



Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter. I'm sure you agree it is nice to think about something which isn't Covid related! Since returning in September our pupils have made an extremely positive start to the academic year and I am looking forward to celebrating this with them next week. I feel an immense sense of pride when I reflect on how well pupils have returned to school, given the significant time they had away from their studies; I'm sure that all parents/guardians will share this feeling.

The newsletter is full of wonderful news and I am delighted to let everyone know our lovely Mrs Evans and her husband Brian welcomed a baby boy into the world last Thursday. Congratulations to them both; we all send our love to Mrs Evans and her baby, Evan Michael Chadwick. I am delighted to report that they are both doing well.

Monday was Teacher Appreciation Day. Of course, I appreciate everything our teachers do every day, but this did give us the opportunity to make a special fuss of our teachers. All teachers were entered into a prize draw and I was delighted Mrs McKay was the very happy winner of our 'Next' voucher, chocolates and rainbow hanger. The quote on the hanger is 'The greater the storm, the brighter the rainbow', which feels like a very appropriate reminder at the moment. Inside the newsletter you will see some lovely words from a couple of pupils sharing how much they appreciate Mrs McKay.

As I said last week if you have young children or know anyone who is currently making choices about which secondary school to apply for, please pass on this newsletter to them. We have tours available outside of school hours and are very excited that our first ever 'Virtual Open Evening' went live this week. We have so much to be proud of at Hillside and I can't wait to give the Year 6s a taste of everything that is on offer, in a social distanced tour of our school.

Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal





Book a Tour

Tours are taking place each Thursday evening and Saturday and Sunday mornings between now and Thursday 22nd October.
*Subject to change in line with Government guidance.

Follow the link, complete the form and choose a date that suits you

'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) Corner

Theme: World Mental Health Day
SMSC Focus: Social

This week's assembly:
What does it mean to be mentally healthy? (School nurse?)

Thought for the Week:

*"When it rains, look for the rainbows. When it's dark, look for the stars." **Unknown***



National Poetry Day 2020

Thursday 1st October was National Poetry Day and this year's theme is "vision". National Poetry Day is supported by the Forward Arts Foundation who are a charity that enables everyone to enjoy, discover and share poetry. On their website (nationalpoetryday.co.uk) they have shared a number of poems around the theme of "vision". James Carter's poem Vision Rap was written for National Poetry Day and has been shared with form groups this week.

To celebrate National Poetry Day in school I am running a poetry competition, which is open to all year groups. The theme will also be "vision" but can be about anything that you think fits into that theme. If you would like to enter email completed poems to Mrs Miller by 22nd October 2020 r.miller@hillsidehigh.co.uk

Mrs Miller

VISION RAP BY JAMES CARTER

See it like a poet
... with 20-20
vision.
Where
Imagery
Meets rhythm.
Syllabic repetition.

New ways
to look and listen.
To let your reader
view the world
through the windows
of your word.

So don't just
Tell it.
Show it
See it
Like a
Poet

Times Tables Rockstars

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

Year 7:

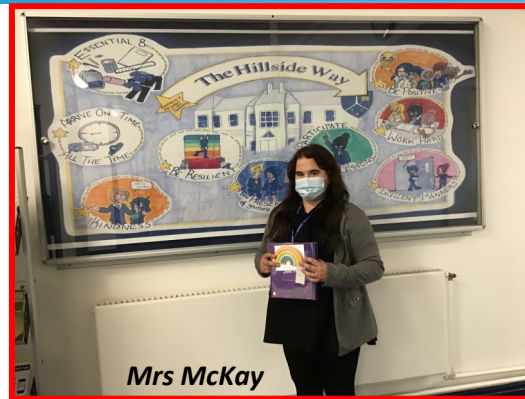
Liam Cunningham 7SMC, Brooke Shaw 7SR and Ruby Fleming 7SMC

Year 8:

Leo Holmes 8RLC, Jessica Harrington 8SE and Madison Willis 8SDo

Miss Christian





Mrs McKay



"Mrs McKay was a lovely teacher, and form teacher to us in Year 11. She was very friendly and supportive to us in form and in lessons and she was always there to help us when we had problems." - Sylvia Tan—Class of 2020 Leaver

*"Mrs McKay is a great form tutor, she has really helped us settle into Hillside. She is kind, caring and hard working."—
Fearne Barrett, Year 7 & Ruby Fleming, Year 7*

CCTV

As part of the significant investment that has been made this year in improving facilities both inside and outside of the school, during the Summer break the school was fitted with a brand new CCTV system. This covers all corridors, public spaces and surrounding grounds and has enhanced the security and safety of our facilities, helping us to maintain high standards in all areas of school life.

In light of this I would like draw your attention to our Data Protection Policies on the school website: https://www.hillsidehigh.co.uk/academy_information/policies/

What are we reading...

During every form time, every pupil in school has the opportunity to engage in reading. This half term our team of form tutors are reading a book – either a novel, or a work of non-fiction, out loud to their forms as part of our 'Register and Read' scheme. We really encourage parents/guardians to ask their children about the books being read in form: each book has been chosen to inspire our pupils and develop their love of reading.

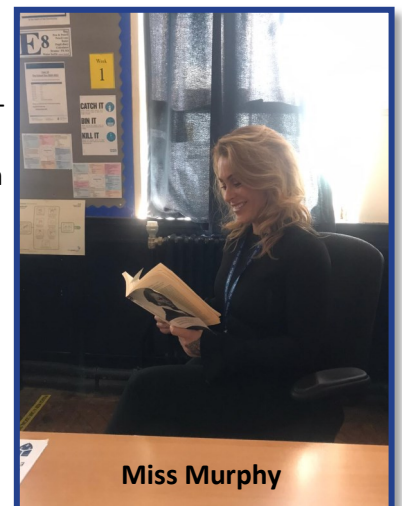
Research has shown that the more regularly children read, then the greater their vocabulary, literacy, and understanding of the world. Reading widely is an excellent way to develop literacy skills that will help pupils to make progress in all subjects in school. While our focus in Register and Read has mainly been fiction and novels, all teachers are also reading a range of different texts in lessons.

A key teaching and learning focus at Hillside is 'word-rich' classrooms. This means that every teacher prioritises literacy development through reading, writing and oracy activities. All of our teachers have had regular training in the different ways of support all pupils' reading abilities. From reading complex texts about scientific discoveries in physics lessons, to reading about the Tudors in GCSE textbooks in history, we have selected high quality reading materials for all subjects.

Inspired by recent training on the importance of reading, Miss Murphy has selected an especially important book. The non-fiction autobiography, *The Narrative Of The Life of Frederick Douglass*, is a significant historical text. In his autobiography, Douglass describes his life as a slave on a cotton plantation; Douglass, who escaped slavery in 1838, was a key figure in the abolitionist movement. He dedicated his life to working tirelessly to fight for the freedom of slaves in America.

Miss Murphy said: *"I enjoy the book written by Frederick Douglas because it is a story of how courage, self-belief and determination can take you anywhere"*.

Mrs Hinde



Miss Murphy



Online Safety

This week we have used information from the NSPCC website which gives parents/guardians some clear advice about online safety. At Hillside we take the safety of our pupils in the virtual world as seriously as we do in the real world and if you ever want any advice regarding e-safety then please contact your child's Progress Leader or one of the safeguarding team.

- ◆ **Think about online routines**— When school starts, routines might change, whether it's the time your child wakes up or how much schoolwork they do online. A new school year is a great time to have another conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe. We've created an online so you and your child can decide together what's good to do online and what you should look out for. Once you're both happy, why not stick on the wall in a place you'll both see it regularly? You can then come back to it every month or two to see if it's working and update it as routines change.
- ◆ **Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying**—Going back to school means kids will be seeing friends again or making new ones, especially when they move from primary to secondary. This could mean your child uses new apps to keep in touch with their friends or feel more pressure to stay connected. Remember to talk to your child about what they're doing online and who they're talking to. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you, another trusted adult, like a teacher, or a [Childline counsellor](#) about anything that happens online. Some parents might also be worried about bullying and cyberbullying. Especially because falling out with friends and changing behaviours and moods are a natural part of growing up. But it can make it difficult to know if your child is being bullied or not.

Some of the signs of cyberbullying include:

- a change in how they use devices, like their mobile or computer
 - becoming withdrawn or shy
- changes in mood or signs of stress, anxiety or depression
 - not wanting to go school
 - not speaking to or seeing friends



The NSPCC has helpful [advice on bullying and cyberbullying](#) for parents and guardians.

[Childline](#) also has lots of advice for young people on [bullying and cyberbullying](#) and [bullying on social media](#), which we recommend sharing with them. If your child comes across something upsetting online, they might want to report or block it.

- ◆ **Set up devices safely**— Going back to school is a common time to give kids new devices, particularly mobile phones, to help them keep in touch with family and friends. A new device for your child might well be a hand-me-down but it's still important to set it up from scratch.

Make sure you:

Set it up together—Take the time to set up the device with your child. Explore the different features and make sure you both know what they do and how to use them, especially any safety features.

Read the manual—A lot of us can forget to read the manual when we're setting up a device but it's always useful to follow the guidance given by the manufacturers. If you can't find the original manual, product information can often be found online after a simple search.

Use parental controls—Setting up parental controls can help keep your kid safe on their new device. They might differ depending on the individual device, but you can often block inappropriate content, manage which apps can be downloaded and turn off location sharing.

Speak to an O2 Guru—O2 has a network of expert Gurus who can answer your technical questions. You can speak to them over the phone through [our Advice Line](#) or [in-person in O2 stores](#) across the country. Talking to an O2 Guru is free and you don't need to be an O2 customer to get their help.

- ◆ **Keep kids safe on conferencing apps**—Over lockdown, learning has increasingly moved out of the classroom and into the home, with kids using conferencing apps more and more to help them learn and stay connected. Even with your child returning to school, there might still be times when they need to use conferencing apps. We recommend reading our advice on [keeping kids safe on conferencing apps](#), which has lots of helpful tips for parents and guardians.