



Hilltop & Forest View News



September 24

Welcome Back!

Dear parents, carers and friends of Hilltop School,

We hope you all had a great summer break.

It has been wonderful welcoming our students back to school. They are all doing remarkably well, settling into their new classrooms, working with new staff and peers and getting used to new routines. In particular, we want to say a huge well done to the students who have made the transition to Forest View and the new students joining Hilltop; they have amazed us with how well they have managed in a completely new environment – They are real superstars!

The staff in school used the INSET days at the end of last year and start of this to undertake essential training and also work hard to set up new classrooms to make sure the learning environments were ready for the students returning.

During the holidays, lots of essential tests and surveys were carried out in preparation for the Big Build and we also had some classroom refurbishment and redecoration of areas which will not be part of the Big Built. We want to say a huge thank you to staff from the New York Bagel Company, who donated resources and gave their time to redecorate Scarlet, Indigo and Lime classrooms. We are so grateful for their work.

The generosity of our community is never-ending and we want to say a massive thank you to Will Shepard, a parent of one of our students, who gifted school £330 he raised through a charity fishing match. This money will be used to buy new maths equipment for classrooms. Thank you so much Will!

We have included in this edition of the newsletter, some key information for the start of the year. Future newsletters will provide you with updates of what has been going on in school and keep you up to date with up-coming events and developments,

We are looking forward to a great year working with you and your young people!



School Improvement Priorities

As always, we have a number of areas to focus our work on for this year to support our school improvement.

They include:

- Developing the role of Teaching Assistants to effectively support learning.
- Developing a Staff Wellbeing Strategy.
- Enhancing parental engagement.
- Ensuring our revised curriculum, including phonics, reading, writing and maths is in place and all students make good progress.
- Improving attendance and identifying how we can support families where students' attendance needs to improve.
- Analysing behaviour and adapting our approaches to behaviour and rewards throughout school.
- The Annual Review process; enhancing parent/carer understanding of school, its opportunities, and the impact of learning.
- Our Personal Development offer.
- Our Religious Education and Relationships and Sex Education curriculum.

Staffing updates

We have welcomed a number of new staff to school at the start of the year.

A big Hilltop welcome to:

Leanne - Class teacher in Lime class

Naomi - Class teacher in Silver class

Dale - Class teacher in Indigo class

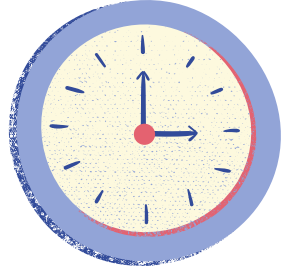
Amie - Class teacher in Scarlet class

Kirsty - Class teacher in Hawthorn class



The selection process for the new Headteacher will take place week commencing 23rd September. Our Pupil Parliament will be involved in the process, they are in the process of thinking of questions they would like to ask the candidates. We will share the news of our new Headteacher as soon as we are able to.

The school's Leadership Team is being restructured at present and huge congratulations go to Claire Saddington who has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher to lead on Forest View provision. Another Assistant Head will be appointed to add leadership capacity at Hilltop in the coming weeks.



Start of day arrangements

Between 9 and 9:15am staff are meeting to discuss the day, share key information about students and ensure the learning environment is set up ready for the students.

This is crucial time for staff to be prepared for the day.

To this end, we cannot accept students into class until 9:15am.

If parents need to drop students off before this time, the school operates a Breakfast Club. Anyone requiring Breakfast Club should contact Claire Rose at school or via email.

crose@nexusmat.org

The safety of students attending Breakfast Club is our main priority before 9:15am and therefore, we are not able to open the main entrance doors until 9:15am, when the students at Breakfast Club have been safely delivered to their classrooms. We apologise that this means families bringing students to school have to wait outside until 9:15am but the safety of our students has to come first.

As part of the big build work, we will be looking at how the reception area can be reconfigured to ensure families can wait in a dry place before the school day begins.

If this arrangement presents difficulties for any parents, please do get in touch with us.



Phone calls to school

We know that during the school day, there may be times when you need to get in touch with us to share information. It is really important that you are able to do so. When calling the main school office, the office team will ask to take a message that can be passed onto the relevant person. If this is a member of classroom based staff (Teacher / Teaching Assistant), the office staff will take your message and pass it onto the relevant staff member. We have asked the office staff not to put through calls to classes during learning times as the ringing phone in the class disrupts the learning of the students and can result in dysregulation for some. The staff member will return your call as soon as they are able to.

If you need to speak to a teacher directly, you can call school 8:45-9am or 3:30-4pm.

Hilltop main office - 01709 813386

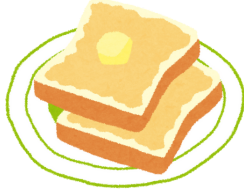
Forest View main office - 01709 222087

If you are trying to contact Forest View and do not get through, contact Hilltop and we can transfer you on our internal phone line.

Snacks in school

All students are offered snack in school, this is part of our communication and social skills curriculum, as we teach children to request what they would like, sit with peers to eat and, where appropriate, make their snack and clear up afterwards.

School provides the following items for snack:



toast
jam
yogurts
cereal
fruit



If your child requires any other items for snack, we ask that you provide these. Please do not send into school any food items containing peanuts or mackerel as we have people in school with allergies to these food items.

Chilled drinking water is available in school, please send a drinks bottle into school for your child.



Attendance

Your child being in school every day they are well enough to attend is really important to make the most of their education. If your child is not going to be attending school, please let us know by calling the school office. If you call before 8am, you can leave a message on the school's answer machine. Please be specific about the reason for absence.

We have a statutory duty to record all absences accurately, so need to know why your child is not in school. 'Being ill' cannot be recorded as a reasons for absence, we need to know the nature of the illness.

If your child is off for any reason other than illness, we need to know this reason in order to record it correctly.

We know that many of our young people have complex medical needs and have appointments to attend frequently, this is absolutely fine but please let us know so we can record the appointment as a medical absence.

If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, you will receive a call from a member of our office team to check your child is ok and find out the reason they are not in school. This is a statutory school responsibility.

If a reason for absence is not provided the absence has to be recorded as 'Unauthorised'.
If your child is struggling to attend school for any reason, please contact Claire Rose or Andy Williams

crose@nexusmat.org
awilliams2@nexusmat.org



Medication in school

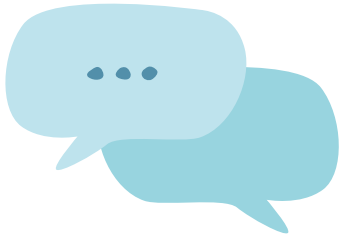


Many of our young people require medication which needs to be taken whilst they are in school. If you require school to give your child medication, you will need to fill in the medication form which can be found on our website:
<https://www.maltbyhilltop.org/form/?pid=44&form=19>

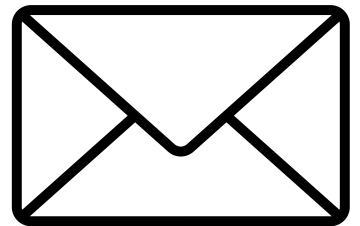
When sending in medication, it must be clearly labelled with your child's name and all dosage information. If your child travels to school on transport, please give the medication to the staff on the bus and ask them to hand it over to school staff.

Please do not put medication in your child's bag.

Please note we can only administer medication prescribed for your child unless you have given us written permission to administer paracetamol.



Parent communication



As part of our school improvement priority to enhance parental engagement, we will be consulting with parents / carers on a number of new initiatives aimed at improving communication between school and home. Look out for the Microsoft Form being sent via email shortly.

In addition, we will be sending home permission forms inviting you to sign up to use our Evidence for Learning parent app, which will allow you to see and share photos / videos of your child's learning.

If you have any suggestions for how we can improve communication or ideas of how you can become more involved in your child's learning we would love to hear from you.

Please contact school or email Joanne Grantham

jgrantham@nexusmat.org

2024-25 at a glance

September

16th - Flu Vaccinations
24th - Individual photographs
26th - European Day of Languages
27th - Macmillan coffee morning & Proud assembly

October

4th - Harvest event
14th - Recycling Week
16th - Restart a Heart Day
25th - Proud assembly. Last day of half term

November

4th - Back to school
11th - Remembrance event
15th - Children in Need
18th - British Values & Pupil Parliament Week
29th - Proud assembly

December

6th INSET day
13th - Christmas Fair
17th - EYFS, KS1 & LKS2 performance am
17th - UKS2&KS3 performance pm
18th - UKS2&KS3 performance am
18th - EYFS, KS1 & LKS2 performance pm
19th - Christingle
20th Proud assembly & Break up for Christmas

January

6th Back to school
29th - Chinese New Year / Dragon Festival
31st - Proud assembly

February

3rd - Children's Mental Health Week
14th - Break up for half term
24th - Back to school
27th - Proud Assembly
28th - INSET Day

March

3rd - Careers' Week
6th World Book Day
28th - Ramadan, Proud assembly & Break up for Easter holiday

April

14th - Back to school
18th - Good Friday bank holiday
21st - Easter Monday bank holiday
23rd - Hands in Harmony Choir event

May

5th - May day bank holiday
19th - My Money Week
26th - Proud assembly & Break up for half term

June

Pride Month
9th - Back to school
23rd - School Sports' Week
27th - Proud assembly

July

18th - Last day for EYFS & Post 16
28th - End of Year Festival & Last day of school year
29th & 30th - INSET days