



**H**appiness  
**E**steem  
**A**chievement  
**R**esponsibility and  
**R**espect  
**T**ruth  
**S**pirituality and Service

# Hilltop Infant School

Hill Avenue, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8LT  
 Email: [hilltopinf.admin@heartsacademy.uk](mailto:hilltopinf.admin@heartsacademy.uk)  
 Website: <http://hearts-hilltopinf.uk>



@HilltopInfant

Head of School: Mr D. Chapman



## Weekly Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
 Newsletter No: 12

**Attendance w/beg:** 26<sup>th</sup> November  
 Whole School 89.59%  
 Class of the week: Badger – 98.33%

Hedgehog 92.0%	Squirrel 81.6%	Rabbit 92.0%
Deer 81.03%	Fox 85.17%	Owl 93.0%
Badger 98.33%	Otter 92.76%	

### Letters Home

Christmas decoration

### Week Beginning 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

#### School Dinners

Week 1



#### Forest School

No Forest School



### Upcoming Diary Dates

#### December

- 7<sup>th</sup> Non-School Uniform Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> Pantomime at Towngate Theatre
- 11<sup>th</sup> Visit to St Catherine's Church
- 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> EYFS Nativity Performance, 1:30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> EYFS Nativity Performance, 9:30am
- 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Market
- 19<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term

### This week in school

This week we have been writing letters to Father Christmas. We have been sharing Christmas stories and decorating our classrooms.

This week in Maths, Year 1 have been working hard to find half of an object, shape and number. In English we have finished writing our stories for One Snowy night and in Computing we have really enjoyed writing our own algorithms.

In Year 2 this week we have continued writing our own versions of 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs in English. In maths, we have been learning about fractions and we have also started learning our Christmas songs in Music. All year two classes have also had a circle time this week about suitable games to be played on the playground. The children understand that there should be no fighting games and had some great ideas of alternative and safe games that they could play instead.

### School Clubs

Letters for clubs for the Spring term will be sent home week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> December. Bookings for these clubs will be made using our online booking system. We will be resending home your codes. You will need to keep these codes for the entire time that your child/children are at Hilltop Infant School.



### **Christmas Cards**

The post box will be in the entrance hall on Monday. Cards for your child's own class should go straight to the classroom. All other cards can be put in the post box in the entrance, they will be collected daily and given out. We have had a few requests from parents and carers asking for class lists to help with writing Christmas cards. Unfortunately, for reasons of security and confidentiality we are unable to do this. If your child would like to write a few cards to friends in their class or within the school, we suggest that you have a chat with them about who they would like to send cards to. It is particularly good if the children write cards themselves, with your help if necessary. The school postman is very good at delivering cards, even if the spelling is not entirely accurate, as long as the class name is clear on the envelope.

### **EYFS Christmas Nativity Performance**

Online booking is now open for the EYFS Christmas Nativity, you will need to use the same logging on details that you used for booking parent consultations. Families will be allocated two seats. There will be a crèche available for this workshop and places must be booked and paid for in advance. Please book places via the main office. We will only be able to run this crèche if we have a minimum of 6 children as we need to cover staffing costs to run the crèche.

### **KS1 Carol Concert**

Year 1 and 2 will be spreading festive cheer through a carol concert at our Christmas market on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Year 1 will be performing at 3:30pm and Year 2 4:30pm. We look forward to seeing lots of families at this event.

### **Change to School Dinner Menu for w/c 10<sup>th</sup> December & 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas dinners will be taking place w/c 10<sup>th</sup> December for both the Infant and Junior Schools. Therefore we have had to change the menu for this week. The changes are as follows:

#### *For Reception children*

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Meatballs or vegetarian meatballs or Jacket Potato, Dessert of the day  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Chicken Goujons chips and beans, Quorn dippers or Jacket, Dessert of the day  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Jumbo Fishfinger, chips and beans, Quorn dippers or Jacket, Cookie

#### *For KS1*

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Meatballs or vegetarian meatballs, Dessert of the day  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Chicken Goujons chips and beans, Quorn dippers Dessert of the day  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Jumbo Fishfinger, chips and beans, Quorn dippers or Jacket, Cookie

### **Cashless System**

In January we will be moving over to a cashless system. This will be used for payment of school trips and any other occasions when money is requested.

### **Hilltots**

We are really looking forward to welcoming our younger children in January when our preschool opens. There are still a few spaces available so if you are interested please contact the school!

### **Parent Local Advisory Board members required**

Hilltop Infant School and Hilltop Junior School Local Advisory board who work together are looking for parent members. This is an exciting time for both schools going forward. The board is made up of parents, staff, the Head of School, community members, and at times pupils. The Local Advisory Board (LAB) is the voice of the schools within the Trust and reports to the Board of Trustees.

Further information and details on how to apply will be provided after half term. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please email Katy Love, Clerk to the Trust at [k.love@heartsacademy.uk](mailto:k.love@heartsacademy.uk)

### **Admissions consultation - 28th November 2018 - 9th January 2019**

In line with the admissions code, all schools within the Trust are undertaking a consultation regarding their admissions policies. The proposed admission policy for Hilltop Infant School is listed on the Trust website at <http://www.heartsacademytrust.co.uk/latest-news.html> If you have any comments to make at all, please email them to Penny Partridge at [admin@heartsacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@heartsacademy.co.uk) by 11.59pm on 9th January 2019.

### **Pupil Premium**

In some circumstances, the school can claim additional funding for children (Pupil Premium). To do this we need your National Insurance Number and date of birth. If you volunteer this information, we will only use it for this purpose and it will be destroyed when your child leaves this school. If you have a child in Reception or Year 1 and have not already provided us with this information, please complete the form sent home and return to the school office ASAP. If you did not receive this letter it is because we already have your details. Thank you for your support.

### **Mr Chapman's Challenge**

Mr Chapman's beard is growing well (in patches!) and we are really hoping that we can raise enough money to shave his head! Thank you very much to everyone who has already sponsored Mr Chapman. We have also set up a Just Giving page where donations can be made online.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mr-chapman>



A very big thank you to Harley in Owl class who has raised very impressive **£80!**

### **Janeway's Joke**



**What song do monkeys sing at Christmas?**

*Jungle bells!*

If anyone else has a funny joke to make Janeway wag her tail, pop it on a bit of paper and hand it in to the office.

# Shipmates Newsletter



## Non-Uniform Day – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

We are having a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December in exchange for Chocolate for the Christmas Market. Please can children take their donations to their classrooms on Non-Uniform Day.

## Christmas Raffle

Tickets have been sent home in book bags this week! We have some brilliant prizes this year including entry passes to Marsh Farm, Rayleigh Mega Centre and 360 Play. We also have a wonderful Christmas Hamper among the many other prizes to be won. To purchase a raffle ticket, please return one strip with your contact details on the reverse with payment and return to the post box in reception. Additional tickets can be purchased from reception.

## Christmas Cake Competition - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

We are asking children to take part in our favourite competition of the year – our Christmas Cake Competition! We would like the children to get creative and bake a festive cake, all entries will then be judged with a winner from each class receiving a prize. Each entry will then be donated to the Christmas Market where families will have the opportunity to purchase a slice! Please remember we are a nut free school. Cakes can be taken to the office on the morning on the Christmas Market.



## Christmas Market - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>

This year Shipmates will be supporting the schools Christmas Market however we still need volunteers to help the event run smoothly, if you would like to get involved please contact us on the email address below. These events cannot run without your help!

If you are a local business who would like to run a stall at our event then please get in contact via [shipmates.hilltopinfants@gmail.com](mailto:shipmates.hilltopinfants@gmail.com) and we will send you a booking form. Please note you need to have your own insurance in place.

## Santa

We have heard a rumour that Santa will be stopping by for a visit at the Christmas Market, please look out for information on booking to be announced very soon!



## Science Talk Time

Date: 23.11.18

Subject Leader: Christine Kennedy

### Children attended:

Year 2: Honey, Bradley, Alex, Ava

Year 1: Jessica, Callie, William, Mali, Lucy, Shay,

Year R: Zachary, Holly, Amber, Harvey, Mollie, Rylee

### 1. What have you learnt in Science?

That there are many different experiments we can do

How many different trees we have at school

All about different dinosaurs

How to make a rain gauge

Seasons

Weather

Fossils

Omnivores

Herbivores

Carnivores

Prehistoric creatures

Taste testing

Waterproof materials

Dinosaur diets

About woodland animals

how to be safe outside

Changing leaves

Conkers

Exploring

Animal tracks/hunts

Mixing potions

Collecting objects

Watering plants

Playing with water

### 2. What do you like about Science?

Experiments

It's fun

Learning new things

Investigating

Finding out new things

Finding leaves

Trying new things

Writing about what we have learnt  
Looking inside conkers  
Jumping in leaves  
Exploring  
Animals  
Finding things

3. **What do you use to help you in Science?**

iPads  
Laptops  
Buddy  
Computers  
Brain  
Science books  
Internet  
Watching videos  
Magnifying glasses  
Word mats  
Leaflets  
Books  
Dinosaur walls  
Class trips  
Pictures  
Our book corners/school library  
Take pictures with iPads/cameras  
Bug pots  
Spades/rakes  
Teachers

4. **What do you wish you could do more of in Science?**

More experiments  
Learn more about dinosaurs  
Wear goggles  
Make something/inventing  
Find out why men can't have babies but women can  
More real fossils  
Research more about dinosaurs  
More taste testing  
Forest school  
Learning from videos  
Lady birds  
The future  
Use the bug hotel  
Play outside exploring leaves

5. What is the most exciting thing you can remember learning in Science?

Sorting dinosaurs into their groups

Changing colour of water

Learning about dinosaurs

Mary Anning

Classification key for dinosaurs

Looking at bones of dinosaurs/skeletons

Fossils

Taste testing

Forest school

Making bird feeders to help look after the birds

Having hot chocolate outside

Camp fires

Exploring for the Gruffalo