



Hillside Primary School and Nursery

“Achieving Greatness Together”



Friday 24th May, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that I'm writing the last newsletter of this half term. It has certainly been filled with so many successes including: parent events, competitions, performances from our choir, new topics and a grand end of half term celebration. This week, our parent partnership was audited. We received superb feedback and passed the award criteria! More details to follow after half term. Working in partnership is going to give your child the very best chances of success: including attendance, behaviour and progress. We are excited to build on our strengths using your ideas from our recent survey. We will keep you updated.

Also this week, our choir performed at the 'Children's Voices' multi schools concert at the Corn Exchange Ipswich. Providing enriching opportunities for your child is a priority for us. They sang two songs - our school song 'Me' by Charlotte Harding and 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars. They worked incredibly hard to rehearse and perfect the performance, and we couldn't be more proud. It was such a pleasure to watch. Well done to the choir! Thank you to Mrs Crump for all her support. Next half term, we have more school visits, visitors, competitions and curriculum events arranged to enhance our curriculum even further.

Thank you for all your ongoing support for Hillside. I hope you have a lovely half term and I'll look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 3rd June ready for the final half term of the school year. Please check our diary dates on page 6, we wanted to give you as much notice as possible.

Keep Safe!

Best wishes,

Mrs Wass





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Celebrating Ipswich Town's promotion to the premier league at Hillside!

Mrs Wass read 'One of our Own' a story about an Ipswich Town fan. The story has been signed by all the players in the 1st team. We also had a visit from Bluey the ITFC mascot and the runners up Championship trophy was here at Hillside!



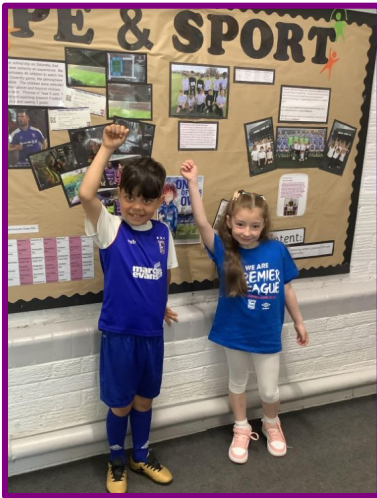


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We even had an outdoor party to celebrate!





Success really does start with attendance!

We want every single one of our children to be an Attendance Hero:



**Here
Everyday
Ready
On time**



Overall attendance is 92.3% Target 96%

Every day counts!

Yr4 Kingfisher 97.3%, Yr2 Robin 95.7%, YrR Butterfly 95.5%, Yr6 Kestrel 94.3%, Yr6 Osprey 93.8%, Yr4 Puffin 93.5%, Yr5 Seal 92.4%, Yr2 Wren 92.1%, Yr1 Hedgehog 91.9%, YrR Ladybird 91.4%, Yr3 Badger 90.8%, Yr5 Dolphin 90.3%, Yr1 Squirrel 90%, Yr3 Deer 89.5%, Yr3 Fox 89.1%

Well done Kingfisher 97.3%!

Attendance is always an area in which we are looking to improve. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that children arrive at school on time and that they return to school as quickly as possible after illness.

If your child is not well enough to attend school please report this by phoning the Office on 01473 601402 option 1 from 7.30am. We MUST receive this information by 8.45am.

Please support us in reducing the number of school days lost. A day off school means a day where learning is lost.



Diary Dates for Summer 2

3rd June - Return to school

Friday 14th June- Reception and Year 2 visit - see parentmail for details

Monday 17th June - Year 4 visit - See parentmail for details

Monday 17th June - Arts and Culture Week at Hillside

Thursday 23rd June - Year 6 Crucial Crew visit - see parentmail for details

Wednesday 19th June - Class photographs

Wednesday 26th June - Year 6 to 7 transition coffee event for parents

Thursday 4th July - Nursery and Reception Sports morning, KS2 Sports afternoon - more details to follow

Friday 5th July - KS1 Sports afternoon - more details to follow

Wednesday 10th July - Year 6 residential

Friday 12th July - Year 1 visit and Hillside School Fair 3.30pm to 6pm

Friday 19th July - Last day of the term

Wednesday 4th September 24
Children return to school

September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.

2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships look like and how to navigate them.

3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES

Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.

4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.

5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.

6 EMPOWER THE CHILD

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.

7 TEACH EMPATHY

'Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean 'perfect'. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship; to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.

8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they are older as well.

9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to acceptable language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.

10 SPOT THE SIGNS

We can't always supervise young people: sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.



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