



Hilltop Infant School



Happiness
Esteem
Achievement
Responsibility and
Respect
Truth
Spirituality and Service

Hill Avenue, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8LT
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 Website: <http://hearts-hilltopinf.uk>

Tel: 01268 762531

Headteacher: Mrs Karen Mackenzie

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2017
 Newsletter No: 5

Attendance w/beg: 02.10.17
 Whole School: 95.8%
 Class of the week: Willow

Chestnut 97.2%	Cherry 95.42%	Oak 89.6%
Ash 94.0%	Birch 96.13%	Elder 97.67%
Maple 96.67%	Willow 98.97%	

Letters Home

EYFS – Wow Moments
 Year 2 Spellings

Week Beginning 9th October 2017

School Dinners

Week 3



Forest School

Class	Group
Chestnut	A
Cherry	B
Oak	B



Upcoming Diary Dates

October

12th Open morning for 2018/19 intake, 9:15am
 19th School breaks for half term
 30th Children return after half term
 30th Parent Consultations, 3:30-6pm

November

1st Parent Consultations, 3:30-7:30pm
 3rd November, 2:30pm EYFS Workshop
 10th November, 2:30pm EYFS Workshop
 17th November, 2:30pm EYFS Workshop



Follow us on twitter!

You can now follow us on twitter @HilltopInfant where you can see regular tweets with updates and celebrations in school. You can also follow the HEARTS trust @heartstrust and help them on their 1000 followers mission!

Parent Consultations, 30th October & 1st November

Our parent consultations will be taking place after half-term. We will be using our online booking system for making appointments. Letters will be sent home next week with log-in details.

Rising Stars Sports Event

On Monday 2nd October Charlie, Orla, William, Joshua, Phoebe and Mia joined Mrs Marsh at Abacus Primary school for a Rising Star event organised by the William de Ferrers School Sports Partnership. Children from Abacus, Oakfield, North Crescent and Grange Primary schools also attended this event that was run by coaches from Chelsea Football Club. The children learnt some new ball skills and played a 5 a side game of football.

Thank you to the parents who transported the children to this event.

Harvest Celebrations

What a marvellous job our children did today at our Harvest Celebration Assemblies. All of the classes performed their songs and poems beautifully. This was the first assembly for parents and carers from Chestnut, Cherry and Oak classes and I am sure you will agree the children were amazing! Mrs Mackenzie said that this was possibly the best Harvest assembly we have ever done. Thank you very much for all of the generous donations that we have received in school. They will be taken to the Gateway Project Food Bank next week.

Forest School

I was very excited this week. We have started to visit my favourite place! The woodland is such a beautiful place to be at this time of year. We found acorns and sweet chestnuts underneath the trees. The leaves are changing colour and we made some lovely patterns on the ground. A huge branch has fallen from an oak tree over the summer which is so much fun to climb over. I can't wait to take the rest of the children next week.

Mrs Walter

Reception Class Homework

Emailed home today is the homework for Chestnut, Cherry and Oak. This can also be found on the website on the letters home page.

Spellings Year 2

In book bags today you will find the next lots of spellings for Year 2. Children will have two weeks to learn these spelling and will be tested on Thursday 19th October. These spellings can also be found on the letters home page.

Fire evacuation

On Wednesday we had a joint fire evacuation with the Junior School. It was a marvellous evacuation and all children, staff and visitors left the building swiftly and safely. We were very proud of all the children particularly Chestnut class who had already changed for PE.

HEARTS Trust update

Complaints and concerns

Some parents have asked what they do when they have issues now that the Hilltop schools are part of HEARTS Trust. Below is a step by step guide to help.

Concerns about your child/general issue?

1. Speak to the class teacher in the first instance.
2. If the situation is not resolved or you have tried to speak to the class teacher and can't then please refer to the school's Executive headteacher (Karen Mackenzie, k.mackenzie@heartsacademy.uk tel: 01268 762531).
3. If you still feel that there is an issue after this and wish to contact the HEARTS Trust then please do so through our website at admin@heartsacademy.uk

We ask all parents to follow this process before contacting HEARTS

In the case of safeguarding concerns please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead who is Mrs Karen Mackenie and Deputy Designated safeguarding Lead Mrs Debbie Jackson.

Penny Partridge HEARTS Business manager

Consultation on Hilltop School Pre-school

Questions and Answers

Where will the pre-school be?

The proposed site for the new pre-school is on the grassed area between the Infant and Junior School adjacent to the school car park. This area is not currently used by the children and would not reduce the amount of space available to the school. We believe that this would actually enable us to use the site more effectively.

How will the facilities be managed? Who will run it?

The Early Years Leader within Hilltop Infants will oversee the pre-school. However, a Room Leader will run the pre-school on a day-to-day basis along with Nursery Nurses. The new members of staff will be recruited.

Why is this proposal being put forward?

There is a shortage in the local area of 2/3 year old places. Hilltop Infants would like to create a new provision to meet local childcare demand. We are keen to make sure that there are opportunities for every family to have access to high quality childcare places and that all children have the best start in life to ensure they are well prepared and ready for school.

What is the financial impact? How will this be funded if budgets are being cut? Will there be an increase in staff?

Hilltop Infant School have been awarded a grant by Essex County Council to build the new pre-school in order to increase childcare places. There will be an increase in staff due to the Nursery Nurses needed in the new pre-school. The extra staff will be funded from the pre-school fees that will be charged along with the funding received from Essex for providing early education and childcare.

What times will the sessions be? Won't the roads around the school become even busier? Will this add to the traffic and parking problem?

The day will be broken down into 2 sessions: AM: 9:00-12:00 and PM: 12:30-3:30. The 30-hours funded children will be staying for lunch between 12:00-12:30.

We are expecting that the majority of children attending the new pre-school will be siblings of older children within both the Infant and Junior school who would all travel together to help reduce the volume of traffic.

Will noise disrupt the other children and impact their learning and educational experience?

The pre-school will be in a separate building on the grassed area between the Infant and Junior School adjacent to the school car park. This area is not currently used by the school children so would not cause any disruption.

What knock on effect would this have on other pre-schools in the area? There are some fantastic charity run pre-schools in the area that could suffer as a result.

We have looked at the Essex childcare sufficiency maps and Wickford is showing as a red area. It is clear that there is a deficit of spaces for pre-school provision due to extensive building for new homes in the area.