



Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 24th November 2023

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

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 focal points for the school are phonic and reading; developing knowledge and skills for all our learners through an exciting curriculum; ensuring that no-one is left behind regardless of their need or family circumstances; mental health and well-being and finally that our children make good choices regarding behaviour.

The school has an amazing book based curriculum that is constantly growing and our children are really enjoying them through a variety of ways. As parents and guardians, 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.

Old MacDonald had a farm – the school had a wonderful visit from Oak Farm on Friday the 17th November. The farm was based on the Early Years playground, which gave the children a whole day access to the wonderful range of animals that came to visit. The children met a donkey, goats, a pig, sheep and dogs. The visit was linked to science, knowledge of the world around us and books that the children have been reading.

Children in Need – the children loved this day. **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 27th 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.

Volunteers Wanted – Do you want to give back to the community? Do you have an hour or two to spare a week? If you can say yes to the above, you might be interested in being a volunteer in school.

Uniform and PE Kits – a massive thank you to all of you who ensure that your children wear the correct uniform; have suitable footwear and outdoor clothing to allow for all indoor and outdoor learning and finally have the correct PE kits in a bag and on their peg. **Reminder – do ensure that items of clothing are labelled and that children do not arrive to school on PE day in their PE kit.** Our expectation is that our children change for PE in school; this supports self-help and fine motor skills.

Sporting opportunity – over the past few weeks all children in Years 1 & 2 have been experiencing tennis in their PE lessons. We have been given the opportunity to work with county tennis coaches and who knows we may be starting the journey of the next Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic or even our own Andy Murray.

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

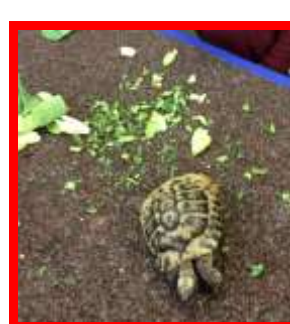
they doing, are they okay? LGfL provide an amazing page for parents ([PARENTSAFE](#)) which is full of up-to-date information for all age groups of children

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 intrigued by the story '[The Paper Dolls](#)', a story by Julia Donaldson. Not only have they loved the story, they have been infatuated with making paper dolls. We have used this to help us write instructions.

In maths we have been making links between the language of eleven to twenty and the language of place value. We have also learned about estimating and finding one more and one

The highlight of the fortnight has definitely been our science workshop when Ark Farm visited and enhanced our learning. We looked at grouping animals into mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, insects, herbivores, omnivores, carnivores, nocturnal and diurnal animals.



- **Year 2** – Amidst the darkness of November, Year two continues to be a beacon of learning. [Vlad and the Great Fire of London](#) is our English text - it's the story of a flea called Vlad who lived during the infamous fire of 1666. Yet while we learn about the past, we are still using modern technology... The children are writing blogs to teach the world everything they know about our theme.

The fiery theme continues in history as we compare the London of 1666 to the modern day. In RE, the children are learning about celebrations across different faiths. We have also had an exciting week of maths with the children expertly demonstrating what they have learned so far.

In science, the year two scientists continue their investigations of animals including humans, and that includes the importance of exercise. We are all proud to say that with every child being a star in year two, the nights are not quite so dark. The children shine more brightly than the lights in the Mall!

For the weekend and beyond – With the festive season fast approaching and advent starting on Sunday the 3rd December, there are a wide range of events that are happening in and around Luton. We would generally signpost you to '[The Culture Trust – Luton](#)' for all event information. The blue link will take you there and also information you about events at the Hat Factory Arts Centre. We have also attached a flyer that we have received.

Lighting up Luton – event on 25th November 2023, please click on this [link](#) for further information or see the poster below.



Josie Walter – Headteacher