



Hillstone News

Coronavirus

I was so delighted to have bubbles of children returning last week. However, it does concern me, as some of the children talked about going to stay with Nan and Grandad and visiting friends and family members. I know how hard it is at the moment, when we are all so desperate to just be with loved ones. Please remember, in a school setting, if just one child becomes infected, it takes out the whole bubble, which in our school is 60 children plus at least 4 adults. If this happens, they have to self isolate for 14 days; affecting children's learning, parents ability to go to work or meet up with others. If self-isolating, children should not be going out at all and even when we are not self isolating, as we are in tier 3, they should not be going into other people's houses. Roll on spring—I can see an end in sight for all of us.

Self-Isolating

- *Do not leave your house
- *Do not meet other people
- *Do not go to the shops
- *Visitors not allowed in homes



Virtual School

Well done to pupils who have been going on virtual school whilst self isolating. Please be reminded that unlike summer, there is an expectation that all children who are self-isolating will be using the virtual school every day. Do contact us if you have difficulty with this. You don't have to wait until you are self-isolating to have a look at virtual school though—there are always some pages on there that your children may enjoy working through. Chef has added a couple of recipe pages you and your children might want to try and Coach has some activities that you can try at home too.



Walking Club

Last academic year, we were able to have two brilliant parents clubs, Sew 'n' Grow and Couch to 5K. I just love seeing parents joining in with activities at school and learning alongside their children. It makes me feel that we are really at the heart of the community. Sally Byno, the Community Delivery Worker for Physical Activity is starting a walking group again. Obviously, with the current restrictions, we can only have 5 people plus Sally in a group, but we do have two places left for the walking group. This will start this Friday at 1.30pm. Contact Sally on 07903 790158 if you'd like to join.



Thank you

I know many of you recognise how difficult it can be in school at the moment, with staff shortages and logistics to follow, in order to keep all our pupils safe and help them catch up with their learning. Many of the staff are doing additional hours and covering other people's jobs.

I love the idea of children writing for a real purpose, so if they would like to send a thank you to **anyone** working in school, teachers, lunchtime team, office, then use the link below to send a thank you card.

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Online Games

The internet has bought many advantages to our life—how on earth would we manage without it now. However, you know I do worry about various aspects that are a danger to our children. One of my concerns is the online games that children are playing that are designed for older children. Some of them have inappropriate content and whilst it may seem harmless when you are playing with them at home, we do see the effect that this has had on children in school. For instance, Fortnite is aimed at 12 year olds. Even when children are old enough officially, parents should be aware that researchers have found this game is causing children to become violent, distracted and sleep-deprived. Because Battle Royale is played by hundreds of people at once, the range of people they encounter will be wide. While playing the game, players can hear profanity and racist comments from others, as well as exchange voice chat messages with strangers. I have certainly seen an increase in the last few years in the use of inappropriate language that children use to each on social media. I become aware of situations like this when there is an issue out of school and children become distressed.

Christmas Activities

We have always thought Christmas is so magical at Hillstone. It's going to be a bit different this year, but we hope the children will still enjoy it. We will have Christmas dinner, Christmas parties and Big Games. If children want to send Christmas cards, can we ask that this is just for the children in their own bubble. If they want to send cards to teachers,

please send them to the office and they will distribute them for us.



Christmas Elves

I have been made aware that we have had some Christmas 'Elf on the Self' elves make their way into school. We are all tremendously excited about getting into the Christmas spirit, but please keep the elves on your shelves at home. Sending the elves into school makes the children very excitable, resulting in an unsettled start to the day and disruption to learning for the whole of the class. We are looking forward to the children telling us all about what the elves have been doing at home, during their break and lunchtimes.





HILLSTONE STARS

Connor Cooper

Tasia Grimason

Sophie-Karoline Palika

Joshua Velvett

Ella McDonough

Maddison Caldicott

Ava Peniston-Bird

Alfie Garey-Smith

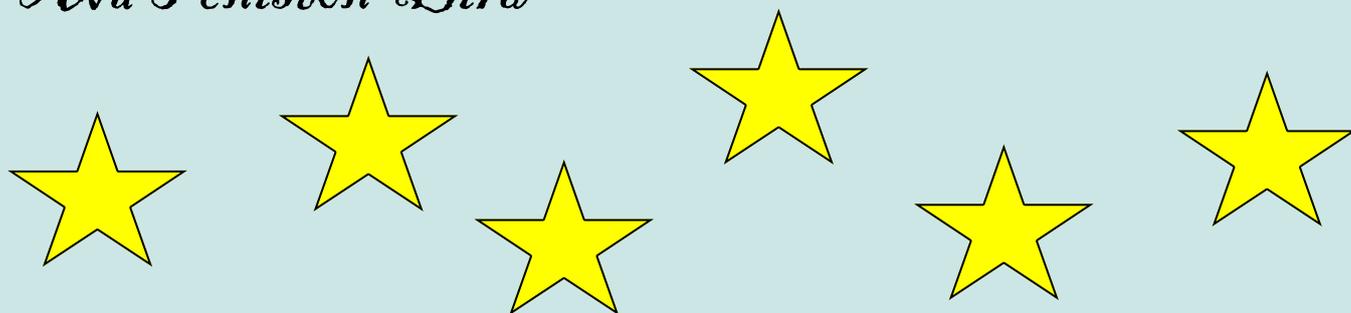
Jessie Wakeman

Scarlett Hemus

Rashane Wasisundara

Lily Hemus

Gabriel O'Neill



HOUSE POINTS

LUDLOW 172

WARWICK 169

TAMWORTH 186

DUDLEY 190