



### Dear Parents/Guardians

This is my first opportunity to say a very warm welcome back to 'Team Hillside'. It has been an absolute pleasure and joy to welcome all our fantastic pupils and staff back to school. Without a doubt these are challenging times for us all, and I understand that whilst returning to school is exciting and normal for pupils, it can also be a nervous time for families.

I hope the information below is of use to you; please keep it to hand as it will be useful to us all in the coming weeks. There is also lots of information specific to Hillside on our website and as always please do not hesitate to contact your child's Progress Leader or Mr Edwards, Vice-Principal if you would like to discuss anything in more detail. As a school community we are here to support all our pupils and their families to return to school.

I can't speak highly enough about the way in which our pupils have returned to school. Their conduct and the way they have adapted our 'new norm' is impressive. Pupils have conducted themselves in a mature and sensible manner, and adjusted with ease to a new way of school life. Their approach in lessons and focus has impressed us all. I hope you feel the same sense of pride as I do. Let's keep up the fantastic start and I look forward to everything we can achieve in the coming weeks and months.

**Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal**

## WHAT TO DO IF...

This poster is a summary of guidance of what to do if you or a household member has COVID-19 symptoms or you've been in contact with a confirmed case. It is intended as a quick reference, but you should read the full guidance linked at the bottom of each column. If in doubt, contact your school HR manager.



### YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS

If you have coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Inform school ASAP

Get a test now

[www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

Follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' [www.bit.ly/stayathomeguidance](http://www.bit.ly/stayathomeguidance)

[www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

### SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS

If someone in your household develops symptoms, they get a test. Other members of their household self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Inform school ASAP

If the test is negative;

- the person with symptoms can stop self-isolating, but may have another illness
- other members of the household can stop self-isolating

If the test is positive;

- the person with symptoms self-isolates for at least 10 days from symptom onset and follows **stay at home guidance**.
- other members of the household continue self-isolating for the full 14 days

[www.bit.ly/stayathomeguidance](http://www.bit.ly/stayathomeguidance)

### YOU'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A CONFIRMED CASE

Contacts who need to self-isolate will be notified and advised accordingly by the NHS Test and Trace service. If you have not been notified, this means you do not need to self-isolate. If your contact is waiting for a test result, you do not need to self-isolate.

If you have been informed that you are a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19;

- self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date of your last contact with them.

Inform school ASAP

- follow the 'stay at home' guidance
- You are at risk of developing COVID-19 for the next 14 days.
- Even if you never develop symptoms, you can still be infected and pass the virus on without knowing it.
- You should not arrange for testing unless you develop symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, other people in your household do not need to self-isolate at home with you.

[www.bit.ly/guidanceforcontacts](http://www.bit.ly/guidanceforcontacts)

WDT What to do if... [COVID] v1 07/09/2020





## Sneak Preview!

I am delighted to share with you some photos of all the site work which is ongoing at Hillside. Over the last few months work to modernise our reception area has been completed. I am sure you will agree the transformation is amazing. The photo includes me, Mr Kirkham, Head of Operations for the Wade Deacon Trust, who have funded this work and Mike Gore the Architect. You might remember the work to the front of school was initially planned to take place in three separate phases. I am delighted to say the decision has now been made to complete all the work in one. What this does mean is we will need to wait a little bit longer for our pupils, families and visitors to access school from the front entrance. As you drive past school you will see the work to improve the front of school is still very much ongoing. The work includes sandblasting the entire front of the building and new windows. Once this work is complete the landscaping will begin. I can't wait to see the finished look and in the meantime I thank you for your patience.

We have also had our Boardroom completely refurbished and our quad developed into a beautiful garden for our pupils to enjoy. All our Science Labs have been decorated and new blinds fitted, giving the rooms a much more modern and fresh look, ensuring our pupils have the learning environment they deserve.

I would like to say a massive Thank You to our site team, Mr Flynn, Mr Tracewski and Mr Kelly for all their hard work over the summer.

I am delighted that this level of investment is going into our school to provide our pupils with the facilities they deserve. I look forward to sharing more photos with you in the coming weeks.

**Mrs Ryan**



Before



After



Before



After



Before



Before



After



After

Excellence in the Heart of the Community





## Very Proud

We were delighted to receive a phone call from a lady who owns a shop in The Strand complementing three of our boys on their kindness and community spirit. The boys found an i-phone in her shop and handed it in, allowing her to contact the person who had lost the phone. Obviously they were delighted to get their phone back. The shop owner described the brothers, Stevie Owens in Year 7, Ellis Owens, in Year 8 and Reece Mooney in Year 10 as 'amazing pupils, who are a credit to the Hillside and Bootle'. I have to say I agree. Well done boys, what amazing ambassadors for the school and our community.

Mrs Ryan



## Scientific calculators

Due to the government guidelines it is important that all pupils have their own scientific calculator because teachers cannot lend them to pupils as they might have done in previous years. It was fantastic to see many of our pupils returning to school with their scientific calculators last week (well done if that is you!) however, there were still many pupils without their own. It is essential that during the next few weeks pupils purchase these for use in lessons otherwise they will not be able to access some of their work.

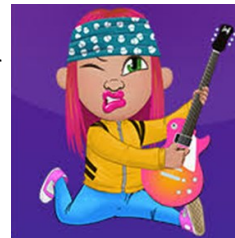
We recommend the Casio or Aurora scientific calculators which are widely available in many supermarkets and online. Pupils will be able to purchase the Aurora scientific calculator from school at a discounted price of £6. If you have any problems purchasing a scientific calculator then please speak to your Progress Leader, Form Tutor or maths teacher.

Miss Christian



## TT Rockstars

As part of our drive to improve whole school numeracy, Year 7 and 8 are expected to log on to TT Rockstars for at least 30 minutes a week to practise their times tables. You need to make sure that you get your login details from your maths teacher or form tutor if you haven't got yours so that you can start building those coins up – remember you can play against your classmates and friends!



Each week in the newsletter we will be publishing the top earners and we want to see as many different names in here as we can! We also have a display by the maths base with lots of different categories on it which will be updated and then shared via our twitter and Instagram pages every half term.

Miss Christian

Get playing everyone!

## SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) Corner

**Theme:** Literacy

**SMSC Focus:** Moral

International Day of Literacy

**This week's assembly:**

What is democracy? What are other forms of government?

**Thought for the Week:**

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character."

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Excellence in the Heart of the Community



## School Photographs

Please note that the school photographer will be in school all day on Wednesday 16th September to take individual school photographs for all year groups,

Further information of how you can purchase photographs will be available once photographs are done.

## Attendance

From the beginning of this term our usual attendance expectations and rules apply. We expect all pupils to attend full time unless in the case whereby a statutory reason applies, i.e sickness, an exceptional circumstance or where a pupil is complying with clinical and /or Public Health England advice.

We absolutely understand that there may be apprehension about the current ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 and we continue to follow and take advice from the trust, the DfE and Public Health England.

The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed that the following responsibilities will resume:

- Parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil.
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Our aim is to continue to support all pupils back into school with practical help and sensitivity where there are difficulties with pupils returning, whatever the reason. Please can we remind parents /guardians of the need for open communication; if your child is unable to come to school it is vital that you telephone school and discuss the reason why.

If you feel your child would benefit from accessing our school counsellor then please contact your child's Progress Leader or Carla Sheils and this can be arranged. To further support our pupils we have arranged for some additional weekly time for our counsellor so there is currently some availability.

Please see below some hints and tips regarding school attendance:

### Practical strategies for helping your child attend school regularly

#### Top 10 Tips:

- Make school attendance non-negotiable unless there is a genuine illness – create a good habit from the start.
- Make sure uniform is ready, especially after the holidays or weekends.
- Set the alarm clock early enough to allow plenty of time to get ready.
- Talk to your child about school life and if they are unhappy about any aspect, tell us as soon as possible so we can try to resolve the issue.
- Ensure medical/dental appointments are made outside of school hours. If this is not possible, your child should not miss a whole day of school and they should attend either before and/or after the appointment.
- Talk to your child about how important it is to attend school every day.
- If you think your child is trying to avoid school, or certain days, please try to find out why and let us know.
- If your family are experiencing any difficulties, talk to staff in school. We will be able to offer help.

**Mrs Cross**

