



Hilltop & Forest View

News



October 24

Dear parents, carers and friends of Hilltop & Forest View,

It has been a very busy first half term at Hilltop and Forest View!

Students and staff have been working hard, getting to know each other and building new relationships that will stand them in good stead for a great year of learning.

Interviews took place for our new Headteacher. The candidates were invited to undertake a number of activities including meeting with our Pupil Parliament. They asked the candidates some tricky questions, including asking them to tell their favourite joke!

We have started getting to know Dave Richardson, who was successfully appointed and will be joining us officially in January. We are really looking forward to him joining us.

We have also appointed Zara Skidmore to the role of Assistant Headteacher at Hilltop. Zara will lead on areas of the school's curriculum and add capacity to the leadership team.

Congratulations to Zara!

Planning permission for the Great Yorkshire Build work is now with Rotherham Council and we eagerly await the outcomes of this process.

This half term has been tinged with sadness following the sad passing of one of our beautiful students, Oscar. Oscar was a much-loved member of our school community and joined Hilltop in September 2020, starting in Yellow Class. He quickly became part of our family, bringing a calm and gentle presence that touched everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. Despite facing numerous health challenges, Oscar's resilience and determination were truly inspirational. Oscar's family are in our thoughts at this incredibly difficult time, and we thank the staff in yellow and pink classes for making his life so joyful, in his all-too-brief time with us.

Included in this edition of the newsletter are some of the great things that have been happening this half term and some key dates and information about up-coming events and developments,

Happy half term. See you in November!

School Improvement Priorities

Annual Reviews

Annual reviews are now underway for this academic year. Students in years 12, 13 and 14 will have their reviews early in the year to ensure conversations can begin about life after Hilltop.

In preparation for the annual review meeting, all parents / carers will receive a copy of their child's most recent EHCP and details of the annual review. We ask that, in preparation for the annual review, parents / carers read through the EHCP and annual review document and consider any updates that you wish to make. Completing this prior to the meeting will ensure the meeting can run smoothly and to time.

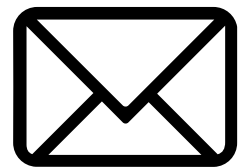
If parents / carers are requesting a change of placement or significant changes to the EHCP, please contact school prior to the annual review so we can invite a representative from the local authority to attend.

We ask that parents / carers do their best to be able to attend the date set for annual review as our timetable for the year is so tight and we have to meet statutory timescales. Teachers are given release time from class to be able to attend the meetings on the planned dates and this is not always possible if dates are rearranged.

If you have any questions about your child's EHCP or annual review, please contact Sarah Fells or Sharon Horler-Cooper in the school office.



Parent communication



Thank you to all parents / carers who completed the Microsoft Form survey recently sent out to families.

As a result of your feedback we will be exploring the introduction of a school app - Dojo. We will also be relaunching our parent group in the new year when Dave Richardson joins us.

For those parents who are keen to see photos / information about their child's learning, please complete and return the permission forms for Evidence for 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



International Day of Languages

Students across school took part in International Day of Languages by completing a number of challenges, including:

Learning to count to 10 in Spanish

Saying 'Good morning' in another language

Learning the traditional dance from another country

Learning the flags from European countries



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all parents / carers who came along and supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Hilltop on 27th September. It was great to see people in school and we raised a total of £186 for a great cause.





Harvest Festival at Hilltop



We had a very lively Harvest Festival at Hilltop on 4th October with lots of singing and Chef Zara sharing her flour with the audience a little too freely! All classes had been invited to create a harvest bake during the week and these were judged by our panel of special guests during the harvest event.

Winners were:

1st place - Green class

2nd place - Scarlet class

3rd place - Pink class

Thank you to parents who donated items for the harvest table, all donations have been sent to the food bank at Full Life Church Food Pantry.

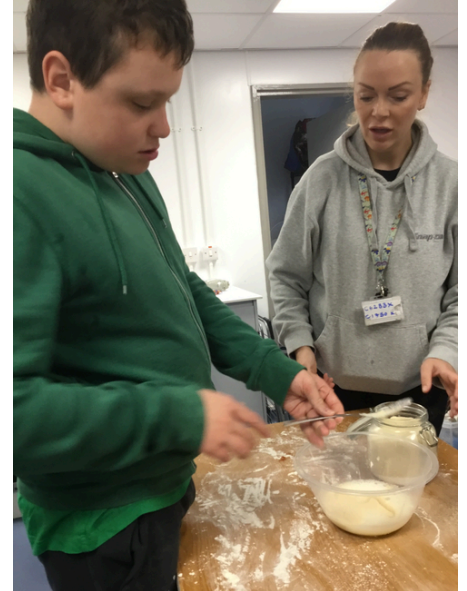




Harvest at Forest View



At Forest View students enjoyed using the new kitchen classroom to complete their Bake off challenge and practise their food preparation skills.



Restart a Heart



Students in KS3, 4 & 5 took part in Restart a Heart Day, learning the principles and techniques of CPR. Students who took part received a certificate and received CU credits as well as learning an important skill for life.





Recycling Week



The whole school, across both sites, took part in Recycling Week as part of our on-going commitment to becoming a more sustainable school.

Challenges during the week included:

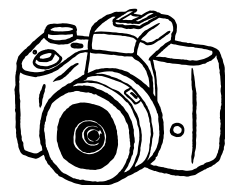
Setting up recycling stations in classrooms and sorting recycling

Making a useful item out of waste materials

Making a musical instrument from waste materials



School Photographs



Students across both sites had their photographs taken by Big Smiles Photography. Staff work really hard with the photographer to help capture that perfect picture of your child.

We hope you are happy with the final products.

2024-25 at a glance

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