



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

# Hilltop Infant School

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 Website: <http://hearts-hilltopinf.uk>



@HilltopInfant

Head of School: Mr D. Chapman



## Weekly Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
 Newsletter No: 15

**Attendance w/beg:** 17<sup>th</sup> December  
 Whole School 88.51%  
 Class of the week: Deer – 98.85%

Hedgehog 80.0%	Squirrel 93.33%	Rabbit 85.33%
Deer 98.85%	Fox 81.61%	Owl 86.11%
Badger 91.67%	Otter 90.23%	

### Letters Home

Rabbit Class Parent Lunch

### Week Beginning 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

#### School Dinners

Week 1



**Forest School**  
 Group B



### Upcoming Diary Dates

#### January

7<sup>th</sup> Children return to school  
 15<sup>th</sup> Applications for Yr 3 closes  
 17<sup>th</sup> Rabbit Class Parent Lunch, 12:05pm  
 21<sup>st</sup> 9am, Road Safety Presentation, Hedgehog  
 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am, Road Safety Presentation, Squirrel  
 28<sup>th</sup> 9am, Road Safety Presentation, Rabbit

### Happy New Year

We hope that you all have had a wonderful Christmas break and would like to wish all of our families a very Happy New Year. All of the children have returned to school with enthusiasm and ready for our new term. This term there are lots of exciting things planned with school trips and enjoyable activities in school.

### This week in school

Happy New Year from the EYFS team!

This week, in EYFS, we have been sharing our Christmas experiences and thinking about other celebrations that take place throughout the year. We have written New Year's resolutions linked to our HEARTS values. In maths, we have been ordering days of the week, months of the years and the seasons and have made a calendar for 2019. We have also been thinking about Winter and have explored ice. We will be starting our Construction topic next week.

In Year 1, we have been writing a character description of Mumble from Happy Feet. In Maths, children have been comparing numbers using greater than and less than. We have also been discussing our special places in RE and made a 3D sculpture in Art using clay. It's been a busy first week back.

In Year 2, what a great start to the term we have had this week! We launched our new topic 'Lands of Ice and Snow', which the children are very excited about already. In maths this week, we have been ordering numbers using greater than and less than signs. In English, we are preparing to write about 'Happy Feet', where are first writing a character description of Mumble. We began exploring different materials in Science and in PE we started our gymnastics unit.

As the children will be making 3D models of Antarctica in a couple of week, we would be grateful if you could donate any boxes or packaging (bubble wrap/packaging paper) to your child's classroom that they can use for their models.

## **Volunteers**

We would like to thank all the people who give so generously of their time to support the children at Hilltop Infant School. LAB members, Shipmates, classroom volunteers and others give a huge amount to our school community and enrich the work we do.

## **Otter class**

Miss Wright will be joining Otter class from Tuesday 15th January as a trainee teacher. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her.

## **Admissions Year 2 -Year 3 2019**

Reminder for parents and carers with children in Year 2 that applications for Junior Schools at Essex County Council closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.

## **Extreme weather**

As we move into the colder months of the year we are reminding parents and carers of our policy on school closure during critical incidents and extreme weather. During these times our key priority is keeping pupils and staff safe.

1. Our school rarely closes. We are a service funded by the taxpayer and we have a duty to open in all but the most extreme circumstances.
2. We make decisions based on the level of service that we can provide.
3. Headteachers make decisions at the time of need.
4. All notices to close will be announced on twitter accounts first, then texts/emails/class dojo.
5. If there are no announcements the school is open.
6. If the school is closing, we will make all efforts to let you know as early as possible. Usually by 7.45 am. We do not make closure announcements the day before except in the most extreme cases.
7. Site staff/senior staff assess the site only and not the surrounding roads.
8. It is up to parents to make their own risk assessment and decide whether it is safe to travel to school.
9. If schools need to close during a school day parents will be informed by the same means identified at point 4.
10. School staff stay at school in all critical situations until the last pupil has left. If there is an emergency and they need to move pupils from the site parents will be informed via twitter/class dojo/text.
11. During critical periods school staff are very busy keeping the site and pupils safe. Please do not call to ask if the school is closing. In many cases the answerphone may be on. Monitor your twitter/dojo/texts. This helps us to keep pupils safe and focus on their needs and not on answering individual calls. During these busy times the telephones may be on answerphone.

## **Kerry Westbrook**

I am Kerry Westbrook, your school counsellor. In 2000, I studied and gained qualifications in psychology. It then felt a natural progression to take up a diploma in therapeutic counselling, after which I qualified as a therapeutic integrative counsellor in 2006. I worked for St. Lukes Hospice and Thurrock Mind during my time studying and then CAMHS. After joining the Wickford Cluster schools in 2012, my portfolio has increased to 7 schools across the area.

I am very passionate about supporting the emotional well-being and promoting good mental health of our young people, their families and the school staff, taking care of them during the school day. Married with 3 grown up sons, I have a vast amount of life experience to draw on, as well as my counselling skills and having connections with many outside agencies to be able to offer holistic support that is child centred. If you would like to book a confidential consultation, please ask a member of staff to contact me.

## **Parent Money**

We are migrating over to a new system where payments can be made online. We will be a cash free school from 1<sup>st</sup> February. At the moment we are experiencing a few problems but hope to have these rectified by the beginning of next week. We will then send home to all families log-in and passwords. Rabbit class have been the first class to trial this system and has been successful for a few parents. Thank you for your patience.

### **Christmas Market**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Shipmates for organising the wonderful Christmas Market. We are grateful that they give up their time to support the school in organising events such as these. We raised a fabulous £1,557.49. The money will be used to support the children's learning in the Infant and Junior Schools.

### **School dinners, menus and food deliveries**

At the Trust business meeting this week, school business managers shared some concerns about food deliveries. Our schools are making contingency plans for the next few months due to the political uncertainty leading up to the country leaving the European Union. We are finding that food deliveries are less efficient in some areas than others but we wanted to reassure parents that we are all working together to plan for any issues that may arise. However, if food deliveries continue to be an issue we will at times have to change menus at short notice. School business managers will continue to keep parents informed through newsletters and twitter if there are any ongoing issues. We would like to thank the fantastic kitchen and lunch teams who work hard in increasingly difficult times to ensure that pupils have a positive lunch time and nutritious food.

### **Parent/Carer Lunches**

We look forward to welcoming parents/carers from Rabbit class to join us for lunch on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Letters with menu requests have been sent home this week.

### **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)

### **Hilltots**

Our new preschool Hilltots opened the doors on Monday and we welcomed the children to our Hilltop community. It was lovely to see lots of new faces. Tommy from Deer class was the winner of the logo competition and officially opened Hilltots by cutting the ribbon.



## Mr Chapman's Challenge

Mr Chapman's Challenge has now come to an end and we are very pleased to announce that we have raised a very impressive **£1507.25!!!** We would like to say a great big thank you very much to everyone who has kindly donated. Also a big thank you to Harley who raised the most money, £120! Harley shaved Mr Chapman's head in assembly. Below are pictures of the challenge and the various stages of removing Mr Chapman's beard and hair.

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



## Janeway's Joke



**What do cows do on December 31<sup>st</sup>?**  
*Celebrate Moo Years Eve!*

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



### Thank you.....

To everyone that came to the Hilltop Christmas Market, we hope you all had a lovely time. We raised a fantastic amount of money on the stalls and raffle that were run by the PTA's, **£1557.49** in total and this will be split between the PTA's: Shipmates and HJSA, and all the money will be going to support the Infant and Junior Schools.

To all the children that entered the Christmas cake competition, we saw some fabulous cakes that were sold along with our refreshments and helped to raise money. ALL children that entered will be receiving a prize!

To everyone that has supported us by donating items, your time and simply attending our events. You have helped to raise so much money for our school!

### PTA Members

Shipmates needs a new Chair Person! Vicky Pearce has resigned from her position as Chair due to other commitments. She will be staying on as a volunteer. If anyone is interested in the role, please don't hesitate to contact her, she is more than happy to go through everything with you. A letter will go out in the New Year detailing what the role involves along with a date for when an AGM will be taking place.

**Happy New Year!**

**Please look out for updates on the Shipmates Notice board.**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Shipmates email: [Shipmates.hilltopinfants@gmail.com](mailto:Shipmates.hilltopinfants@gmail.com)**

# Wickford Cluster Schools Emotional Wellbeing Service

## **Services and interventions offered to all schools:**

- Professional supervision for all staff
- Counselling
- Signposting and referring to outside agencies
- Parent workshops: resilience
- New intake meetings
- Staff workshops: mental health awareness; self resilience; loss and bereavement;
- NSPCC assemblies and workshops
- Support and consultation
- Report writing
- Data collation
- Observations
- Transition support

## **Services essential within all schools:**

- Professional supervision to NQT's and support staff of vulnerable children (LSA & TA)
- Counselling for children, families and staff (when required)
- New intake meetings to introduce ourselves and our service also incorporate a brief presentation and booklet on resilience – this can be extended to include a parent workshop on a future date if interest is sufficient
- CLC presentation to NQT's – mental health awareness and self resilience
- NSPCC assemblies and workshops
- Data collation