



Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 19th January 2023

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

Dear parents and guardians,

What a chilly and frosty start to this term. Please do ensure that your child has the correct coat and footwear for their day. We do not take children outside when the weather is poor, however a light drizzle or a chill in the air will not stop us with our outdoor learning. We would also add that all clothing does need to be labelled in some way or form, so that we can return it to the correct child.

Attendance – everyday counts! Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered neglect. Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to weeks of absence	Approx. numbers of lessons missed	School Concern Level
96%	9.5	2	47.5	Pupils can catch up and succeed
90%	19	4	95	Poor attendance – concerns raised
80%	38	8	190	Very poor attendance – high levels of concern
70%	57	12	285	Serious concerns

So a child who has an absence % of 80% has missed 38 days of school and has missed 190 lessons

Flu vaccination – The NHS vaccination service will be holding two sessions at the school on the 24th January 2024. They will also be holding a vaccination clinic at Farley Hill Community Centre for the clinic on Saturday 27th January 2024.

After school clubs - this is a reminder that **ALL our clubs finish at 16:10** and no later! When children are picked up late from their club, they can become quite distressed and worry that their family are not coming to collect them. Please ensure that you do pick up your child at 16:10. We really appreciate your support with this matter.

Whole school maths workshop - all the children had a wonderful day problem solving in maths. It was a wonderful time for groups of children to work together to solve maths problems involving, shape, space, colour, ordering, pattern making using a wide range of maths skills.



Phonics – a gentle reminder to keep an eye out for your weekly ParentMail with links to Read, Write, Inc practice sessions for home. These videos are a wonderful opportunity for your child to display their skills with phonics and to practise with yourself. Children also bring home a reading book that they have been working on during the week; this again allows them to showcase their developing skills.

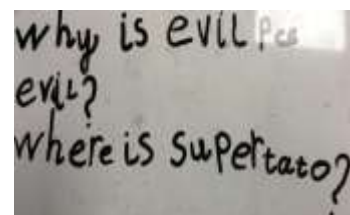
Love of reading – in school, we have been focusing on developing every child in school to be a lover of reading and how being read to or reading for pleasure is so good for mental health & well-being but also allow greater access to learning. If you click on the following links, they will take you to short Read, Write, Inc. videos to support you, in supporting your child, to develop their love of reading: [Why read to your child?](#); [10 things to think about when you read to your child](#) and [listening to your child read](#);

Safeguarding – a gentle reminder to all that no mobile phones should be out when you are picking up or dropping off your child around the back of the school, as this is a safeguarding concern for all our children and families.

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** - The children in Year 1 have been busy learning and having fun with various activities across different subjects. Here are some of the highlights:

In English, they read the book Supertato, a story about a potato superhero who fights the evil pea in the supermarket. They enjoyed the humour and the illustrations, and they wrote their own letters to the villain Evil Pea, trying to persuade him to join the other vegetables and change his ways.



In maths, they learned how to compare and measure length, height, mass and speed using different units and tools. They also practised adding and subtracting numbers from 0 to 20 using different strategies and methods. They played games and solved problems to reinforce their skills and understanding.



In science, they explored the properties and uses of everyday materials, such as wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock. They conducted experiments to test the absorbency, strength, flexibility and transparency of different materials. They also learned how to classify and group materials based on their similarities and differences.

We are very proud of the children's achievements and enthusiasm, and we look forward to sharing more of their learning journey with you in the next newsletter.

- **Year 2** – Our feet are feeling the frost but our eyes turn towards the stars as we learn and write about the pioneering African-American astronaut Mae Jameson. Mae Among the stars is our inspiring English text. On a related subject, our historians will be learning about the achievements of Catherine Johnstone, one of the first African-American mathematicians to work at NASA. Speaking of maths, we return to addition but we are learning new strategies for adding two-digit numbers. Moreover, our artists will be making secondary and tertiary colours in art as well as refining their painting skills! Computing this term is all about programming and algorithms; meanwhile, our scientists are investigating the properties of everyday materials. So while the weather may be challenging this January, we'll be too busy thinking about space to mind!

Wishing you a peaceful weekend.

Josie Walter – Headteacher