



Half term—week beginning Monday 15th February 2021

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers during that week. There will be no online remote learning.

Dear Parents/Guardians

As a school community we have had a great week focussing on Children’s Mental Health Week. I hope you have seen lots of our activities on social media and I look forward to sharing more details with you in next week’s newsletter. There is still time to sponsor the staff team as we try to reach our target of 2 million steps by the end of today, with all money raised going to Place2Be.

This week’s newsletter is a celebration of the amazing efforts of our teachers and pupils with remote learning. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who completed our survey and gave us such positive feedback on our current offer. I would also take this opportunity to stress the need for pupils to ensure they are engaging with all their lessons. We know how hard it is and this has gone on for much longer than any of us might have expected! However every lesson includes new learning and pupils are currently completing assessments from home, these are all crucial elements of our curriculum and if our pupils don’t engage they will fall behind. As always if you require any extra support please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s Progress Leader.

As I finish for this week I would like to pay our respects to the legend Captain Sir Tom Moore who sadly passed away earlier this week. He was such an inspiration to many of us throughout the pandemic. It feels appropriate to share his lovely quote “Tomorrow will be a Good Day”. As I said in my ‘Thoughtful Thursday’ assembly this week, we have to believe good times are coming and we will all be back together soon.

Please take care and remember Hands Face Space!



Captain Sir Tom Moore

1920—2021

“Tomorrow will be a Good Day”

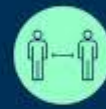
Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal

Covid Testing at Hillside

Lateral flowing testing of pupils and staff is going really well. All roles are carried out by members of Hillside’s team, which pupils and staff appreciate. We believe a friendly and familiar face is important when many things in life feel so different. We are also delighted that three of our Governors, Mr Mike Cunliffe, Chair of Governors, Mr Ray Webb, Vice-Chair of Governors and Dr Paul Sapple, Community Governor have undertaken the training needed and joined the testing team as volunteers. Whatever the next few weeks have in store, we are confident that our testing facilities are up and running and ready to do whatever testing is needed to support the return to school of all pupils.

Mrs Ryan





T&L Update

We have been overwhelmed by our recent parent feedback about remote education. Messages received from parents have really spurred staff on and helped us realise that the hard work we are putting in to developing the remote education offer is being noticed by pupils and parents.

We are continuing to deliver our sequenced curriculum across all subjects and have worked hard to adapt teaching methods to ensure pupils can make the most from the remote learning experience.

We have consulted evidence to learn more about effective remote learning and the importance of the following:

- **ensuring pupils receive clear explanations**
- **supporting growth in confidence with new material through scaffolded practice**
- **application of new knowledge or skills**
- **enabling pupils to receive feedback on how to progress**

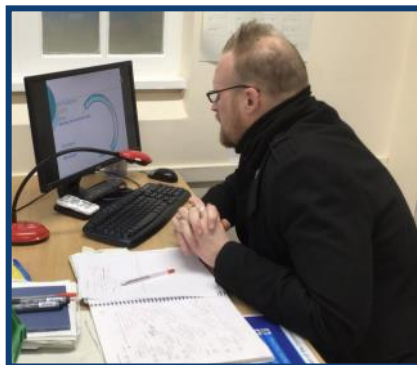
As a teaching team we have been collaborating and sharing ideas to implement all of these and we are still learning! Just this morning Mrs Rees shared a new idea for using the chat box in Teams for a quick instant assessment. Thank you, Mrs Rees!

We have shared our Teams top tips across the staff team to develop new and innovative ways to use technology to teach. Our vision at Hillside is that everyone is a learner, and it has been lovely to see how this has flourished during lockdown; staff and pupils are all keen to learn and share their learning with others.

If you are not yet following our social media pages, please do. We have included a few examples of what we have been sharing in this newsletter, however, we share and celebrate our pupils learning daily through these pages.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents and pupils about the remote learning area of the website which includes guides for remote learning. As a parent you can sit with your child whilst they log in to Teams and can see the week ahead and the planned live lessons on their calendar and it is also easy to get up their assignments and see which have been completed and if there are any yet to be done.

As part of our catch-up strategy, we have purchased GCSE POD for every pupil. This is an online library of podcasts, which have visuals and animations to go with them, for every subject across KS4. It also includes some excellent 'how to' videos showing pupils how to use the pods to help with their study.





As we continue to deliver the curriculum across all subjects, we also continue with our assessment plans. This means pupils will have Mini Assessment Points (MAPs) which inform their current attainment grades. As with any lesson in school it is important to attend all live lessons and keep up assignment work or progress will be hindered. It will also make it very difficult to catch up on return to school as there will be gaps in pupils knowledge.

Learning is our number 1 priority at Hillside and we endeavour to maintain that during these difficult times. A message to our pupils: please continue to try your best, we know it is difficult, we find it hard to and miss teaching you all in school, but please keep going. The harder you work now the easier the transition back into school will be.

#Team Hillside #AlwaysLearning

Mrs Wardale



gcsepod
education on demand

Top Podders are the pupils who have streamed the most pods

Questions Answered are the pupils who attempted the most questions

Diamond League - are the pupils who have answered with the most accurate knowledge, the more correct responses, the more diamonds.

GCSE Pod For KS4

TOP PODDERS

1st Kelly L, Year 11 - 28

2nd Jamie-Leigh I, Year 10 - 22

3rd Patricia B, Year 10 - 9

Excellence in the Heart of the Community

GCSE Pod For KS4

QUESTIONS ANSWERED ?

1st Brian E, Year 10 - 79

2nd Louise E-I, Year 10 - 63

3rd Freya W, Year 10 - 57

Excellence in the Heart of the Community

GCSE Pod For KS4

DIAMOND LEAGUE

1st Ewelina G, Year 10 - 100

2nd Harry E, Year 11 - 86

3rd Brian E, Year 10 - 83

Excellence in the Heart of the Community

Times Tables Rockstars

A massive well done to our TT Rockstars this week, they are:

Year 7:

Joshua Williams 7THE, Callum Slater 7RS and Alfie Macklin 7GW

Year 8:

Kieran Seddon 8SO, Jessica Harrington 8NW and Luke Garnett 8SO



Miss Christian



Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Bulletin

EXPRESS YOURSELF

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek



www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

1-7 February 2021 is **Children's Mental Health Week**. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to focus on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is **EXPRESS YOURSELF**.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

When children are able to find creative ways to share their feelings, thoughts or ideas it can help them feel good about themselves and who they are. Children can do this through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that they enjoy.

It's really important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

Given that the past year will have left many of us feeling out of control and helpless, supporting children and young people to express themselves is arguably more important than ever.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can encourage your child to express themselves.

1. Could you build on existing interests or passions? Think about what has helped them get through the past year. A love of dancing? Baking? Drawing? Fashion? Encourage your child by noticing their unique interests and praising their efforts.
2. Trying new things can be a great way to find a new creative outlet. There are lots of online tutorials and video demos that you and your child could be inspired by... could you try out something new together? Or perhaps ask someone you know to share their creative hobbies and give them a go.
3. Some children may not think of themselves as being creative. Try to focus on the importance of the process and the way it can make them feel, rather than the end result. Try not to judge their efforts and remember to give encouragement for trying rather than for doing something well.
4. Listening carefully can help children feel more comfortable and confident when expressing themselves. Try to minimise distractions and give your child your full attention when you're spending time together, being aware of your own body language and eye contact. You might want to try summarising what they've shared and acknowledging their feelings.
5. Children are expressing themselves all the time but not necessarily with words. 'Listen' to everything they are trying to tell you with their behaviour, or with their play and creativity or with their silence. It's all self-expression.
6. Remember – you don't need a lot of expensive equipment to get creative at home. Recyclable materials or older items you no longer have a use for can provide amazing inspiration, and of course there's no limit to your imagination!

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: place2be.org.uk/help

