



Dear Parents/Guardian

It has been a pleasure to welcome pupils back to school this week and I hope everyone was able to enjoy some well deserved time off over the half term break.

Many of our pupils, families and staff are massive Liverpool fans and attended the Parade on Bank Holiday Monday. I know we are all devastated about the events at the end of the parade and I am so relieved and thankful that this terrible event did not touch the lives of any of our school community. I know we will all keep those who were directly affected in our thoughts.

After today we have six weeks until we break up for the Summer and every one of these 30 days counts. We need our pupils in every day to ensure no learning is lost. We also have some lovely events planned for our pupils as we move through the final weeks so everyone needs to be in, to ensure they don't miss out.

Amanda Ryan, Principal

Friday 6th June 2025

Our School Needs You!

As our friends at Read for Good will tell you, it's well established that reading for pleasure leads to significantly better outcomes for children – boosting academic performance, enhancing wellbeing, and fostering vital life skills like empathy.

But did you know that 1 in 5 children don't have a book at home? And 1 in 7 primary schools in England have no library space at all, affecting more than 750,000 children.

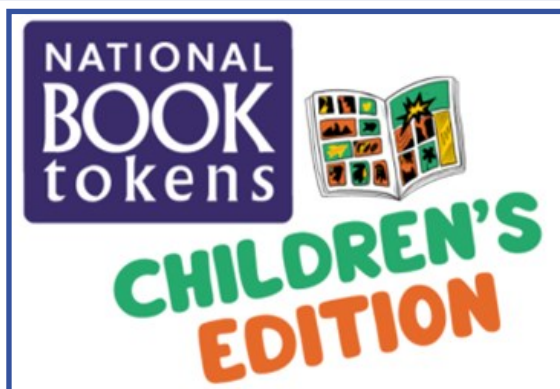
It's time to #rebuildthelibrary.

The annual schools prize gives five schools across the UK the chance to win £1,000 in National Book Tokens so they can fill their library shelves with new books. Each winning school will also receive £300 in cash to make improvements to their library space, making it fun and welcoming for all.

If Hillside is one of the five winning entries, we will also win a £100 National Book Token to spend in our favourite bookshop!

Please go to <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize> to vote for Hillside High School and help us win £1000 in books and £300 to add to our fantastic Learning Resource Centre. Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Thornton



admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk

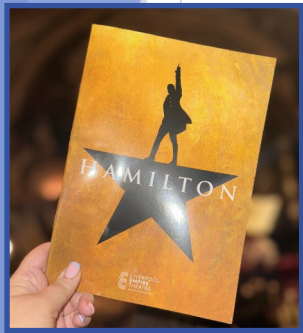


0151 525 2630

Ladies & Gentleman ... "This is Hamilton"

What an amazing end to the half term the Performing Arts Department had, visiting the Liverpool Empire to see Hamilton! Over 50 pupils from Years 9 & 10, plus staff, took the train into the city centre to see a performance of the musical which is touring the UK for the first time. It certainly did not disappoint! The combination of singing and rapping, combined with stunning choreography and storytelling at its best, had us hooked throughout. We were then treated to a bonus stay behind session after the show, where members of the back stage and front of house teams came out to talk us through their careers in the theatre. It was such an inspiring end to another fantastic afternoon in the theatre and as always, our pupils did 'Team Hillside' proud!

Miss Brown



Attendance

Welcome back to our last half term - so important to be in school every day and enjoy everything that's going on.

This week we will be celebrating with the 444 pupils who successfully completed the nine day May challenge. Sadly not one of our 'victims' were dunked in the last week - so there was a roll over and they are back again.....looks like Mr Edwards and Mr Campbell have escaped this week - but Mr Rayson looks in trouble!

Don't forget to Rise and Shine Hillsideers!

Mr Edwards

It's a roll-over – Let's try again when we get back! Someone has to get soaked!



Key Dates 2024-2025

For Hillside Pupils and Our New Year 6 Pupils

Wednesday 18th June—Year 11 Leavers Breakfast—10.45am 12.30pm

Thursday 26th June – Year 6 Transition Day & Year 11 Prom

Thursday 3rd July—Welcome Evening - 6pm Start for Year 6 Pupils and Parents

Wednesday 2nd July—Immunisations Catch Up Session for Years 7-10

Friday 4th July—Festival of Sport Day

Thursday 10th July— Summer Community Evening—All Welcome

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th July—Summer Production 7pm

Friday 18th July—Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23rd July - Friday 25th July—Summer School for Year 6 Pupils

Wednesday 13th August—Uniform Collection for Year Pupils

Thursday 21st August - GCSE Results Day



Understanding Attachment and Trauma: A Guide for Parents

At Hillside High School, we are committed to being a trauma-aware community, a place where every child feels safe, supported, and understood. This means recognising how early experiences shape a child's ability to learn, connect, and thrive. We are currently working towards achieving The Bronze Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Schools Award (ATSSA).

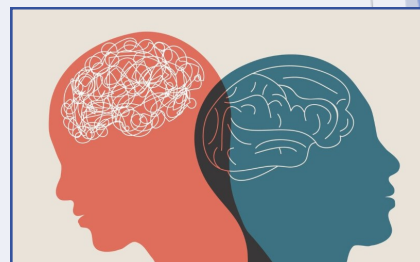
What Is Attachment Theory?

Attachment theory explains how children form emotional bonds with the adults in their lives. When these bonds are secure, children feel safe to explore, learn, and build relationships. But when those early connections are disrupted through loss, neglect, or instability it can affect how a child behaves and copes with stress.

What Is Trauma?

Trauma isn't always about one big event. It can also come from ongoing stress or experiences that overwhelm a child's ability to cope. Examples include:

- Loss of a parent or caregiver
- Domestic violence or conflict at home
- Neglect or inconsistent caregiving
- Living in foster care or moving between homes
- Serious illness or hospital stays
- Witnessing or experiencing abuse
- Sudden life changes (e.g. moving schools or countries)



What Does a Trauma-Aware School Look Like?

We don't ask, "What's wrong with this child?" we ask, "What might have happened to this child?". We support pupils by:

- Having predictable routines each lesson such as our lesson transitions routine
- Responding calmly and consistently to behaviour such as walking calmly on the left on the corridors and using the Hillside Way as a visual tool for pupils.
- Offering safe spaces for emotional regulation such as our calm room.
- Building strong, trusting relationships with all staff
- Training staff to recognise and respond to trauma

How Can Parents Help?

You don't need to have all the answers just being a calm, consistent presence makes a big difference. Here's how you can help:

- Keep us informed. If your child has experienced something that might affect them, please let us know. Even small details can help us support them better.
- Reach out if you need help. If you're unsure how your child is coping or need extra support, contact us. We can offer mental health support or support for your family through projects such as Team Around the School.
- Work with us. When school and home work together, children feel more secure and understood.

Helpful Resources for Parents

Beacon House – Free guides and videos on trauma and attachment
beaconhouse.org.uk/resources

Parenting Special Children – Support for families of children with trauma
parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

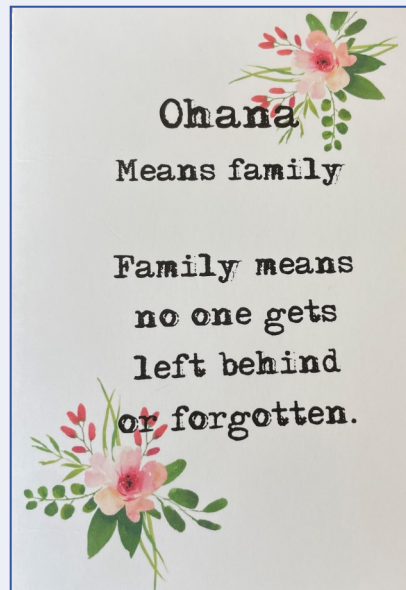
Foundations for Attachment (Kim Golding) – Practical parenting programme
kimgolding.co.uk

Mrs Jones

Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Welcome Back

It has been my pleasure to lead our 'Welcome Back' assembly this week. As part of my assembly I gave all pupils a card with the following quote on



I picked this up over half term and just loved the quote. The word family has so many meanings, from the obvious...our immediate family, e.g. the people we live with, to our extended family, to other 'families' we might feel part of. We often talk about 'Team Hillside' and our school being a family.

I asked pupils to reflect on...

Why is this important?

What do they do to contribute to our school feeling like a family?

What are the practical implications of this? For example the choices we make every day about how school feels, I asked pupils to think about practical things here, like the way we move around school.

When our family life feels calm and predictable that helps us feel happy and gives us the best chance of achieving well. Do they think that's the same for school?

Do they agree with the quote? What can we do to ensure no one in our 'Hillside family' gets left behind or forgotten?

Thought for the Week

*Love one another
and you will be happy.
It is as simple and
as difficult as that.*

Michael Leunig

Mrs Ryan

Uniform

It's approaching the time of year where we say Goodbye to our Year 11 and we would love for you to pass on any 'Preloved' uniform, PE kits or drama kit to us. Likewise any uniform or PE Kit that our existing pupils have grown out of will be greatly received.

