modelling good manners to our children.



## New Book ~Bench

Just before we broke up we held a Hillstone Literary Festival and Mrs Gillett entered our work into a national literary competition. We won first prize and as a result won the magnificent Dr Zeus book bench which will join our BFG book bench when it comes back from the museum and art gallery and our new one inspired by last year 6 which is based on a Midsummer Night's Dream

