



Hillstone News



Woodlands

What a great week our Year 6 children had at Woodlands. They had fantastic weather and their behaviour was excellent. They were able to do canoeing, zip wire, assault course, building fires, camp fire, archery, team building, den building, abseiling and climbing. Here is a picture of the rafts they built out of oil drums. They had fun but they also learnt practical skills and most important they developed character traits that will help them in life including being resilient, pushing themselves, following instructions, learning to be safe and to work in a team.

We are so lucky that our teachers are prepared to give up their time and be away from their families for a week to ensure our children have this experience. An experience that I know remains with children for the rest of their lives. My son is now in his 40's and when he saw the pictures on Twitter he was very envious and remembered his time going to Woodlands thirty years ago.

Cystic Fibrosis Day

Thank you to everyone who joined in wearing yellow for CF day. It was very strange to see a sea of yellow for a change instead of Hillstone blue. One of our little boys in reception has this condition and teachers have talked to children in their classes about the disease and how challenging it can be to live with. The money raised on CF day goes toward research to help improve the lives of those living with the illness.



Latest Covid announcements

Like many of you, we had hoped we would be back to normal by this week. However, the Prime Minister's announcement has meant that we need to review some of our arrangements. Many of our protocols will stay in place; staggered start and finish times, class bubbles, using hand gel and encouraging frequent hand washing and we would remind parents to maintain social distancing and wear mask when on-site.

All our trips apart from the nursery trip, which by necessity includes parents, will go ahead. This week is national sport week and we will have sports days but unfortunately we cannot have spectators.

Induction meetings for our new reception and nursery children will take place on the 21st July. Children in school will still have a transition afternoon with their new teachers. A video will also be sent out, outlining what you can expect for your child's future class. Unfortunately, we cannot hold parents evenings in person, however, you will receive a report of your child's attainment and achievement over the last year. When we send this out, you will have the opportunity to make a request for a phone call appointment with your child's teacher.

We are unable to hold our annual Hillstone Literary Festival but we will be having an author in to work with classes. Mr King and Coach will be giving out sports awards on Wednesday 14th July visiting each class. Mr King and I will be giving out the Year Achievers on Friday 16th July in a similar manner. This will be filmed and the video will be on our website and shown to all classes on Tuesday 20th July. Our year 6 musical will still be able to take place on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th. Only 2 adults per child will be able to attend one of the evenings, as we do have to limit numbers.

The last day of term will be Tuesday 20th July for all classes except Year 6. On Wednesday 21st July, Year 6 children will attend school from 10am to have a fun inflatable morning, a barbecue with parents and a water fight.

These end of year activities have been very difficult to organise whilst trying to ensure that we are being safe, complying to rules and still ensuring our children and community can get involved with as many as possible of our special Hillstone Activities. We will ensure the calendar on the website is kept up to date and that we send out regular text messages with details of events.



Hillstone Life Skills

Schools have long had a subject called PSHE, this stands for Personal, Social and Health Education and covers a huge range of aspects including safety, drug and alcohol abuse, road safety and sex education. We felt the title was a bit meaningless for children so a few years ago we called our PSHE curriculum, Hillstone Life Skills. We added our “No Outsiders—Everyone is welcome at Hillstone” books, which is a range of lovely children’s story books covering protected characteristics such as gender, race, age, disability to our library. We also talked to children and parents and asked them what they felt were important life skills for their children to learn about, such as money and understanding the media.

The sex education aspect at Hillstone is taught in very slow progression, starting in year 1, learning the correct names for parts of the body. We always have meetings for parents so that they are aware of the exact content of these lessons for each year group. Thank you to parents who have attended so far and given us useful feedback. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from these lessons but rarely do so. Parents usually see the value in their children learning about this in a supportive educational atmosphere.

From September 2021, a new aspect was included that of “Relationships”. This includes being a good friend, managing peer pressure, acknowledging respectful behaviour, recognising prejudice and discrimination. This is a legal requirement and there is no right for children to be withdrawn from this aspect.

We include another important aspect in our Hillstone Life Skills, that of having a Growth Mind Set, being resilient and prepared to take on new challenges. Just make an appointment to come and see me if you would like clarification on any of these topics and a breakdown of what that looks like in each year group.

AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
Relationships	Living in the wider world	Health and Wellbeing
Autumn 1: Families and friendships Safe relationships Respecting ourselves and others Citizenship Autumn 2: Growth Mind Sets	Spring 1: Community and belonging Media and digital resilience Spring 2: Money and careers	Summer 1: Physical and mental wellbeing Growing and changing Summer: 2: Keeping safe and moving on

Reading Fairy/mathemagician

During the pandemic, Mr King and I started to present **Hillstone Stars** by visiting each classroom, rather than having all the children together. We give out the certificates for the week, celebrate the Star of the Week and give a book prize from the ‘Reading Fairy’ to someone selected from our randomised ‘spin the wheel’, if they have read and had it signed off by an adult 3 times in the previous week.

We are now starting **Mathemagician**. There will be a maths prize in each class to anyone selected from the spinning wheel of fortune, who has been on Times Tables Rockstars 3 times in the last week.

Being Kind/Bullying

I have seen a deterioration in the way children speak to each and interact with each other. I think this is largely due to the pandemic and forgetting how to be kind to each other and not realising the consequence or the impact of their words or actions. I am also alarmed at the content children are watching on sites such as You Tube or Tik Tok which is encouraging over sexualised behaviour or aggression. I am also made aware of how nasty messages by adults on Twitter, Facebook and What’s App are influencing young children to behave in the same way and use the same aggressive language. I’m reminding children daily about being kind to each other. Please help support this at home. You will not want your child to be upset by another child’s language or actions. Help us to create an ethos where this kind of aggressive atmosphere is not tolerated and all children can feel safe and happy at school at all times.

Sports

We will be having sports days tomorrow and Thursday and I am so sorry we cannot have parents attend this year.

It was because of a sports day a few years ago, when a few children said in the morning they had tummy aches or bad legs and had notes from the parents saying they couldn’t take part, we realised that children were worried about possibly losing and would rather find an excuse not to take part. As a result we introduced growth mind sets. We call it **Hillstone Learning Powers** and there is no doubt that it is helpful for children in life to be encouraged to tackle things they find difficult and not just give up. This weeks assembly was all about this, including the science behind having a growth mind set. You can find it on our virtual school—you might want to watch it with your child at home. <https://www.hillstone.org.uk/wp/assemblies/>

It is a delight to have one of our past pupils with us, Teon, who was always super sporty at school and would like to do a similar role to Coach in the future. Teon is currently volunteering and working alongside Coach to support our pupils.

Taking part in physical activity is really important for many reasons, but every week I see children who have forgotten their PE kit. Why not bring it into school on Monday morning and take it home for washing on a Friday.



HILLSTONE STARS

Each week, teachers 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.

Orion Lewis

Rozhin Arden

Aj Taylor-Bennett

Eva-Lilly Swindale

Jayden McGrath

Gracie Maguire

Ariya Kasim

Millie Duncan

Jessica Burns

Nyah Anderson

Kodi Braham

Jacob Mobbs

Alesha Islam

Ellie Aziz

Frankie Collins

Mason Swallow

Hanniel Sarpong

Callum-John Hughes

Jake Rice

Denis Delaney

Sian Caldicott

Deen Lowe-Vadgama

Leo McDonald

Ellarna Foster

Mathew Slater

Henry Jones

Tia Waite

Conrad Barnett

Keylie Patton

Indie-Rose Hughes

Ishaq Henderson

Rayyan Schwarm

Louie Ray Gregory

George Cooke

Jorgie Swallow

Archie Hall

