

Hillside News



Hillside Values

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

Headteacher update:

In Nursery the children have really enjoyed their topic of transport this half term and have learnt lots of fun facts about land, water and air transport. This week they have had fun creating paper aeroplanes and writing postcards home from various destinations around the world. In maths they have been using the playdough with matchsticks and lolly sticks to create 3D shapes such as cubes, pyramids and cuboids.

In Reception we have continued to look at people who help us and children have been thinking about what job they would like when they grow up. We were very lucky to have a visit from a firefighter who spoke to the children about his job and brought in the firefighter uniform for the children to see and try on. In maths we have been looking at different height and length and the children have been measuring lots of objects around the classroom. We have been talking about internet safety, pancake day and valentine's day. On Thursday they made pancakes in the food tech room, they were delicious!

Year 1 have had a lovely half term with lots of fun learning. They finished of this half term creating their own Alien stories in English. They have worked so hard in maths securing their numbers to 20 and they have travelled around the United Kingdom learning about the 4 countries within it. We hope you have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you in Spring 2- hopefully with less rain!

This week, Year 2 had a fantastic trip to the Living Rainforest. The knowledge they demonstrated was impressive, and the questions they asked the tour guides were thoughtful and well considered. Well done on a brilliant trip, Year 2!

A big thank you to the 40 parents and carers who attended our Learning Together morning yesterday. It was a wonderful opportunity to see how writing is taught in school and to spend time learning alongside your child in class. We really value your continued support and involvement in your child's learning.

Have an enjoyable and restful half term break.

Mrs Rebecca Fennell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Fennell'.

Headteacher

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General Information

Last Day of Half Term

Today is the last day of this half term, Spring 1. What a busy half term it has been, with lots of wonderful learning experiences for the children. This half term the children have taken part in gymnastics, learning workshops and exciting trips, both locally and by coach. Reception and Nursery enjoyed the Little City workshop, Year 2 visited the Living Rainforest, and the Life Bus also visited the school. The whole school also took part in an exciting drama workshop. School finishes at the normal time today, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 23rd February at the usual time.** Thank you for your continued support.

Website and Social Media

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new school website on Monday 23rd February. The website includes a range of exciting new features and improvements, and it is now linked to our social media platforms so families can easily keep up to date with the latest news and events.

In addition to our existing Facebook page, we have also launched a new Instagram account for Hillside Infant School. We encourage parents and carers to follow us to see regular updates, celebrations, and snapshots of school life.

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/hillsideinfants/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HillsideInfantSchool>

Thank you !

Thank you for
being amazing!



**Hillside Infant School &
Hillside Junior School**
You raised **£210.95** for
Home-Start Hillingdon!

Your donations will help us to be there for families when they

Special Menu – Monday 23rd February

On Monday 23rd February, there will be a special menu for the children to enjoy as we celebrate the Lunar New Year.

SchoolGrid has been updated to reflect this menu, so please check your SchoolGrid account if you have previously placed an order, as your selection may have changed - <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/>

Thank you.

Star Readers

A huge well done to **Blue Class**, who were awarded the Star Reader Cup in this morning's assembly!. This week, 67% of children in **Blue Class** read three times or more at home and recorded it in their reading records.



Fantastic effort — keep up the great reading, Blue class!

Nursery Admissions

Does your child, or do you know a child, who will turn 3 before 31 August 2026? If so, they can start Nursery in September. Please contact the school office for an application form – office@hillsideinfant.org.uk The deadline for applications is the end of March. Applications received after this date will still be processed, however applications submitted by the deadline will be given priority.

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Healthy Eating & Birthday Book Donations

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

Mr Large in Charge By Jill Murphy
The Large Family fove minutes Peace by Jill Murphy
Theres a dinosaur in your book by Tom Fletcher



Important Dates

February	Monday 23rd		Special Menu - Lunar New Year
	Thursday 26th		Year 2 Winston Churchill Theatre
March	Wednesday 4th		Author Visit - World book Week
	Friday 6th		World book day dress up day
	Wednesday 11th	9am	Parent and Carer Coffee Morning
	16th - 20th		Science Week
	Tuesday 17th	3:30pm - 7pm	Progress meeting
	Tuesday 17th	1pm-4pm	Nursery Progress meeting (Frogs)
	Wednesday 18th	1pm-4pm	Nursery Progress meeting (ladybirds)
	Thursday 19th	3:30-5:30pm	Progress meeting
	Thursday 19th	1pm-4pm	Nursery Progress meeting (Butterflies)
	Thursday 19th		Sublime Science Day
	Friday 20th	9am	Green Class assembly
	Monday 23rd	9.15	Hearing & Vision for Reception
	Wednesday 25th		School Nurse Reception Height and Weight Measurements
	Wednesday 25th		Year 1 - RAF museum
Thursday 26th	11:30am/3:30pm	Nursery term ends	
Friday 27th	1:30pm	Term Ends	
Easter Holidays			
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April			

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Achievements

<u>Nursery Superstars:</u>	<u>Purple Class Super Stars:</u>	<u>Red Class Super Stars:</u>
Filip	Yahya	Melissa
Rubab	Hudson	Ada
Puurna	Willow	Freddie
	<u>Blue Class Super Stars:</u>	<u>Green Class Super Stars:</u>
	Salvador	Thomas
	Iosif	Lourenco
	Aaron	Ishani
<u>Lunchtime Awards</u>	<u>Gold Class Super Stars:</u>	<u>Silver Class Super Stars:</u>
Darius	Luisa	Maia
Melissa	Basit	Luana M
	Alexis	Bryan
<u>Bonze awards</u>	<u>Bronze awards</u>	<u>Silver awards</u>
Iosif		Dominic

Weekly Class 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 99.2% attendance. Well done, **Silver Class!**

GOLD CLASS 98.7%
SILVER CLASS 99.2%
RED CLASS 95.8%
GREEN CLASS 89.7%
PURPLE CLASS 92.4%
BLUE Class 92.9%
N ALL DAY 93.6%
NAM 90.3%
NPM 90%

Attendance Ladder



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING

Involving children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.

3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS

Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "That sounds really exciting," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS

Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE

Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, valuing cultural experiences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.

6 BELONGING BUDDIES

Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS

Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES

Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS

Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.

10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'

Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure it out together," or "We all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Community News



Premier Camps Near You

Multi Activity Camps

Bushey Heath Primary School 9am - 3.30pm (16th - 20th Feb)

Hillside Infant School - 9am - 3.00pm (16th - 20th Feb)

Our 5* Holiday Camps are the perfect place to keep your children entertained over the half term holidays.

Our camps are a fantastic place for children to meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories!

Join us this February, for a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from nerf wars to gymnastics. There's something for every child to enjoy this half-term.

Book now for lots of half term fun!

**PLEASE
BRING**



Pack lunch
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!



Scan here for
more information



Based on over 20,000 reviews