



# Newsletter

Issue 4

Spring Term 2017

24 February 2017

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## Dear Parents

You may be aware of the press coverage regarding a new National Funding Formula (NFF) for all schools which comes into force from April 2018. This is to ensure that all schools have a fair funding process implemented throughout the country. However, the reality for most schools is a funding cut of up to 8% to school budgets, with many extra grants that top up our funding either being reduced or cut completely. This will greatly impact on all schools and the work we do to ensure that all pupils are provided with the best opportunities to be successful.

Hilltop Junior School will endeavour to maintain what we do within school and continue to support our pupils and families as much as possible. However, there may be instances where we will need to streamline what we do. Until we know exactly how the NFF will impact on our school, I am, at this moment in time, unable to clarify what this will look like in the future.

If you feel strongly about the 8% cuts being made to schools' budgets, then I would encourage you to write to your local MP to put forward your concerns. Headteachers have already made MP's aware of their views, the impact this will have on pupils' learning and the future of the country. Thank you for your support.

## Managing Behaviour in Children Course

Our sincere apologies that Family Learning had to postpone the above course which we mentioned in our previous Newsletter. As soon as we manage to reschedule we will, of course, let you know.



## Parents Evening

You should have received a letter with details of our new booking system for Parents' Evening appointments (all classes except 5P and 3RL which will be held later in the term). Appointments will close on Sunday 5th March at midnight. If you wish to make an appointment after this date or do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to make an appointment on your behalf, dependant upon availability.



## Breakfast Club

Could we please remind parents of Breakfast Club children that breakfast is served up to 8.10 am only. Also please ensure payment is made at the start of each week. All children must be handed over at the door to Breakfast Club staff.



## World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school which is a celebration of authors, illustrators and books, but most importantly, it is a celebration of reading. In order to get into the spirit of the day, we invite children to dress in the costume of their favourite story book character eg., Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland etc. Children should arrive already dressed in character, however, no pyjamas or onesies are allowed. Dressing up as a character is optional, but if children choose not to dress up then school uniform must be worn.

We are also holding a special Harry Potter lunch on this day and a letter regarding this and World Book Day in general has been sent home so please ensure your child knows the food option for that day if requiring a school lunch.



## Mothers' Day Market

The HJSA have been scouring the shops to find some lovely gifts for the children to buy for Mothers' Day. The markets will take place during lunchtimes on **Monday 20th March (Lower School) and Tuesday 21st March (Upper School)**. The price of items will range from 50p to £2 per item. If you would like your child to purchase some items please ensure that they bring change in a named purse/wallet and perhaps a bag to put them in.

The HJSA would be grateful for any volunteers to help run the stalls between 11.45 am and 1 pm. Please return the reply slip at the bottom of the letter coming home if you are able to help. As always such events rely on sufficient volunteers in order to run.

## Valentine Disco

Well done to the HJSA members who raised £660.66 at the Disco.



## Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day this year falls on Friday 24th March. The theme for this year is something red and children are being invited to wear non-uniform including something red such as a red top, nose, tie, socks etc (no pyjamas or onesies please). In return we ask for a donation of £1 for charity.

Also on this day there will be a special lunch - details to follow shortly.



## Staff News

We would like to welcome Mrs Julia Hopkins to the school. She will be covering PPA release time on Wednesdays and Thursdays for all teachers.



## The Big Pedal

Get set .... We're taking part in The Big Pedal 2017, the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge that inspires pupils, staff and parents to choose two wheels for their journey to school. Powered by Sus-trans and funded by the Bike Hub, the challenge runs from the 20th to the 31st March. It's free to enter and we would love everyone to be involved. On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting to school. Our best days will determine our final position in the challenge. We'll be competing against other schools right across the UK, and if we clock up the most bike and scooter journeys we will win!



So, what's next? All you need to do is encourage your child to cycle or scoot to school every day during the event, and join them on their way - parent and sibling journeys count too!

**We must remind you that it is school policy that if you are riding a bicycle, a helmet must be worn and children MUST NOT ride their bike/scooter within the school grounds.**

## Sip Bottles

Could we please remind parents that children need to bring water bottles with them to school for during class especially as the weather is warming up. It is less disruptive than having to leave class for a drink. Also, the school provides water at lunchtime for children who have school dinners, therefore, we request that parents do not send in cartons of drink for a child having a school lunch.

## Jewellery, Nail Varnish and Footwear

Can we please remind parents that stud earrings (which should be removed for PE) and watches are the only jewellery allowed to be worn in school. Also, please ensure that false nails are not worn, nail varnish is removed for school after the weekend and the correct footwear is worn to school (no boots or trainers). Your co-operation in these matters would be greatly appreciated.



## Year 6 Liddington Trip

Could we please remind parents that a payment is due on **Friday 3rd March**. Please ensure all payments are sent in envelopes clearly marked with the child's name, class and what the payment is for.



## SMILES Support Group

Does your child have autism, behavioural issues or ADHD? Do you have concerns about your child's development? If the answer to the above is yes, then the SMILES Support Group invite you to attend their parents support group held at Wickford Junior School, Market Road, Wickford SS12 0AG on Wednesday 15th March or Wednesday 19th April from 9.30 to 11.30 am.



The support group is run by Maggie Loveday (Specialist Teacher) and her team who offer guidance and support. You can also come along and meet people who have similar experiences to you.

For more information contact Jane Morgan on 07814431679 or e-mail [jane.morgan1@sky.com](mailto:jane.morgan1@sky.com).

Once again thank you for your continued support.

Mrs A J Waite  
Headteacher