



# Hillstone News

## Happy New Year

Welcome back everyone. Sorry it may seem a little bit late to be wishing you a happy new year but my new role has meant that I was unable to be in school last week. I have so loved being back today with the children, who are looking very smart and bringing in their great learning attitudes.

My role until the end of this academic year will be half of the time as Hillstone Headteacher and half of the time working for Birmingham Education Partnership, supporting other schools. I am taking on this part time role as it will bring in a significant amount of money into the school which is much needed. Then in July I will be retiring from headship - I may have to be dragged kicking and screaming from my beloved Hillstone!

For the rest of the year, Mr King will be Acting Head when I am not in school, actually that is how we have always worked. So do talk to us about any issues or concerns you may have. It does feel very challenging at the moment in terms of the impact covid has had on staff and pupil absence, so please do bear with us if you have to wait a few days to get an appointment. However, having that dialogue with you is so important to us, problems and issues are always resolved more productively with a face to face meeting rather than having a rant at the school gate. You might even want to contact us about something that you have really liked or are pleased with and we'd love to hear from you in those circumstances so that we can continue to build on these successes.

## Xmas Activities

One of the reasons that Hillstone is the best place to be, is the fantastic Christmas events that we hold every year. The PTA were amazing and organised a superb Winter Fair in spite of Covid, bad weather and train cancellations! I loved the wonderful nativity performances, Big Games organised by the playworkers, Christmas parties, Carols Round the Tree and the staff panto. The staff justified gunging me during the show with the fact that it was my last Hillstone Christmas. Thank you all so much for all your support with these activities.



## Anti Bullying

In Key Stage 2 we have introduced the evidence based KiVA programme as an anti bullying strategy. Last term we had 13 reported cases of bullying. Of these, 7 were found to be actual bullying. Three have now been completely resolved, interestingly the children just did not realise that their behaviour was bullying and have now addressed this. Whilst four continue to be monitored.

In the initial questionnaire that we undertook, 21% of our year 6 children said that they had been a victim of cyber bullying. This is higher than the national average of 10%.

This type of bullying happens out of school, so as parents/carers it is important to be aware of the language and content of conversations that your child is having online.

Please do be vigilant!

## Start of term activities

We've already started with some great activities for our children. Y4 began their Proud to be a Brummie project with a trip into Birmingham. The whole of the early years went to the Birmingham Rep to see The Snowman. Y5 are having visits from Zeiss this week as part of a very exciting project which involves robots.



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