



Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 14th February 2024

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

Dear parents and guardians,

As we reach the end of the first half term, it's hard to believe we're already halfway through the school year! It has been incredible watching your children grow, learn, and thrive in their classes, year groups, phonics groups and socially. Their enthusiasm and dedication to their studies have been truly inspiring, and we are proud of the progress they have made so far. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in their educational journey. Here is to more exciting learning experiences in the months ahead!

Exciting news! Both schools are turning 50 in April 2025! We are thrilled to celebrate this significant milestone with our community. Keep an eye out for upcoming details on how we, alongside the Junior School, will be marking this special occasion. We have a host of events and activities planned to commemorate our journey and achievements over the past five decades. Stay tuned for more information on how you and your children can join in the celebrations!

Assembly theme this week – kindness – today is Valentine's Day and it is a wonderful reminder of the power of love and kindness in our daily lives. In school, we believe in fostering an environment where compassion is at the heart of everything we do. This Valentine's Day, let us encourage our pupils, staff, and community to express love and kindness not just today, but every day. Simple acts like offering a helping hand, sharing a smile, or expressing gratitude can make a big difference. Together, let us create a culture of kindness that uplifts everyone in our school community.

E-safety – [Safer Internet Day](#) has been and gone, however e-safety is an everyday focus for educators and parents. The school's internet provider (LGfL) has a wonderful portal for parents called [ParentSafe](#). It has clear and concise information for parents about devices, the internet, TV, and streaming programmes, also advice around computer/console games.

Parent Consultation Evening – a reminder that upcoming event will be on the **1st and 2nd of April 2025** and booking for this event will be via ParentMail. It is a wonderful time to celebrate your child's successes; the skills they have developed and next steps in their learning journey.

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** - We cannot believe how quickly we have reached the end of the spring half term! The last two weeks have been full of exciting learning experiences, including two fantastic immersive workshops. The first was a PE workshop, where children worked in teams and participated in various competitions, building teamwork and resilience. The second was a maths workshop, where the children applied their knowledge of geometrical shapes through tangrams, making learning hands-on and engaging.

In our maths lessons, we have been focusing on subtraction: Subtracting 1-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers below 20 without crossing 10, subtracting 1-digit numbers from numbers between 10–20 while crossing the benchmark 10 and we explored different ways to make the same total using addition ("+") and subtraction ("-") for numbers 11 to 20.

This half term, we discovered a new superhero "[Superworm](#)"! The children loved learning about how "Superworm" helps and rescues his friends. As part of our learning, we focused on

transforming present-tense verbs into past tense by adding the suffix –ed. Observing the characters in *Superworm*, we noticed various insects—ants, bugs, beetles, bees, and more. This sparked the children's curiosity about the "small world" of minibeasts. We explored how these creatures are born and grow, leading us to study life cycles, with a particular focus on the butterfly's life cycle.

In Art, we combined the styles of two famous artists—Wassily Kandinsky and Andy Warhol. The children created stunning final pieces by blending Kandinsky's colourful backgrounds with circles and Warhol's repetitive printing techniques. The result was an amazing hybrid of Kandinsky and Warhol's art that beautifully highlighted their creativity!

- **Year 2** – In English, we have been looking at the [Beegu](#) book. We have designed the planet that we think she might come from and written our own explanation text about our new planets. Our inspiration came from looking at an array of different planets and stars books from the school library. Our explanation texts include details like how many moons our planets have, what the surface is made of and what life forms might be living on it. The children have thoroughly enjoyed writing about their own planets.

In maths we've been looking at doubling and halving numbers. The children have looked for patterns to help them decide if a number can be halved equally or not and what to do when doubling a number bridge into a new ten.

In history we have continued our journey exploring famous astronauts. Most recently, we have focused on the British astronaut [Tim Peake](#). We have put his life events into a timeline in chronological order and discovered what made him so famous. Some links are: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Tim-Peake/630104> and <https://www.funkidslive.com/learn/top-10-facts/top-10-facts-about-astronaut-tim-peake/>

The end of our art unit in painting, ended with a [Claude Monet](#) influenced painting, using small brush strokes to mimic his style. We are so proud of the children's paintings! Do take a look on dojo, for some photographs.

SEND – please find the link to [FUN \(Families United Network\)](#) and their wide range of events for families and children who have additional needs or disability. They cover the whole of Bedfordshire and you can find all their holiday club news etc. on the website. Bookings are made via the links on their website.

Family Support – ‘talk to them and not at them’ - When you are speaking to your child/children make sure that you are talking to them, not at them. Make eye contact, pause, and let them interject when they need to. Conversations are so precious, and children learn so much from their interactions with us. How we respond, and how we listen to them, teaches children how valuable their thoughts and opinions are. So, take your time when speaking to your child. Make these conversations matter.



[I CAN](#) - Is a wonderful organisation that provides wonderful resources for parents and family about how to support your child's language development. Click on the blue words to take you their website and parent section.

Half term break plans – if you are looking for ideas for the weekend, do look at the 'what's on' page of [The Culture Trust - Luton](#). We would also like to signpost you to the '[Children's half term Festival](#)' which has everything from theatre, to circus skills, dance workshops, clay play and so much more.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break and do enjoy all that you do with friends and family.

Hillborough Infant & Nursery School Team