

Hillside News



Hillside Values

- Trying our best every day.
- Kindness and honesty always.
- Working as a Hillside Team.
- Using good manners.

Headteacher update

Nursery have been exploring two-step patterns this week using the counting cubes. They have been focusing on colours for introducing patterns and the children have had a great effort with this! In literacy we have been looking at logos and learning that print carries meaning, the children have enjoyed identifying familiar logos and sharing their experiences linked to these.

This week Reception have been learning about what makes them all unique, linked to their story of Elmer. They have also been learning about Diwali and made diva lamps.

This week Year 1 have become authors and have written their own stories 'I Want My Friend Back' using everything they have learnt in English to produce amazing books. In maths they have been learning how to make number bonds within 10 and in RE they have made their own Diva lamp and decorated them beautifully.

This week in Year 2, the children had a fantastic time creating their own clay tiles and painting them with bright, colourful designs. In music, they enjoyed learning to play a song on the glockenspiel, exploring rhythm and melody with great enthusiasm.

This half term has been incredibly busy and I'm really proud to see how settled the children are in Nursery and Reception. Thank you for your support with this. We hope you have a lovely half term break.

Mrs Rebecca Fennell

Headteacher



HILLSIDE INFANT SCHOOL
OPEN MORNINGS 2025-2026



THURSDAY 23rd OCTOBER
FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER
FRIDAY 9th JANUARY

9.30am-11.00am

Our Open Days will include:

- A tour of the school
- A talk from our Headteacher – Rebecca Fennell

Contact our office for more information or to book your place

0208 249 6860
office@hillsideinfant.org.uk

Hillside Infant School
Northwood Way
Northwood HA6 1RX

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General Information

Author Visit

As part of Banji Alexander's visit to Hillside, we'll be celebrating in style with a Fancy Hat Day! Please send your child in wearing a fancy hat from home on **Wednesday 5th November 2025**. Hats don't need to be shop-bought — get creative and use what you already have at home. You could even make one over the half term and decorate it with buttons, sequins, or anything sparkly and fun!

Banji is also known for his fancy footwear, so we'd love for the children to design their own pair of special shoes. Details about our Fancy Footwear Competition have been sent out to parents and carers today. There will be a prize for the best footwear designs in each year group! Return them by the Tuesday 4th November 2025.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support — we can't wait to see all your fabulous creations!

Arbor – Stay Connected!

We're delighted that most of our parents and carers are already signed up and actively using Arbor. Arbor is our school's management system, where we securely store pupil information, share updates, and manage bookings for trips, clubs, and workshops.

After half term, we'll also be updating parental consents through Arbor, so it's really important that everyone is logged in and ready.

Please make sure you have downloaded the Arbor app and are checking it regularly. Take a moment to review your details and your child's information to ensure everything is up to date.

<https://hillside-infant-school.uk.arbor.sc/?/home-ui/index>

Training Day Reminder

Please be reminded that **Monday, 3rd November is a staff training day and the school will be closed to all pupils**. We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on **Tuesday, 4th November**, at the usual time.

Afterschool Activity Clubs

Clubs start again after half term for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Monday: Gymnastics

Tuesday: Street Dance

Wednesday: Reception Football Club

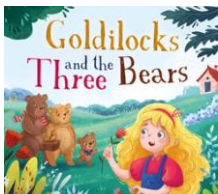
Thursday: Drama Performing arts

Friday: Multisports

Nursery Drama Workshop

After half term, Nursery's new topic will be Traditional Tales, and the children will begin by learning the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

On **Thursday 6th November**, the children will take part in a Traditional Tales Drama Workshop — a fun and engaging way for them to bring the story to life through movement and role play. **The cost of this workshop is £4.50 per child**. While contributions are voluntary, if we do not receive enough to cover costs, unfortunately, the workshop will not be able to go ahead — which would be such a shame for the children - Thank you for your continued support!



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Important Dates

November	Monday 3rd		Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils)
	Tuesday 4th		Term Starts for All
	Tuesday 4th		Perform for all Drama workshop
	Thursday 6th		Drama workshop - Nursery
	Thursday 6th		Halloween Disco
	Friday 7th	9am	Whole school maths workshop- and learning together morning.
	Monday 10th		Scootability - Reception
	Tuesday 11th	10:40am	Remembrance Day assembly (parents invited)
	Thursday 13th		Individual/Sibling School Photographs
	Friday 14th		Silver Class Assembly
	Saturday 15th		Northwood Hills Carols and Switch on
	Tuesday 18th		Pedestrian Training - Reception and Year 1
	Friday 21st		Open Morning for Prospective Families
	Thursday 27th		Pantomime Snow White (Reception, Year1 and Year 2)
	Friday 28th	9am	Silver Class assembly
December	Thursday 4th		Flu Immunisations
	Thursday 4th		Year 1 Animal workshop - Ranger Stu
	Tuesday 9th	2:15pm	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert
	Wednesday 10th	9:15am	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert
	Wednesday 10th	2:15pm	Nursery and Reception Christmas Concert
	Thursday 11th	9:15am	Nursery and Reception Christmas Concert
	Friday 12th		Christmas Lunch and Jumper day
	FRiday 12th		Christmas Fair
	Thursday 18th	11:30am/3:30pm	Nursery Term Ends
	Friday 19th	1:30pm	Term Ends
Christmas Holidays Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026			

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Achievements

<u>Butterflies:</u>	<u>Purple Class Super Stars:</u>	<u>Red Class Super Stars:</u>
Issac-Adonis	Hafsa	Leo
	Jack	Nathan
<u>Frogs:</u>	<u>Anastasia</u>	<u>Maya</u>
Naomi		
<u>Ladybirds</u>		
Sophie	<u>Blue Class Super Stars:</u>	<u>Green Class Super Stars:</u>
	Gabriel	Isobel
	Aurora	Lucas
	Nicholas	Thea
<u>Lunchtime Awards</u>	<u>Gold Class Super Stars:</u>	<u>Silver Class Super Stars:</u>
Diana	Harrison	Bryan
Alifie	James	Iosif
	Salome	Carolina
<u>Bronze awards</u>	<u>Silver awards</u>	<u>Gold awards</u>
Matei		

Healthy Eating & Birthday Book Donations

This week we would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to **Estera, Sofia** and **Miah** who recently celebrated their special day!. As part of our Birthday Book Scheme, they kindly donated the following books to our school:

Whats a Christmas by Hayley Down
The day crayons quit by Oliver Jeffers
Taylor Tiptoe by Elanor Best and Lara Ede



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with rappers, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulsive purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including ian, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

HALLOWEEN DISCO

Hillside Infant School

NOVEMBER 6TH 2025

NURSERY & RECEPTION
3-4PM

YEAR 1&2 4:15-5.15PM

£5 PER TICKET

BOOK ON ARBOR- SCHOOLSHOP



Hillside News



Community News

SEND

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ICKENHAM YOUTH F.C.
Est: 2006

For children with special educational needs and disabilities

Have fun, make friends, play football!

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5:30pm - 6:30pm

Ages under 5 to
under 12

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Ickenham
UB10 8PH

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For more information and to register email
welfare@ickenhamyouthfc.com