

# 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 had a great week their sunflowers are starting to grow and they have come to the end of their growing topic. The children have shown great enthusiasm towards this topic and they have ended it by with making a yummy fruit salad whilst discussing where all of the fruit would have grown from!

In Reception this week they have been looking at the life cycle of a frog. The children put the life cycle in order and wrote about it. The children observed some tadpoles now turned into froglets and they await the next part of the process! In maths they have been lookign at shapes and shape pictures. They have been checking in on the sunflower seeds that they planted and the children have been making sure they get plenty of water and sunlight. The sunflowers have now started sprouting and the children were very excited to see this.

Wow what a busy last week of the half term Year 1 have had! A definite highlight was using the chrome books to research about an animal of their choice and then writing a fact file on them. In maths they have done amazingly at position and are now able to make a quarter, half, 3 quarter and full turn, can move left, right, forward, backwards, above and below. In Geography they concluded their learning with writing a brochure on the similarities and differences in England and Kisumu Kenya.

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this week and should be very proud of all their efforts. The children showed great determination and focus during their reading quizzes, trying their best and demonstrating growing confidence in their reading skills. In Art, the children created fantastic sketches of their teddy bears, carefully using shading and shaping techniques to add detail and depth to their drawings. They showed excellent art skills by working with creativity, perseverance, and attention to detail throughout their artwork.

Have a restful half term.

Mrs Rebecca Fennell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Fennell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Headteacher

# Hillside News



## General Information

### Last Day of Half Term

Today is the last day of this half term. What a busy term it has been!

We have had lots of exciting things happening within school, including drama workshops for Nursery, Reception and Year 1, as well as maths workshops for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

We also had a non-uniform day, which raised **£470** towards our new sensory room. Our Star Reader Challenge has also been a great success.

We look forward to welcoming the children back after half term on **Monday 1st June**, where we will begin the final half term of this academic year. This last part of the year is always very busy, so please be sure to sync your calendars with our [website](#) so that you do not miss any events. We thank you for your continued support.

### Nursery

Is your child, or a child you know, **born between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023**? If so, they are eligible to start Nursery this September!

We have limited spaces available, so do not miss out. For more information or to apply, please contact the school office at [office@hillsideinfant.org.uk](mailto:office@hillsideinfant.org.uk) or apply via our [website](#)

### Absences

This is a reminder that holidays taken during term time are not authorised. Unauthorised absences may be referred to the local authority and could result in a fine.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform us by 9:00 AM on the day of absence. You must notify us each day your child is absent.

If your child has a medical or other appointment, please let us know in advance and provide a screenshot or copy of the appointment letter where possible. We understand that some appointments may be arranged on the same day; however, in all other cases, please inform us as far in advance as possible.

Please contact us via email at [office@hillsideinfant.org.uk](mailto:office@hillsideinfant.org.uk) or 0208 249 6860.

### Lost Property

We have a huge amount of unnamed lost property in the main reception area. Please come and take a look to see if any items belong to your child and claim them as soon as possible.

Any unclaimed items will be donated.

### Star Readers Update

A huge well done to **Silver Class**, who were awarded the Star Reader Cup in this morning's assembly. This week, an impressive **85.71%** of children in **Silver Class** read three times or more at home and recorded it in their reading record. Fantastic effort—keep up the great reading, **Silver Class**.



### Summer Term

As we head into Summer Term 2 and begin to enjoy some warmer weather, we kindly ask that all children come to school prepared for sunny days. Please ensure your child brings a clearly named water bottle and a sun hat each day.

We also recommend applying sun cream before school in the morning to help protect children while they are outside learning and playing. If the warm weather continues, children may spend more time outdoors, so these small preparations really help to keep everyone safe, comfortable, and ready to learn.

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## Birthday Books

As part of our commitment to healthy eating, we encourage children to celebrate their birthdays by bringing in a book instead of sweet treats or cake.

On their special day, children can donate a book to the class library. The teacher will read the book to the class, and a special sticker will be placed inside to recognise the child's thoughtful donation. This initiative helps promote a love of reading while keeping our school a healthy environment for all. Thank you for your support in making birthdays both meaningful and nutritious to our school.



## Important Dates

HALF TERM Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May			
<b>June</b>	Monday 8th		Deadline for Numeracy day competition entries
	Wednesday 10th	9am	RSE & Jigsaw Scheme Parent meeting
	Wednesday 10th	3:45pm	Nursery Stay and play for new Nursery Children
	Monday 15th		Lego Robotics - Year 1 & 2
	Thursday 18th		Year 2 - Neasden Temple
	Tuesday 23rd		Reception - Paradise Wildlife Park
	Wednesday 24th		Year 1 - Kew Gardens
	Friday 26th	9am	Purple Class assembly
	Friday 26th	3:15pm	Summer Fair
	Monday 30th	9:15am	Hearing & Vision - Reception
<b>July</b>	Wednesday 1st	9:15am	Reception & Nursery Sports Day
	Thursday 2nd	9:15am	Year 1 & Year 2 Sports Day
	Monday 6th -13th	3:15pm	Book Fair
	Monday 6th	9:15am	Reserve Sports Day Nursery & Reception
	Tuesday 7th		Transition Day
	Wednesday 8th	3:15pm	Hillside Art Exhibition
	Thursday 9th	9:15am	Reserve Year 1 & Year 2 Sports Day
	Thursday 16th	9am	Year 2 Leavers Assembly
	Thursday 16th		End of Term parties
	Thursday 16th	11:30am/3:30pm	Nursery Term Ends
	Friday 17th	1:30pm	Term Ends
	Monday 20th		Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils)
	Tuesday 21st		Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils)

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## Achievements

<b><u>Nursery Super Stars:</u></b>	<b><u>Purple Class Super Stars:</u></b>	<b><u>Red Class Super Stars:</u></b>
Kassandra	Jack	Rafael
Lenny	Iris	Seren
Iohanan	Esmerelda	Aleksander
<b><u>Blue Class Super Stars:</u></b>	<b><u>Green Class Super Stars:</u></b>	<b><u>Silver Class Super Stars:</u></b>
Anastasia	Iris	Luana M
Salvador	Bianca	Martin
Aurora	Victoria	Arlo
<b><u>Gold Class Super Stars:</u></b>	<b><u>Lunchtime Awards</u></b>	
Harrison	Kayal	
Miah	Aleksander	
James		
<b><u>Bronze awards</u></b>	<b><u>Silver awards</u></b>	<b><u>Silver awards</u></b>
	Sidrah Siena	Harrison
	Aisha Miah	Yearsema
	Maryam Pedro	Simon
	Denys Salome	Danaya
	Eva Alessia	Sofia
	Virali Luisa	

### Weekly Attendance

Each week we award the class with the highest attendance. We aim for at least 96% attendance, as regular attendance helps children feel secure, build friendships, and make the most of their learning opportunities, supporting their wellbeing and overall development. This week, **Silver class** were awarded the Attendance Bunny with **97.6%** attendance. Well done **Silver Class!**

**GOLD CLASS 96.4%**  
**SILVER CLASS 97.6%**  
**RED CLASS 92.4%**  
**GREEN CLASS 87.9%**  
**PURPLE CLASS 93.4%**  
**BLUE Class 92.3%**  
**N ALL DAY 87.4%**  
**NAM 81.9%**  
**NPM 83.33%**

### Attendance Ladder



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## Community News



### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **MINECRAFT**

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

##### PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

##### GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can waste hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

##### ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

##### SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

##### IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

##### ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

#### USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

#### DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

#### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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