



## Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**Value of the month** – our value of the month is **respect – for self, others, school and community.**

Dear parents and guardians,

As we move swiftly towards the end of term, it is incredible to reflect on how swiftly the weeks have flown by. Our pupils have been busy achieving so much in this short time, and their efforts truly shine through in all they do. From excelling in their studies to participating in various extracurricular activities, their dedication and hard work are evident.

This term, we have placed a strong emphasis on the value of respect, and it is heartening to see how our children have embraced this. Whether it is through showing kindness to classmates, listening to others, or taking care of our school environment, their actions reflect an good understanding of what it means to respect others and themselves.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Parent Consultation Evenings** – gentle reminder of the date scheduled in for Parent Consultation Meeting, you will be able to book via ParentMail and teachers will not be accepting late bookings or on the day. We really look forward to seeing all of you and sharing all the progress that your child has made.

**Eid Luton Festival** - we have been asked by a member of our community to share with you the attached leaflet. The flyer highlights events that are coving this festive period. We are aware that potentially the sighting of the new moon will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and that many of you will be celebrating on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations** – as we have talked about before, the school is 50 years young and we are looking forward to celebrating this event with former pupils and staff. We have enjoyed going through the school's history box and finding photos of former pupils, some of whom are now working for the school and photos of staff who appear to have never aged, over time. Do keep an eye out for ParentMail communications about how we are celebrating.

**Staff news** – as we move towards the end of term we wanted to inform you that our Assistant Headteacher, for Early Years, will be going on maternity leave. During this time, our Inclusion Manager, will be stepping into the role to ensure a smooth transition and continued support for our students.

**End of term and start of summer term** – the last day of term is **Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025** and we then break up for the Easter holidays. The start of the summer term is **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at 08:50.**

**Attendance** – *improving attendance is everyone's responsibility* – DfE 2022. As a school, we are very committed to ensuring that children are in school and receiving their full entitlement to education. We are also very committed to working with families to remove or support any potential barriers to children being in school. We want to say a big thank you to each family who are supporting our drive of taking attendance to 96% and above and to decrease our persistent absence figure.

**School grounds** – a reminder to all our families that once you have dropped off or collected your child at the start and end of the day that you vacate the school grounds promptly. In the morning, as soon as the 09:00 bell has gone and by 15:40 at the end of the school day. We appreciate your support with this and in keeping our children, staff and school grounds safe.

**School meals** – your child’s lunchtime meal is an important time for them and being able to enjoy a meal that has been chosen with you just supports them emotionally and physically. Ensure that you select a menu choice for your child, which can be completed on a weekly, monthly or termly basis. Your children can become quite upset if something has not been chosen for them.

**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** - Over the past two weeks, Year 1 has been diving into the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel! We have been focusing on sequencing sentences to form short narratives, using adjectives to describe settings, and exploring compound words like woodcutter, gingerbread, and moonlight.

The children started by identifying adjectives and using them to describe the eerie forest and the magical gingerbread house. They also acted out key scenes from the story and worked collaboratively on activities such as character descriptions and word searches. In outdoor learning, they followed a "crumb trail" inspired by Hansel and Gretel to decode messages about traditional tales.

Building on this, we introduced sentence openers to help structure our writing. By the end of the unit, the children planned and wrote their own short narratives, incorporating adjectives, sentence openers, and compound words. Finally, they reviewed their work, using success criteria to self-assess and improve their writing.

This week in science, the children explored materials and their properties by conducting a simple test to find out which materials are waterproof. The children experimented with different materials, such as plastic, fabric, paper, and foil, to see which ones would keep an object dry. It was fantastic to see the children working like real scientists—asking questions, making predictions, and drawing conclusions from their experiments!

- **Year 2** – In English, our text is the hilarious [Jim and the Beanstalk](#) by the author and illustrator [Raymond Briggs](#). We will be using our powers of description to write some fascinating narratives. We took our learning outside, and used the warm weather to role-play Jim and the giant on the playground. The children then explored the characters, by describing their appearance and personalities. We ended the unit by writing our own stories, with our own main character and settings. For spellings, we have been looking at what to do with the root word when we need to add the suffix -ing. The children have really enjoyed deciding if they need to double the consonants or not. Click on the [blue](#) to take you to a video to support your learning.

In D&T, we have continued with our sewing project. Last week we designed how our purses would look. This week we have begun to sew our initials on the back. We have used an array of coloured threads and a running stitch. The children were very skilled in threading the needle!

In geography, we have continued to work on our [map skills](#). This week, we have plotted our own bird’s eye view of the school, designed, and used a key to add the features to the map.

Our PHSE unit this week has been focused on a healthy diet for a human. The children have classified the foods in some of their favourite dishes and then evaluated if they are well balanced.



**SEND** – Please see the attached flyer for all the exciting events and opportunities open to our children and their families over the two weeks break away from school.

Do enjoy the weekend and all that you do.  
Hillborough Infant & Nursery School Term