



# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to celebrate our pupil's and their good attendance this week with our 'We Love Your Attendance' awards. There is prizes to be won each day and then a roll over with all the raffle tickets for the year group going into a prize drawer on Friday 13th February for our BIG prizes! As we always say 'You have got to be in it, to win it!'

We were delighted to take delivery of our Super Lambanana on Wednesday and I am sure you agree it looks fantastic in our Quad. The ACL group who sponsored our Educate Award actually own the Super Lambanana and in recognition of us winning the WOW Award we get to have the Super Lambanana for the year. We are delighted about this and are already planning lots of exciting events with the theme of Super Lambanana.

Amanda Ryan, Executive Principal



## Congratulations

Winner of Year 11,  
Period 6 Attendance raffle is  
Jacob W 11GMW

## Absence

If your child is unable to attend school you will need to ring the school office on 0151 525 2630 between 7.30am-8.30am. The call will be received by one of our admin team who will discuss the reason for your child's absence. Please note we no longer use the My Ed app, so this should not be used. The Attendance Team have made 3800 calls home since we started back in September. This takes time away from us supporting your child's attendance. Please help us by letting us know if your child has an appointment or will be absent for any reason.

## "Holocaust Memorial Day - Plaza Cinema Trip

We continued with our events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day at Hillside with 15 of our Year 9 pupils taking part in a community event at the Plaza Cinema in Waterloo last Friday, where they watched "The Island on Bird Street" which tells the story of a Jewish teenage boy who tries to survive on his own in a Polish ghetto after his family are taken away. Mrs Ryan and Mr Bragger who escorted the pupils during the screening were deeply proud of how our pupils conducted themselves throughout and they were fantastic representatives of the school as always. The pupils themselves were deeply moved by the film itself with one pupil, Isabelle, commenting "The movie shows what the Jewish community went through during such a difficult time. I really enjoyed the movie and thank you for giving me the opportunity to see it!"

**Mr Rayson**



Ferammi	8 RLC
Kordian	9 SAC
Junior	7 JMe
Luna-Rose	7 HP
Jacob	7 JMu
Nyla	7 CL
Anais	8 SKe
Brooklyn	7 CL
Chloe	8 SKe
Isabelle	8 CR
Slaine	9 TH
Kim	7 RS
Olivia	9 KBH
Elsie	9 KBH
Vena	7 RS
Charlie	9 JR
Tony	9 JR

Last Weeks PE Star Performers



Wisdom	8 SA
Lois	7 JMu
Joshua	9 TH
Elizabeth	8 HT
Joel	8 RLC
Gabriella	9 KBH
Daisy	7 JMe
Billie	7 RS
Luke	7 HP
Dylan	11 GMW
Riley	7 RS
Michelle	10 THe
Faith	8 RLC
Matilda	9 EB
Abbey	9 EB
Matilda	8 SKe
Reece	7 JMe
Chanell	8 SO
Jake	8 SKe
Lillie	9 KBH
Jacob	11 GMW

### February 2026

13th February	End of Term — Last Day of School
23rd February	INSET Day (School Closed to Pupils)
24th February	Start of Term — Back to School at 8.30am

### March 2026

5th March	World Book Day
10th March	MENACWY Vaccines—Year 9 pupils.
10th March	Year 9 Options Interviews
9th – 13th March	Year 11 English, Maths & Science Exams
19th March	Year 9 Options Evening (times to be confirmed.)
16th – 27th March	Year 10 Work Experience
	End of Term—Last Day of School





## Happy Retirement

We say a sad farewell to our amazing Carol Toop who retired on Friday after 27 years working at Hillside in the kitchen. She will be sadly missed by everyone.  
Thank you



### Sefton Parent Carer Forum Parent Care Conference 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

10:00 to 3:00 at Crosby Library (upstairs)

**10:00 Welcome**, tea and coffee and an opportunity to chat

**10:30 Dawn Makinson**, Autism Inclusion Consultant, to talk about transitions, followed by questions

**11:15 Amanda Flanagan** from Respect to talk about CAPVA (Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse) followed by questions

**12:00 Lunch**, we are providing a free light lunch

**12:45 Lorraine Fletcher** from Sefton CAMHS to talk about trauma and building resilience followed by questions

**1:30 SEND Awards** followed by an opportunity to chat

**15:00 Finish**

We have built in time for parent carers to ask questions and catch up with each other, presenters, Sefton PCF steering group and any other guests attending. We want the day to feel relaxed and not too overwhelming.



# Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

## *Excellence in the Heart of the Community*

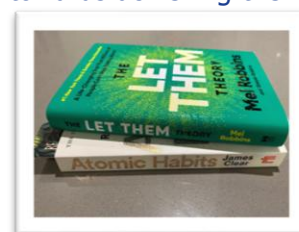
It has been my pleasure to deliver assemblies this week. I have spoken about 'Excellence in the Heart of the Community' and how important these values should be to us all.

We should all strive for 'Excellence' in all that we do, all of the time.

I spoke about the importance of excellence in terms of conduct and manners and shared with pupils how delighted I was that this was recognised in our Trust Review last week, where everyone on the team commented on how polite and courteous our pupils are, holding doors open and demonstrating good manners at all times. I talked about excellence in terms of our behaviour in school, behaving well is a given and everyone should be able to learn in disruption free classrooms and move around school in a safe and orderly manner.

I then went on to talk about academic excellence. At Hillside we want every pupil to leave Hillside with the best GCSE results they are capable of, ensuring they can pursue a suitably ambition Post-16 route. Of course this will look different to every pupil, but we all need to working towards achieving the very best we can.

I shared this week's 'Thought for the Week' which says:  
'We are what we repeatedly do.  
Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit'  
Will Durant (Via Aristotle)



I love the work of James Clear and in his book Atomic Habits, he speaks about '1% better every day counts in the long run'. To breakdown achieving academic excellence I asked pupils to think about the habits they can change now, next lesson, next week, next month. The habits which are going to help them achieve those GCSE results in the end. Things like getting 1 more question correct on your retrieval, improving your P2S or MAP results, writing for the full 15 minutes in a 'Blue Zone'. These are all things we can do every day to push on the 1% better!

I was then delighted to share with pupils how we celebrate 'Excellence in the Heart of the Community' at our annual Presentation Evening. The event which is held every November at Bootle Town Hall is a real celebration of our pupils and their achievements. Only the prize winners and their families attend, so it is lovely to share the film of the evening with all pupils. This allows them to share in the success of their peers and see why achieving excellence; and having this recognised at Presentation Evening is such a huge achievement.

### **Reflections for pupils:**

What does 'Excellence' look like to you?

Do you strive for this 'Excellence' in all that you do, every lesson, every day?

Do you agree that doing things 1% better every day adds up in the long run?

What are the things you are going to do 1% better today?

Can you recognise what James Clear means when he says...  
'Each time you write, you are a Writer  
Each time you play the violin, you are a Musician  
Each time you workout, you are an Athlete'  
What can you take from this quote and do differently?



Please scan this QR code  
for a link to the film of  
our presentation evening.