



Hillstone News

The Big Ask

Rachel de Souza, the children's commissioner for England, is asking for views of adults and the children regarding what they would like for their future. If you can take part in the short survey, it will help to shape future policy for our children.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

Commonwealth Games Volunteers

Commonwealth games organisers are looking for more than 13,000 dedicated and dynamic volunteers to join the Commonwealth Collective.

There's a volunteer role for everyone: they need drivers, first aiders, meet and greeters, venue preppers, kit carriers, courtside assistants and everything in between to help keep the Games running smoothly.

Whether you've never volunteered before, or have specific skills and experience, they will provide all the training you need to prepare you for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Joining the Commonwealth Collective is your chance to give something back and be a part of something special.

You can find out more by visiting their website, including information about the volunteer criteria, commitment required and the selection process.

www.birmingham2022.com/get-involved/volunteering/



We are delighted to be able to offer 30 places for our Drama Summer School to junior children. It will be run by the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. The cost is £50 for the week, which is great value when you consider it will be high quality drama training for only £10 per day. There are only five places left, to sign up simply complete the form below:

[Drama Summer Club Sign Up](#)



Car Free Streets

Can I please remind all car users that driving cars along Hillstone Road without a valid permit during the restricted times may result in a penalty notice? The highways agency road signs at BOTH ends of Hillstone Road clearly indicate the times cars are allowed. We have become aware that cars are starting to drive along the road before the end of the prohibited times. Can I please emphasise that this MUST NOT continue and the local police are now also going to monitor this. This scheme has been very successful and as I have mentioned previously, we have received many comments from children and parents about how much safer they feel since the scheme began.

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Bikes on Site

I love seeing our children on their scooters and bikes and do encourage them to ride them to school. However, once on school grounds I'm afraid I must ask children to dismount and either lock them in the



bike shed or give them back to adults to take home. I know it's a shame as we have great grounds, but we have recently had a couple of nasty accidents with children bumping into other children or adults. So, I do need to consider the safety of all our families.

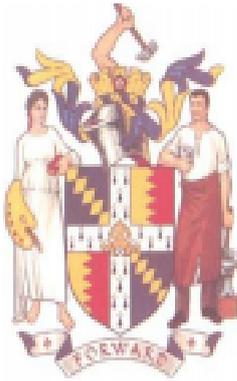
Snack and Water Bottles

We do not let children bring in their own snack and own water bottles because we know from experience that some children have then bought in fizzy drinks or unhealthy snacks. As a school in receipt of public money we do not believe we should be encouraging unhealthy diets. We ensure all our food provision in school meets school nutritional standards.

Our snack offer is 30p (infants) or 40p (juniors) per day, which provides the children with a healthy snack and a drink. It is always best to pay at least a week in advance on Scopay. Don't worry if you do not wish to pay for snack, whilst we are not able to offer free breakfast club to everyone at the moment, chef has been taking round free bagels first thing every morning, so no child is going hungry. By selling a £2.50 reusable Hillstone bottle this helps parents by avoiding children asking for expensive commercial versions.

Fidget Toys

The latest fad doing the rounds are 'fidget toys'. Children cannot play with them in the classroom, so if they bring them into school they can only be played with at lunchtimes. My personal view is that they are a complete waste of money and children's mental health would be far better improved by interacting with other children and playing games in our brilliant grounds. You should also talk to your child if they are bringing one in about not doing "swaps". This invariably leads to conflicts.



COUNCILLOR IAN WARD
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
THE COUNCIL HOUSE
VICTORIA SQUARE
BIRMINGHAM
B1 1BB
Tel: 0121 464 4000
Email: Ian.Ward@birmingham.gov.uk

Our Ref: IW/1384tr

14 May 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO: g.sparrow@hillstone.org.uk

Gill Sparrow - Head Teacher
Hillstone Primary School
Hillstone Road
Shard End
Birmingham
B34 7PY

Dear Gill

Thank you to everyone at Hillstone Primary School

As Covid restrictions continue to ease and life slowly returns to normal, I am writing to say a massive thank you to your whole team for your collective efforts over the last year.

It has of course been a tough year and I know that you and your staff have not been immune from the stresses and pressures that people across Birmingham have faced.

Nevertheless, you have all brilliantly supported your pupils and families, providing them with much needed continuity. That speaks volumes about your collective commitment to supporting the people of Shard End.

Please pass on my thanks to everyone at Hillstone and please also thank your parents and carers for the part they have played during this stressful period - particularly the way they stepped-up to support home schooling.

Everyone associated with the school should be extremely proud of their efforts over the last year.

Thank you. You've been amazing.

Warm Regards



ART COMPETITIONS

We know how important being creative is for children and adults alike. At Hillstone, we develop their creative skills across a range of media. We also like to give children a chance to participate in competitions and contribute to galleries. This gives them a real purpose and an audience for their work. We recently submitted six compositions to the Birmingham Education Partnership art gallery on the theme of Happiness. Please click below to see the entries:

<https://bep.education/school-art-exhibition-2021/>

Ms Norton is currently curating our own Happiness Art Gallery on our website. If your child entered you will be able to view their contribution on there.

To Infinity and Beyond

Mr Kransnapolski is a keen amateur photographer. During lockdown school, he taught photography skills to some of the Year 5 students. We entered these into a competition and were delighted that Bailey Wagstaff has won 2nd place by Birmingham's award winning photographer Matthew Murray who specialises in landscape photography and he said - "Bailey has produced an excellent creative image, with a real understanding of composition. Instead of photographing the tree at eye level, the image has been produced looking up, which highlights the amazing pattern created by the tree's shapes. This image demonstrates what you can achieve when you incorporate creative imaginative thinking.



More Art Opportunities

Here are links to two more competitions you might want to enter. The first is to design a new stamp for Royal Mail featuring a hero.

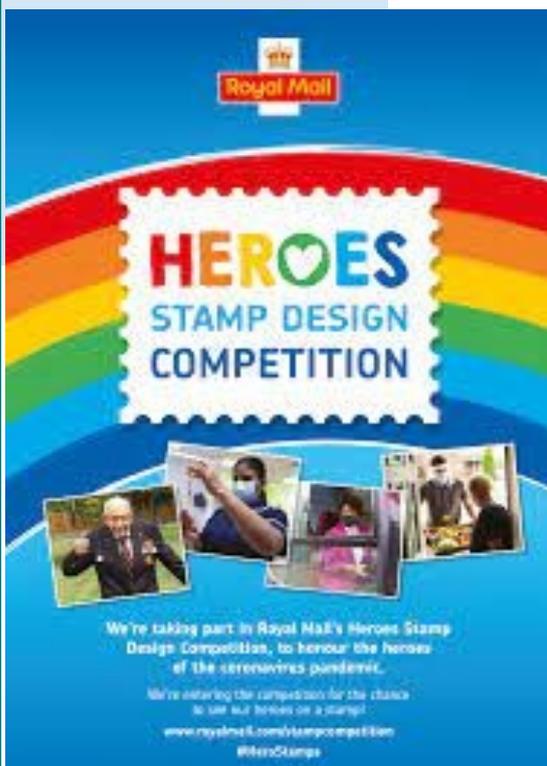
www.stampcompetition.ichild.co.uk/



Birmingham museum and art gallery are running their Inspire 21 competition on the theme of Nature and the Environment.

www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blog/posts/inspire-21-youth-art-competition

Finally, if you would like some more ideas for art activities, visit Ms Norton's art page on the virtual school: [//www.hillstone.org.uk/wp/art/](http://www.hillstone.org.uk/wp/art/)





HILLSTONE STARS

Each week, teachers will choose Hillstone Stars from each class. They will all be celebrated on the Hillstone Stars tab on our website. Here are the outstanding pupils from the last three weeks.

Jackson Brown Che Vincent Rhemi Senior

Callum Mann Jacob Boden Mahad Hawadle

Anais Simons Finlay Butler Eessa Henderson

Khloe Hammond Mia Sandford-Smith

Bella Zhu Oscar Hughes Leo Burris

Poppy Chapman Tristan Seeney

Hanniel Sarpong Riley France Blake Brooks

Alexis –Mai Swindale Ocean-Sienna Simons

Tayah-Louise Hermon

