



Hillstone News

Return to Hillstone

It's been a difficult week to say the least. All of us were excited to have the children back but that excitement was soon tempered by the fact that we had to close bubbles. Lateral flow tests are available in the community now for anyone, children or adults, who do not have symptoms. My staff take lateral flow tests twice a week, these tests both from work and from the community have picked up asymptomatic cases which would not otherwise have been spotted. It has been awful having to close the bubbles - sometimes at very short notice. If your child's bubble is closed they must stay at home and self-isolate for ten days. For many of you this creates difficulties in trying to bring siblings to school. Most have been able to find someone to bring them, either partners or lovely parents who are walking past their houses and collecting en-route. Thank you so much for this. I do understand if you have no-one else to bring your other children though and the government have been made aware of this difficulty that parents can experience.

There is clearly a high incidence of Covid in the local area at the moment, it is incumbent on everyone to help stop the transmission. We have hugely spacious grounds and have the space to spread out - whereas other schools have parents on pavements outside their gates. We have noticed parents have tended to wait on the drive and not make use of the space available - why not spread out and use the playground. Staggered start and end times allow us to avoid different bubbles going through doors at the same time, however, I know this means that some parents have to hang around for longer. Just a polite reminder to continue to abide by social distancing guidelines, please do not join up with other parents and chat. It is easy to end up too close to others and unknowingly spread the virus. Whilst some people have caught Covid and not been very poorly, we have members in the community who are very vulnerable, even after their first vaccination jab.

Reading

Congratulations to Lillie-May Bell in 2DS who won the reading quiz on World Book Day. There were a few children who got all of the disguised figures correct and Lillie-May was selected at random from amongst those. We have brought back the Reading Fairy. On a Friday, if your child has read to an adult at home at least three times in the previous week, they have a chance to win a book. Remember though—you have to be in it to win it! Don't forget to sign off when you have heard your children read. It only needs to take about 10 minutes and children love that 1 to 1 attention and chance to chat.



Olivia Watts

It's so lovely to think of positive news and here is another wonderful act from a Hillstone child. Congratulations to Olivia Watts who raised £850 for the charity Centrepont.

Water Bottles

We have stopped selling single use plastic bottles. It was not appropriate to encourage use of these bottles when our children are studying the effect of plastic pollution in the world. We are selling Hillstone reusable water bottles for £2.50 and these will be available later this week. We will write children's name on with permanent marker, so that they will not be shared or lost.

Breakfast club

I am really sorry we are unable to offer breakfast club to everyone at the moment. We just wouldn't have room whilst we have to operate in bubbles. Chef and staff are delivering toast and bagels to the classrooms though and the children are loving this. Meanwhile our lovely chef has offered to provide breakfast packs for families to take home. We will see if there is interest in this by sending out a form. The Amazon home breakfast deliveries will cease after Easter,

Behaviour

If your child comes home upset because of something that has happened at school, can I ask you to come and talk to us about it first. I have had instances already this week of children passing messages to other children's moms and not having an accurate account of an event. I do not want any child to feel so unhappy that they don't want to come to school, but the only way to solve this is to get an accurate understanding of what is happening.



Mothers' Day

I hope you had a good indulgent mother's day and enjoyed the daffodils. Please discourage your children from picking the daffodils along the school drive. They should be there

Red Nose Day

This Friday is Red Nose Day and we've decided to join in the fun.

More information will follow tomorrow!



HILLSTONE STARS

Each week, teachers will choose a Hillstone star from Lockdown School and one from Virtual School. They will all be celebrated on the Hillstone Stars tab on our website. Here are last week's outstanding pupils.

Maisara Arush

Ava-Grace Lynch

Aiden Richards

Isla McGovern

Francesca Dollani

Keanu Blackwood

Emmy McGovern

Daniel Green

Ibrahim Ali

Poppy Lucas

Jacob Butler

