



Happiness
Esteem
Achievement
Responsibility and
Respect
Truth
Spirituality and Service

Hilltop Infant School

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



@HilltopInfant

Head of School: Mr D. Chapman



Weekly Newsletter

13th December 2018
 Newsletter No: 13

Attendance w/beg: 3rd December
 Whole School 91.11%
 Class of the week: Badger – 98.33%

Hedgehog 93.2%	Squirrel 92.14%	Rabbit 96.77%
Deer 85.86%	Fox 84.33%	Owl 88.67%
Badger 94.16%	Otter 94.83%	

Letters Home

Permission Slip for Christmas Market

Week Beginning 17th December 2018

School Dinners

Week 2



Forest School

No Forest School



Upcoming Diary Dates

December

17th EYFS Nativity Performance, 1:30pm
 18th EYFS Nativity Performance, 9:30am
 18th Christmas Market
 19th Last Day of Term

January

7th Children return to school

This week in school

This week in EYFS we have been sharing our own Christmas traditions, making Christmas cards and weighing presents. We enjoyed our visit to the pantomime and our Church service at St Catherine's church. We also enjoyed our Christmas dinner and meeting our special guest!

This week in Year 1, we have been learning to identify and describe the properties of 3-D shapes. In RE, we have been writing about our visit to the Church. We have also been busy making our Christmas cards and getting ready for our Christmas performance.

In Year 2 this week we have been learning how to find and name fractions of shapes and numbers in maths. We've had lots of Christmassy events, including the Pantomime and our visit to St Catherine's Church. We have also been practising Christmassy songs in preparation for our performance at the Christmas market next Tuesday!

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.

Silvanna Court

Yesterday our Year 2 choir went to Silvanna Court and spread some festive cheer singing Christmas songs. They represented Hilltop Infant School beautifully and Mrs Walter was very proud of them all.



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.

Food Hampers

We have 2 lovely hampers to raffle with all money raised going to the school. There is one food hamper value, £80 and one child's hamper value £40. Tickets will be on sale after school in the hall.

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.

Admissions

Thank you to everyone who has kindly responded to the admissions consultation that happens every year. We would like to reassure parents that the prioritisation of pupils in receipt of the pupil premium from Hilltots is not "the monetisation of admissions" or an aim to prevent local pupils accessing their local school. Almost all of the pupils who join Hilltots in January will be local children and only a tiny number will be in receipt of any premium. The only pupils that we are allowed to prioritise from our preschool are pupils in receipt of the premium. The premium is supplied for the most disadvantaged pupils. Many pupils receive this extra funding during their schooling depending on family circumstances. Not all children receive it throughout their time at school but it provides support during periods of unemployment or family turbulence and helps pupils during periods of instability. Many pupils may fall into this category through no fault of their own (including the death or long illness of a parent). We know from talking to parents that they recognise that pupils who are vulnerable in this way deserve continuity and stability during challenging times.

If we could prioritise other pupils, we would. Pupils achieve well and flourish personally with consistently good teaching and with systems and people that are familiar to them. Other schools in the HEARTS Trust have seen the benefit of this approach for all pupils over a number of years. There have been some inaccuracies or "fake news!" on social media (as there often is) including the following. "HEARTS Trust is running a consultation on changing their admissions policy across all of their schools from 2020." Some schools are not changing their policy.

On past statistics of pupil characteristics this change in the criteria would not have prevented any of the children currently in the school gaining entry to Hilltop.

This prioritisation of disadvantaged pupils is an aim to ensure that the most vulnerable pupils have continuity of education and access to high quality teaching. This is, of course, in line with our school values.

HEARTS Promises

We are excited to let you know about the curriculum developments that our schools have been working on together over the past year and the continued improvements that are planned for this year.

School leaders, the school improvement team and expert staff from across the Trust have come together regularly to establish a shared curriculum which aims to remove the barriers to learning for all pupils. It is based on the HEARTS values and continues to be improved when it is reviewed annually.

All of you are aware of the importance the Hearts Trust places on academic progress and attainment. However, a full primary education is made up of a variety of life enhancing experiences. Our aim is to make the first seven years of your child's education inspiring and memorable, equipping them for their future.

Many of our children, as they leave, give us high praise already but we strive to do more:

"Memories will never be forgotten and I will probably dream about it when I'm older." MC Leaver 2018.

"What a great 7 years I've had - packed with laughter, adventure and wonderful events." AM Leaver 2018

With this in mind, we are excited to launch the Hearts Promise. After consultation with all schools, we have developed a programme of activities in which every pupil will have the chance to participate. Often these experiences will be linked to the curriculum topic or the time of year, but on occasions, they are simply life experiences which can be rich and fulfilling.

Within each key stage the programme includes simple, free activities such as kite flying, pancake tossing, den building and vegetable growing. This will be further supplemented with visitors and trips to theatres, theme parks and places of cultural interest. To reflect the significance of this undertaking, the Trust has allocated a substantial budget to complete the programme, which will be further supplemented with fund raising and parental contributions.

A photographic record will be kept and presented to each child when they leave the Trust.

We are encouraged that our Hearts Promise initiative is already being considered by the Secretary for Education for dissemination nationally. We are proud to be at the forefront of developing children's education.

We look forward to working with you all to make the curriculum experience at our schools the best it can be for every pupil.

Debbie Rogan HEARTS CEO, Tracy Jeans and Jane Jestico (consultant teachers Briscoe Primary school).

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.

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

Change to School Dinner Menu 17th December

Wednesday 19th December – Jumbo Fishfinger, chips and beans, Quorn dippers or Jacket, Cookie

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

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>



Janeway's Joke



What do elves eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes!

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



Christmas Raffle – To be Drawn at the Christmas Market Tuesday 18th December

Tickets have been sent home in book bags this week! 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. You will also be able to purchase tickets at the Market up until 4pm when sales will close.

The top 5 prizes to be won are...

A Christmas Hamper donated by Shipmates & HJSA including festive treats and vouchers for days out

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Family Bundle 1 | Paradise Wildlife Park 2 for 1 Entry
Monkey Madness Voucher
Family Swim Voucher for Everyone Active Wickford
£20 off Just Bounce Hire
Family Play Voucher for South Essex Gymnastics
Family Photoshoot with Barrett & Co |
| Family Bundle 2 | Laser Madness Voucher
Family Swim Voucher for Everyone Active Wickford
£30 off Elite Sports Party Hire
Entry Passes for the Mega Centre Rayleigh
Family Play Voucher for South Essex Gymnastics
Family Photoshoot with Barrett & Co |
| Family Bundle 3 | 4 Tickets to Marsh Farm
1 Week Gym Membership at Everyone Active Wickford
Dominos Pizza Voucher
Entry Passes for the Mega Centre Rayleigh
Family Play Voucher for South Essex Gymnastics
Family Photoshoot with Barrett & Co |
| Family Bundle 4 | 2 week tuition at Kip McGrath and a Boxset of Books
2 Week trial at Stagecoach
2 Week Gym Membership at Everyone Active Wickford
Entry Passes for the Mega Centre Rayleigh
Family Play Voucher for South Essex Gymnastics |



We will send out a list of all raffle prizes to be won before the event. We would like to thank everyone who has donated a prize to us, without support from the local community we would not be able to collect such generous prizes. Our supporters include Paradise Wildlife Park, Monkey Madness, Laser Madness, Everyone Active Wickford, Marsh Farm, Partymans Magic Makers, South Essex Gymnastics, Mega Centre Rayleigh, Tesco, Just Bounce, Elite Sports, Dominos Pizza, Barret & Co, West & Co Funeral Directors, Chanelle Heath & Beauty Spa, Summerhill Garden Centre, Meadowcroft Garden Centre, Hollywood Bowl, Moviestarr, Kip McGrath Wickford, Stagecoach, Daisy Janes, and Quart Pot.

Santa

We still have some slots available to see Santa at the Christmas Market, this is priced at £2.50 a child and each child will receive a small gift. The next booking opportunity will be Friday morning in the Infant Office, if you are unable to make this please email shipmates and we will try our best to accommodate you. The grotto will be based with Hilltots.



Christmas Cake Competition - Tuesday 18th 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 of the Christmas Market.

Christmas Market Stalls

Glitter Tattoos – for one day only the school have agreed to allow students to keep their glitter tattoos on for the last day of school. You will find the glitter tattoo stall in the Infant Hall.

We have lots of Tombola stalls including Teddy Bears, Chocolate, Toys, Stationery, Sweets and Toiletries, these will be spread between the Infant & Junior Halls.

Games – we have a Lego Lucky Dip, Guess the Name of the Teddy, Chocolate cards and Reindeer Hoopla, come and try your luck and win some fabulous prizes! We also have Where in the World of Santa? In the Infant Hall where you can win an entry pass for 360 Play.

In the Junior Hall you will also find a Secret Present Room where children will be able to buy gifts for loved ones, presents are priced between £1-£3.

Crafts will take place within the Infants where children will be able to decorate baubles, keyrings and wooden tree decorations and tea light holders, crafts will be priced at 50p and £1.50.

Refreshments will be in the Junior Hall and will include cakes, mince pies, soft drinks, hot chocolate and crisps. This is not a complete list of stalls so please come along and see everything that's on offer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful helpers, without you these events cannot happen.

Please look out for updates on the Shipmates Notice board.

Thank you for your continued support.

shipmates.hilltopinfants@gmail.com