



Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 17th January 2025

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.

PE kits – please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school for the half term.

Flu vaccination – The NHS vaccination service do keep reminding us all to take up the free vaccination for flu. It is a very serious illness, that is most challenging to those who are little or old. Do enquire, via the NHS website, where you can access a service.

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](#);

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 practice 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.

Foodbank – Stockwood Park Academy run, every Saturday, a foodbank – do see their website for times. There is no criteria to access this and just check the school's website for details.

Communication - we are committed to fostering strong relationships with our families. We believe that open and effective communication is key to supporting our pupils' learning and well-being. Your first point of contact for any class-related queries or concerns should be your child's class teacher. We offer a variety of communication methods to suit your needs, including Class Dojo and telephone calls.

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** - our first story of the New Year is '[Supertato](#)'. The children have loved this story; we have tried our hardest to persuade 'the evil pea' to mend his ways. So if your children have an aversion to peas for a while you know why.

In maths, we have been exploring shapes and measures in exciting and hands-on ways. The children have been busy identifying 2D shapes, creating their own composite designs, and discovering the properties of 3D shapes using playdough and real-life objects. They have loved going on shape hunts and spotting everyday examples!

We have also been comparing lengths, weights, and even speeds! The class had fun measuring objects around the room, racing toy cars, and experimenting with balance scales to find out which items are heavier

or lighter. These practical activities have been a great way to build their confidence and understanding while keeping things engaging and fun.

This term, Year 1 have been budding artists, diving into the wonderful world of colours! The children have been learning all about primary and secondary colours by mixing paints to create their very own colour wheels. It has been exciting to see their faces light up as they discovered how red, yellow, and blue can make a whole rainbow of colours!

We have also been experimenting with lightening and darkening colours. During one activity, the children were challenged to solve a "problem"—a paint colour that was too dark for daytime but too light for night-time. Together, they explored how adding white or black can create just the right shades and tones. They then practised creating beautiful ombre effects using watercolours, testing their brush control and creative skills.

- **Year 2** – Our Spring term has begun with us learning and writing about Space! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about [Laika the Russian dog](#) who was sent into space! We have had some very mature discussions about this subject.

In history, the space theme has continued, as we have begun our dive into *significant people*, starting with Katherine Johnson the mathematician who worked for NASA in the 1950's and successfully put the first human on the moon! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wfkj>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zhsncxs>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3kmrwx#z4qpb7h>

Computing this term is all about programming and algorithms and in maths, we return to addition. We are learning new strategies for adding two-digit numbers. We have begun organising our calculations into the column method whilst still using the base ten as a visual aid. Maybe we have the future [Katherine Johnson](#) in Year 2!

SEND / Inclusion Team – are excited to share our focus on strengthening communication and collaboration with families. We are committed to creating a supportive and welcoming environment for all our pupils and their families. Whether you are looking for resources, advice, or just a listening ear, we are here for you. Let us work together to ensure every child thrives!

Flyers - Please see attached flyers regarding support groups that may be of use to you and your family.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend.

Hillborough Infant & Nursery School Team