



# Hillstone News

## Coronavirus Cases

Well I suppose it had to happen sooner or later didn't it. We were one of the last schools in Birmingham to have to close a bubble. Thank you to parents who kept their children off when they had symptoms and went promptly to get a test. We were then able to close the bubble and hopefully stop any transmission from happening within school.

The rules are complicated, but whenever there is a case, I phone Public Health England, who talk me through all of the necessary dates and actions.

Individuals have to isolate if they have been in contact with a positive case 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms or a positive test. The period of isolation for contacts is 14 days from the onset of symptoms.

The isolation period for our Year 3's is only for a short time, as the first test that they had was inconclusive. As a result, they didn't attend school and a second test was undertaken.

If a bubble is closed, siblings can still come to school (provided there are no symptoms present) but I know that can be difficult if you don't have anyone to bring them. I'm wondering if others in the community could help out and offer to bring in children who are in the same bubble as your child.

If your child's bubble is isolating and they are entitled to free school meals, please ensure you have arranged collection of your food hamper for the week from the office.

The virtual school is up and running fully for years 1 and 4. Children should be accessing these lessons, otherwise they may fall behind in their learning. There is a timetable for each virtual class and I think it will help provide some structure for the day for your children if you follow the timetable. Please contact us if you are having any difficulties with virtual school.



We have collected £195 so far for the Children in Need Appeal. If you haven't sent your money in for the non-uniform day yet you can still do so using the Tucasi system. This year the focus of the appeal is on mental health. In particular the 5 to Thrive approach. Five actions that can help both adults and children to feel better are:

- Connect
- Take Notice
- Get Active
- Be Curious
- Give

Visit the Five to Thrive hub to learn more about the five actions.  
<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/primary-school/five-to-thrive-hub/>

## Behaviour

As you know, I was worried by an increase in physical behaviour such as tripping or pushing others amongst a small number of children, which was leading to an escalation of problems. Well, the good news is, this has largely stopped—hooray! The bad news is that I have increased cases of what I would call spiteful behaviour. Calling names, leaving people out of games or going into someone else's lunchboxes or lockers. In both cases this is a very small minority of children. Do talk to your children about why this is unacceptable behaviour and if someone does this to them or they see it happening, they should report it to a prefect or a trusted adult.

This week is anti-bullying week. It isn't automatically bullying behaviour if there is one incident of name calling, or if two children have fallen out. The definition of bullying is that it happens over a period of time and involves an imbalance of power. However, we will be discussing the issue of spiteful behaviour both in school and virtual school. I want to ensure Hillstone is a safe and happy place for everyone to come to and we need everyone to understand and play their part if that is to

## WAYS TO SHOW

# Kindness



Forgive someone for a mistake

Offer to help



Make a donation



Smile



Write a kind note for someone



Give someone a compliment



## Remembrance

I hope you enjoyed the remembrance service. Our children are so respectful at this time. It is still available on virtual school if you would like to watch it.



## Dining at Hillstone

Changes to where children are eating their lunches may have influenced a difference in attitudes, as to what is allowed in lunch boxes. My supervisors tell me that they have noticed chocolate starting to creep back in again. Please note that this is not an appropriate lunch food.

You may remember, back in summer I gave a link to the Blue Peter web site. If you sent in a poem you would have a chance to win a Blue Peter Badge. Many congratulations to Jack Bellamy in Y6 who won a badge, allowing him free entry to over 200 attractions.

### Guitar

Guitar Guitar  
I love my guitar  
I leant to play  
All thanks to Mr Farr  
He's a music teacher beyond belief.  
He also teaches ukulele each week  
A number one music teacher at Hillstone School  
He organises trips and concerts as a rule  
He's so cool  
I will really miss our music lessons  
When I leave this school.



By Jack Bellamy

### Catch up

One of the biggest areas that seems to me to have been hit by missing so much time in the summer, is handwriting. In today's world, where so much is done online, children are no longer using handwriting and fine motor skills are declining.

Try to encourage your child to do some writing each day. From as little as a sentence to writing a whole story. They could help with shopping / Christmas lists or write a letter to someone. There is nothing that grandparents like better than receiving a letter.

Always insist on the best that a child can do—so if it is not neat, ask children to rewrite it so that they are proud of their work. Do not accept poor quality from a child—or they will learn to only do a second rate job.

The national handwriting Association has some useful articles that parents may find helpful

<https://nha-handwriting.org.uk/handwriting/help-for-parents/>



# HILLSTONE STARS

*Zofia Pawlaczyk*

*Emma Gagin*

*Lyla Green*

*Larna Evans*

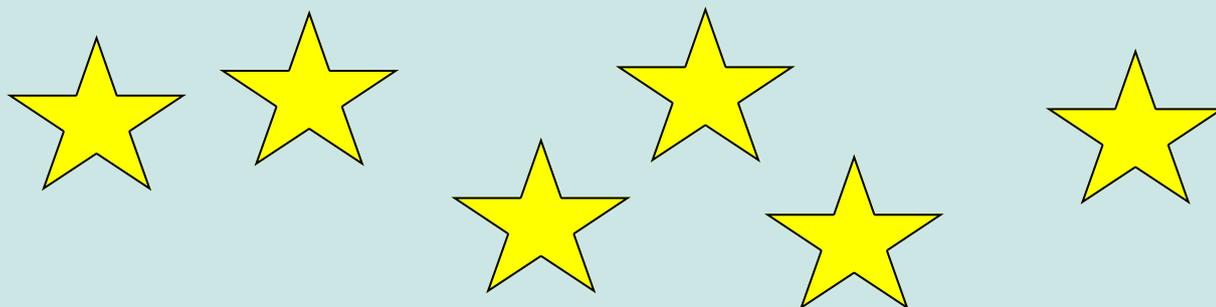
*Tia Waite*

*Brocke Collins*

*Spencer Stanford*

*Riley Stanford*

*Andrea Lazar*



# HOUSE POINTS

LUDLOW 161

TAMWORTH 175

WARWICK 161

DUDLEY 178