



### Dear Parents/Guardians

I can't believe I am writing my final message of 2020. A year like no other and I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone when I say a year we will be pleased to leave behind us. Having said that, I am extremely proud of 'Team Hillside' and everything we have achieved this year. When I say 'Team Hillside', I really do mean every member of our school community who contributes to what we are doing as a school. All pupils, supported by their parents, all staff, Governors and Trustees have made this a year where we have achieved so much. Not only have we re-opened our school safely, we have picked back up our focus on teaching and learning, with pupils making good progress in their lessons.



We know this has been an extremely challenging year for many of our families. We have worked hard to support our community and I have been extremely proud of how generous our pupils have been, donating so many food items to our class hampers. This meant that on Wednesday we were able to deliver over 50 food hampers to our community. Pupils have also raised money by buying raffle tickets to win one of our herd of reindeers. These were actually made by our pupils, supported by the Site Team. The money raised through this raffle and today's own clothes and Christmas Jumper Day will all go into our Family Fund, which will further help our community in the challenging months ahead.

As we approach the end of term we do say 'goodbye' to some colleagues. We say goodbye to Mr Riddick in English, Mrs McKay in Geography and Mrs Ford in RS. We wish them all the best of luck in their new roles. Miss Wright has already joined our English Department, along with an additional teacher Miss Bradley, who will be picking up Mr Riddick's classes. Miss McKay's classes will be picked up by an experienced geography teacher Mrs Bridge, who I am delighted is joining Hillside in January. In terms of Mrs Ford's RS classes I am delighted that Mrs Rees, who many of the pupils still refer to as Miss Parker, will be working for us full time from January and is very excited to be delivering RS. We are also excited to have secured an additional RS teacher one day a week called Miss Hunter. All pupils will be issued with a new timetable on the first day back which reflect these changes. If you have any questions regarding these changes in staffing please do not hesitate to contact your child's Progress Leader or Mrs Wardale, Vice-Principal or Miss Jones, Assistant Vice-Principal who line manage these subject areas.

I would like to wish everyone happy and peaceful Christmas. If you have time off work please enjoy the break and time with your family. If you do have to work over the Christmas period...thank you!

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and looking forward to what I hope will be a more settled 2021 for us all!

**Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal**







## Hillside Reindeers

Giving back to our school community is always a priority for us at Hillside, and during these challenging times we feel that it is more important than ever to spread a bit of Christmas cheer.

Our Site Team and a group of pupils have been busy making a herd of reindeer, complete with fairy lights. We donated four of our much in-demand reindeers to our local primary schools, not forgetting to dress them with the school's badge. The other 12 reindeer have been on display in our foyer and are being raffled off to 12 lucky winners within our school community.

We've been overwhelmed by the number of tickets that have been bought by pupils, staff and other members of the school community. All money raised is going straight back into the community to buy more food hampers for the New Year.

Miss Collins







## Christmas Nativity

It's been a busy couple of weeks in the Performing Arts Department; our drama and music pupils have come together to produce some fantastic work. We were unable to hold our annual carol concert this year due to the current restrictions, but we refused to allow this to take away the magic of Christmas! Instead, our fantastic drama pupils stayed behind after school to create a Nativity film. We turned the quad into a set, hired 'Legend' the donkey for the journey to Bethlehem and it even managed to arrange snow, just in time for the arrival of Jesus. Our pupils created a beautiful, moving film that helps the audience to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Please find the link on our school Facebook page and enjoy it for yourselves.

Miss Brown



## Liverpool Playhouse

Year 10 & 11  
Performing Arts  
pupils were treated



to a trip to the Liverpool Playhouse Theatre this week. We enjoyed a charming and heartwarming production of A Christmas Carol. We had a lovely evening out and, as always, our pupils did us proud. This was the first time the theatre has been able to open its door to the public since March; it was a delight to be there and see such a wonderful, festive piece of theatre.

Miss Brown



## Hillside Xmas Factor

Instead of our annual Christmas gig on the last day of term, this year we are going live with the Hillside Xmas Factor! Our pupils have been busy recording their auditions for the judges, yes Simon, Louis and Sharon were actually in the building! We also have a few guest appearances lined up from our staff that our pupils are sure to enjoy. Make sure you are in on the last day of term to cast your vote and see who will be crowned the winner.

Miss Brown







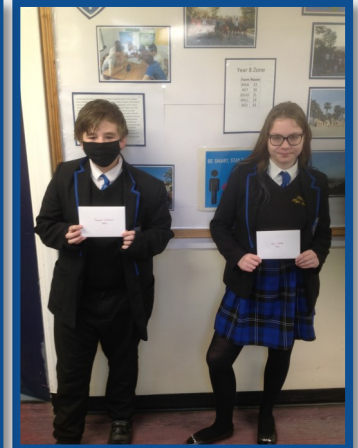
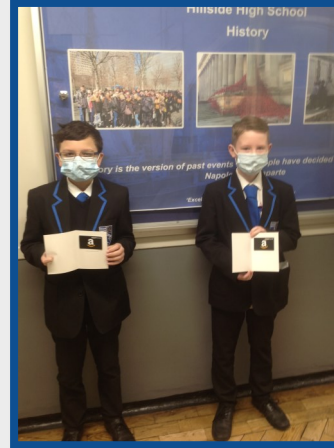
## TT Rockstars Christmas Competition

On Wednesday our TT Rockstars Christmas competition came to an end and all of the pupils who answered more than 600 questions were put into a random name generator to select our prize winners. The lucky pupils were Callum Slater and Ryan Jones in Year 7, and Daniel Williams and Ava Smith in Year 8 - well done to you all!

Thank you to all of the pupils who took part, it was great to see so many of you getting involved.

Remember to use T/T Rockstars over the break.

Miss Christian



## Times Tables Rockstars

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

### Year 7:

Ashley Evans 7CSY, Amelia Moore 7TG  
and Emanuel Raimi Raimi 7THE



### Year 8:

Ava Smith 8SE, Brian Leung 8SE  
and Kira Dodd 8RLC



Miss Christian

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

### Theme:

New beginnings

### SMSC Focus:

Cultural

### This week's assembly:

New Year's Day—New Year's Resolutions

### Thought for the Week:

*Tomorrow is the first blank page of a new 365-page book.*

*Write a good one.*





## Service and Resources over the Christmas period

As we end the Autumn Term and look forward to our two week Christmas break from school, we thought it would be useful to publish some contact numbers should you need to contact someone regarding the safety or welfare of a young person while school is closed.



**Childline** 08001111

**NSPCC-** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) 08448920264 (Liverpool Office) NSPCC Helpline 08088005000

**cruse.org.uk-** coping with a bereavement

[www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org) -Foodbank

**South Sefton Foodbank**—0151 933 1300

**Liverpool Social Care-** 233 3700

**Sefton Social Care-** 0845 140 0845

**SWACA**—Monday-Friday 9.30am—5.00pm, Tel: 0151 922 8606, [www.help@swaca.com](mailto:www.help@swaca.com)

**The Life Rooms**—0151 478 6556

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline**—0808 2000 247, [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**South Sefton Food Bank**—St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre, 60 Peel Road, L20 4RW,  
[infor@southseftonfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:infor@southseftonfoodbank.org.uk)—Tel 0151 933 1300

**Sefton CAMHS Support**—Alder Hey Crisis Care Team has a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week helpline. 0151 293 3577 or freephone 0808 196 3550

**Parenting 2000**—Counselling and Family Support, [www.parenting2000.org.uk](http://www.parenting2000.org.uk), [info@parenting2000.org.uk](mailto:info@parenting2000.org.uk), Tel 07834 524 956 or 07464 544 314

**Safe Regeneration**—Waverley Street, Bootle L20 4AP—Please visit facebook page and leave a message.

**SWAN Women's Centre**—Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Mrs Cross







## Pupil Safety

I would like to take this opportunity to remind pupils of some basics in terms of keeping themselves safe over the school holiday.

When out and about:

- Don't go out alone – there is safety in numbers.
- Always let an adult know where you are going.
- Never go anywhere with someone you don't know.
- You can say 'no' if someone makes you feel uncomfortable or threatens or pressures you to do something you don't want to.

Staying Safe Online:

1. Private stuff needs protection (if you wouldn't want your parents or grandparents to see something, don't post it).
2. You can only really know someone if you know them offline (think about what 'a friend' means to you).
3. What you share will always be there (think before you post).
4. Not everyone online is who they say they are (remember that behind the screen it is easy to pretend to be someone you are not).
5. If something doesn't feel right, tell a trusted adult.

## ***You are their favourite thing at Christmas!***

*We know that at this time of year, there is a lot of pressure to create the perfect magical Christmas, and to ensure that Santa delivers the very best gifts. Sometimes that means a lot of stress for families.*

*But we wanted to tell you a very important secret. Every January, when your child or children return to school, they tell us all about their Christmas. They tell us about days when everyone stayed in their PJs; they tell us about walks in the freezing cold; they tell us about seeing family they love, visits to grandparents and catching up with the people who are special to them.*

*They tell us about snuggling up, watching films and enjoying time together. They tell us about staying up till midnight on New Year's Eve and watching the fireworks. They do tell us about some gifts, but for them, Christmas is about **YOU**, and your love, spending time together and feeling safe.*

***YOU** are their favourite thing at Christmas.*

*"Love is  
what's in the room  
with you at Christmas  
if you stop opening  
presents and  
listen."*

— AUTHOR UNKNOWN, ATTRIBUTED TO  
A 7-YEAR-OLD NAMED BOBBY

Mrs Cross

