



# Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

## Newsletter – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

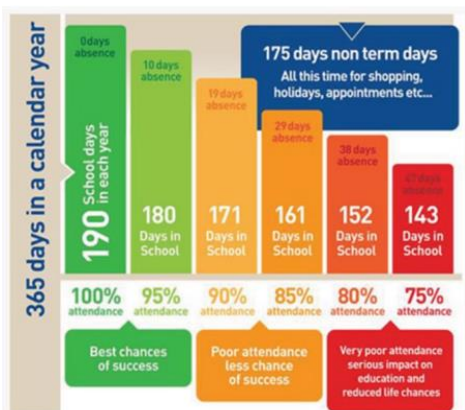
**Value of the month** – our value of the month is **understanding**.

Dear parents and guardians,

Another busy fortnight at Hillborough comes to a close. Over the past two weeks the school has been focusing on others and supporting others. Two ways were our Odd Socks Day and Children in Need, do read below for further details. We have also been focusing on road safety this week, especially with the dark nights now with us.

The key focuses for school are reading, ensuring good quality teaching, early years, mental health and wellbeing and finally that our children make good choices regarding behaviour.

The school has an amazing book based curriculum that our children are really enjoying and you are able to support that with the phonics work that is sent home and by reading, or listening to your child read at home. Research shows that children who read at home regularly for fun or with an adult, have a significant advantage over those pupils who do not. The [National Literacy](#) Trust has an article on how powerful it is, from birth upwards.



**Attendance – everyday counts! Our current whole school attendance is 95%! Good attendance is vital for all children, and we work to ensure all classes achieve that. The knowledge and skills that your child gains will support their achievements over time.**

We have two new areas of focus around attendance over the coming weeks:

- working with **children and families** to understand the **importance of attendance**
- conveying how absence **affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes**

**Visit by the MP for Luton South** – on the 18<sup>th</sup> November we were very lucky to have a visit from Rachel Hopkins MP. She came to visit as part of her constituency work and to meet with our wonderful school council to discuss Parliamentary Week and all the different levels of government – school council, Governing Body, local Councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs). Our school council had some wonderful questions to ask our MP about her work, being a MP and about how she relaxes after work and if she had any pets.



**Children in Need** – the children loved this day and our local MP took part in the day, during her visit to the school. **A big thank you to those who have already donated to such a good cause and a reminder that our page doesn't close until the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022** - we know times are challenging for us all and if you are able to donate, no matter how small an amount, you can do so via our [JustGiving](#) page – just click on the blue words and it will take you there.

**Reading at Home with your child** - reading with your child at home is vitally important to ensure that they are developing their understanding of the world, improving their reading skills, whilst also promoting a love of reading. Sometimes it can be hard to find the time, but research suggests that reading aloud to children, or children reading aloud to an adult, even if only for a short time each day, develops their language skills, as well as enhancing their love of literature.

Why is reading so important - books provide good models of language; reading develops the imagination; exploring a variety of texts develops our pupils' vocabulary; reading helps to explore life beyond a child's immediate experiences; reading can help a child to develop their own story telling skills.

**e-safety** - Keeping your children safe: online & beyond! The school's internet provider is LGfL and they provide/work with DigiSafe®. It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe when they aren't with us, and sometimes even when are, if we don't know what's happening in their lives or on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay? LGfL provide an amazing page for parents ([PARENTSAFE](#)) which is full of up-to-date information for all age groups of children.

#### **Updates from year groups:**

- **Nursery & Reception** – produce a wonderful weekly newsletter with all the exciting information about what they are working on and how you can best support your child during the week.
- **Year 1** - have been reading the lovely story '[Paper Dolls](#)', they followed [instructions](#) and made their own. Afterwards, they wrote their own set of instructions.

In Maths, the focus has been on building numbers to 20. We have been finding different ways to make numbers from 11 to 20 using a range of resources. We have also been learning about the names of these numbers, e.g. 15 is fifteen. Finally, we have also been estimating and finding one more and one less than a given number.

We have so much to share across a wide range of subjects. In DT we have been designing a toy car and practising our cutting, folding and gluing skills. We have loved learning about old and new toys and Mrs Kendrick very kindly brought in lots of her old toys to show us. We have been practising our nativity and the children are excited about performing to their parents/carers. Thank you for rehearsing the lines with your child, please continue this, your support is very much appreciated.

- **Year 2** - It may be cold and rainy this November, but Year 2 are still on fire with their learning! Speaking of fire, The Great Fire of London is the theme in English. We have been reading [Vlad and the great fire of London](#) and will be using our knowledge of history to write our Blogs! The great fire of London theme continues in history and in RE, with the children learning about celebrations across different faiths. Meanwhile in maths, children have been learning strategies for mental addition and subtraction.

In Science, the year 2 scientists continue their investigations of animals including humans, and that includes the importance of exercise. In D&T our designers and builders have the opportunity to build their own version of the tower bridge! Phew! What a busy and exciting time we have had!

For those who celebrate, this weekend marks the start of Advent and a time for peace. It also marks the period of preparation and anticipation, which I am sure the children are starting to feel.

Josie Walter – Headteacher