



Hillstone News

COVID SAFETY

I'd like to begin by thanking all the parents who are now wearing masks - we really do appreciate it. I mentioned last week that I felt that there was a high prevalence of infection in the area but I did not have the figures. Whilst the country is generally celebrating a reduction in infection rates and deaths, thanks largely to the brilliant vaccination programme, Shard End figures are in sharp contrast. Taken from data on the 13th March, 71 areas in the West Midlands have zero cases whilst there are 17 postcodes that have an infection rate of more than 200 per 100 thousand cases. Of those 17 postcodes, Shard End was the third highest in the West Midlands and the second highest in Birmingham wards. This is not a league table we want to be near the top of.

I have hated having to close bubbles this week, when the children were so excited to be back at school, and my fear is that unless the spread of transmission can be halted, we will have bubbles return only to have to close again. If a child's bubble has to self isolate, they do have to stay in their homes for 10 days. They are not allowed to go for a walk or out to play, they may well be infectious and not know it.

Even after they have completed their self isolation, they should still not be mixing with other households. Every day at school we have children saying "Oh I stayed at my nan's at the weekend" or cousins.... or friends. We have challenged some parents on this. Not because it is our job to police it but because we are really worried about the effect on children having to miss so much school and on parents unable to go to work. When challenged we are told that is their support bubble only to find that someone has named the same person as their support bubble.

Please do all you can to help keep your child's class open by following the rules and not allowing the children to mix.

Easter Activities

It won't be a normal Hillstone Easter, but we will have a fun assembly next Monday featuring Spring Chicken! We will launch our decorated egg competition. Remember to use a hard boiled egg and return to school on Monday 29th March. We will judge them on Tuesday and film them for you to see on our Easter Assembly on the last day of term, which will tell the Christian Story of Easter.



Water Bottles

We have stopped selling single use plastic bottles. It was not appropriate to encourage their use 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 are now available, simply pay on Scopay and collect from the office. We will write the children's name on in permanent marker so they will not be shared or lost.

Easter Holiday Club

I am looking for funding to try to run a free summer holiday club. However, this is not available for Easter. The company who ran holidays activities last summer, Central Education, have agreed to run a weeks worth of activities at £12 a day. I was most impressed with them last year - book your place using the form below:

[**Book Now**](#)



*Thank you to
all the
children who
wore red to
raise money for
Red Nose Day*

Behaviour—WhatsApp

It was brought to my attention last week, that a group of our children are using WhatsApp to have inappropriate conversations. In some cases this involves being mean to one child, but even without that aspect, their conversation involved issues that were adult in content. Is your child old enough to have a phone and if they are on social media are you aware of the conversations that they are engaging in?

I would always suggest that phones and other digital devices are taken out of bedrooms at night.





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.

Darcey McBride

Kylan Gibbs-Moore

William Skinner

Tyler Starkey

Olivia Watts

Elliot Kiely

