



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 22nd December
LAST DAY OF TERM 3.10pm finish
- Monday 8th January
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Friday 9th February
LAST DAY OF TERM 3.10pm finish
- 12th - 16th February HALF TERM
- 19th February
SCHOOL RE-OPENS



SchoolSpider

Please make sure you download the School Spider app. We send important messages through the app

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY &
NEW YEAR



Thank You!



We would like to thank Dunelm and all their generous customers for spreading Christmas cheer to our pupils at Hillside

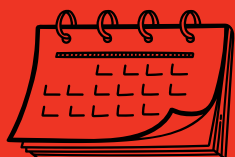


STAFF NEWS

Vicky Cornwell is retiring after almost 24 years at Hillside!

We wish Vicky a wonderful retirement, enjoy!

From January, the cleaning will be in-house so we look forward to welcoming Vicki, Chloe, Karen, Brian & Craig to our Hillside staff team



REMINDER:

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024



Thank you!

WE ♥ OUR Playtime! NEW TACTILE TRAIL



In November, we were incredibly lucky that Fusion Community Initiatives, BAE Systems, Wooden Spoon Charity and Securitas descended on our tactile trail to help turn our dreams into a reality! We are so grateful for all that was achieved in that one day and to see the children's faces light up is amazing!



SCHOOL NEWS



We won 🙌

The children loved welcoming Santa to Hillside! Thank you to all the parents and staff who raised £221 on non-uniform day for the Rock FM Mission Christmas Cash for Kids appeal to make this Christmas treat happen!



Thank you to Aldi and Booths in Longridge for kindly providing the mince pies for our KS1 and 2 Christmas singalong



HELP US SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

+ PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

APPLY NOW!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We need your skills to help improve education for children in our school

Please contact Carol in the office for a chat about the role

A space-themed graphic with a blue background, stars, planets, and a rocket. The rocket is yellow and red, with a trail of stars behind it. There are also several colorful planets and stars scattered around.

JOIN US!



www.hillside.lancsngfl.ac.uk/page/parent-governor-vacancy/62021



CLASS NEWS



Class 1 have had a really busy half-term! We have enjoyed our pirate themed activities lots, especially our sensory story '5 little pirates'. We have enjoyed exploring the story props and had fun trying to copy the actions. In Maths we have been learning about 2D shapes and have explored objects of a different shape on our 'wow' table each week. We are now in Christmas mode! We are enjoying our new story, 'Dear Santa' and are exploring Christmas counting songs in our Maths sessions. In the afternoons we are enjoying a range of Christmas crafts and Christmas themed messy play activities.

We would like to wish our children and families a lovely holiday 😊

Chantelle and the class 1 team

Class 2

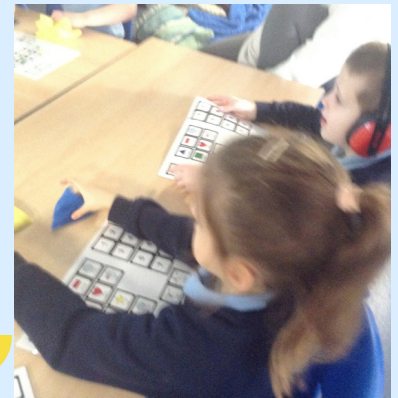
This half term we have been looking at 'Traditional Tales'. The children really enjoyed sharing the stories 'The Three Little Pigs and The Gingerbread Man'. They took on the role of the characters and loved exploring the props.

We have been learning about 'Shape' in maths and the children embraced the properties of 2D shapes and we moved onto 3D shapes.

Attention Autism has been a massive hit in class and it has been great to see the children focus for longer periods of time.

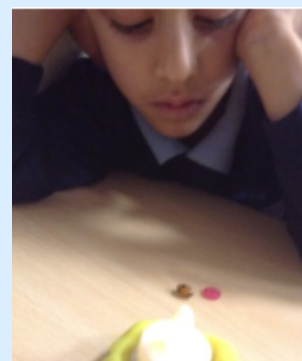
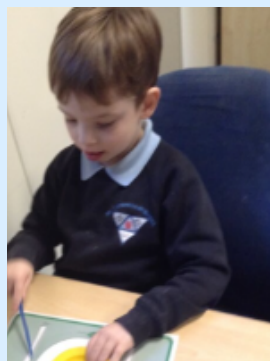
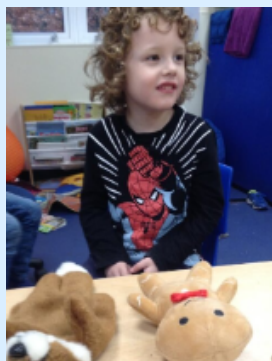
Have a lovely Christmas and we will see you in the new year.

Thanks , Class 2 team



CLASS NEWS

This half term, Class 3 have been exploring traditional fairy tales; The Gingerbread Man and The Three Little Pigs with sensory stories, role play and fun tuff tray activities. We have had lots of fun decorating the class snowman and Christmas tree and taking part in lots of Christmas fun and games, we especially loved our Christmas disco and film. We have experienced our own Diwali and made Diwa lamps after a light show in our Rainbow room, learnt about Advent making an Advent wreath and Christingle, had our own class sensor Remembrance Day and explored Hannukah. In maths we have been exploring numbers; using positional words for three little pigs and comparing hot and cold. Our Attention Autism sessions have been so much fun, and we are doing well with our phonics too. Our favourite lesson has been music as we have been learning how to desk drum. The children have made lots of progress not only in lessons but with their independence and communication, the staff are really proud of them all! Class 3 would like to wish everyone a magical Christmas and relaxing New Year!



Class 4 have had another successful half-term.

We have explored non-fiction texts in English and completed phonics, reading, writing, speaking and listening.

During Maths we have practiced number and money.

In Science we have investigated light.

During PSHE we explored changing and growing.

In PE we have each made progress with our ball skills.

As part of our creative curriculum we have learnt about Ancient Egypt.

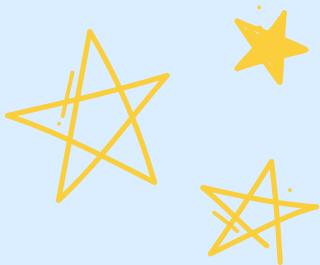
In RE we have explored Christianity and in Geography our local community.

Each Wednesday morning we have enjoyed activities at Longridge Young People's centre.

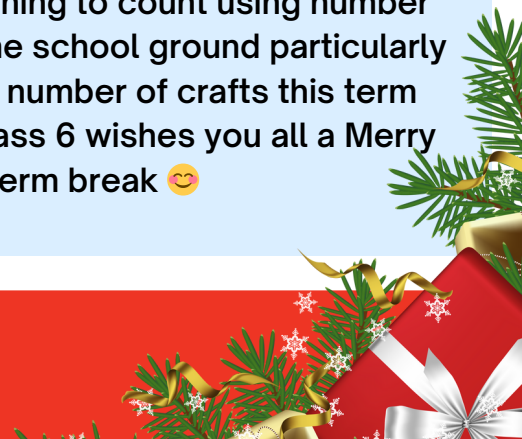
Have a Happy Christmas everyone from Class 4 😊



Class 5 have had a wonderful time this half term, with many highlights, including: making winter bird feeders with Julie, in the Forest School garden; our shopping role-play fun in our own class McDonald's and toy shop; learning gross motor skills and Sensory Circuits in the Hall with Amy; our sensory stories based on 'The Room on the Broom' and 'The Snowman'; and all the fabulous Christmas crafts, special days, performances, parties and activities that have been organised on the run up to Christmas; including a magical visit from Father Christmas and his top elf!



Class 6 have had a lovely half term! Our topic this term has been celebrations around the world; we have explored Halloween, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In English the children enjoyed our story Room on the Broom and Frosty the Snowman. In Maths we have been exploring numbers and learning to count using number magnets and teddy bears. The children have loved exploring the school ground particularly the walled garden and low ropes. We have enjoyed making a number of crafts this term including poppy wreaths, Turkey's and our class snowman. Class 6 wishes you all a Merry Christmas and we hope you have a lovely half term break 😊



CLASS NEWS



Class 7 has had an extremely busy yet enjoyable half term, exploring and learning all about different celebrations from around the world.

We have covered a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction texts during our English lessons, including Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas. We have enjoyed learning about different traditions and expanding our knowledge. We continued to explore the topic within our World about me lessons, investigating about different Festival of Lights traditions such as Diwali, Loy Krathong, and Hanukkah. The children had a great time making Diya's and Krathongs and playing with Dreidels. During our music and cooking lessons, we continued to explore celebrations, sampling cuisines and music from around the world.

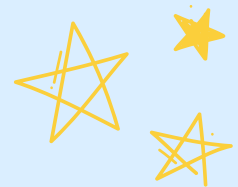
During Maths we have been learning all about measurement; exploring length, size, height and time. We have had a lot of fun going on nature hunts, collecting different sizes of leaves, and sequencing events when making gingerbread people.

PE this half term has been very busy, the children have participated in weekly swimming sessions as well as weekly sessions with Super Ball Paul. The progress made has been fantastic, not to mention the amount of fun that has been had. We hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who attended the Christmas sing along, the children had a great time and it was lovely to see you all.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break,

Kelly and the class 7 team.



Class 8

The half term started with a Halloween camp fire and party which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed, especially toasting marshmallows on the fire and using them to make s'mores. Our curriculum theme for the half term has been 'musicals'. In English, we have enjoyed reading "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and watching the film.

In music, we have practiced playing different tunes, both individually and as a group, following sequences of colours. Some of the pupils took part in the Christmas concert at St Paul's church – singing with the choir and playing Christmas songs on the xylophone. In RE lessons, we have read stories from Christianity about the miracles performed by Jesus.

The focus for our ASDAN work has been The Environment – looking at recycling and keeping outside areas tidy.



Class 9 have had a wonderful half term. We have been looking at musicals, in particular, the Wizard of Oz. The children have been immersed with the wizard of Oz in our music session and English sessions. We enjoyed our topic so much that we created our very own performance of The Wizard of Oz. We all had our parts to play and we all had some lines to communicate to our audience. The children did amazingly well and made us all so proud. In maths we have been looking and feeling different temperatures then finding the correct measurement on a thermometer. We have also been enjoying swimming on Friday's as part of our ASDAN qualification.





CLASS NEWS



Class 10 have had a very busy term, learning all the required skills to complete entry level Functional skills exams in Maths and English. We are so proud of them all for passing all their exams and a big thankyou to the parents for helping them practice at home too!! This week we are enjoying lots of Christmas activities and crafts.

We have also been reading for pleasure and going to the local library to choose our books each week and swimming at Ribblesdale pool in Clitheroe.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year !



Class 11

This half term our semi-formal curriculum theme has been 'Musicals'. We have enjoyed listening to songs from different musicals and focussing on the story of 'Wizard of Oz' in our English and communication sessions.

Our Maths focus has been Number and Capacity. In Number we have been developing our awareness of number including Number recognition, formation and counting. In capacity we have been developing our understanding of the language used including full, empty, more and less. Through developing our communication skills we have been making comments on different containers and also having fun using them to engage in water play. We have been engaging in weekly sessions of intensive interaction to develop our communication and interaction with others in class. Through our 'Musicals' theme we have focused on environmental sounds within phonics and science lessons. We have also been participating in Tacpac and Dance massage sessions for our physical development. Also through our semi-formal curriculum theme we have been participating in learning activities about different festivals at this time of year, including bonfire night, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Christmas

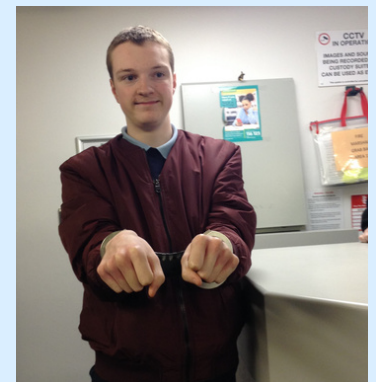
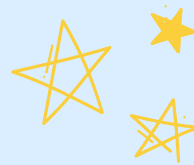




CLASS NEWS

Class 12 have had a fantastic half term cycling around paths in Moor Park on adapted bikes. We have been learning about light as part of an AQA unit and experimenting with reflecting light. English and Maths has been focusing on Functional Skills.

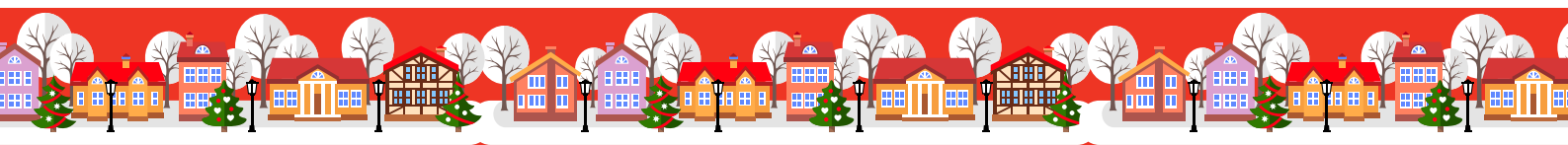
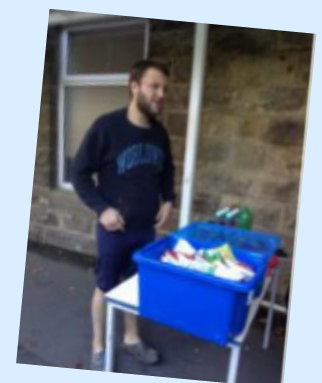
For ASDAN we visited a police station and learnt about what the police do and how a police station works. We even got to try handcuffs and go in the cells! Have a great Christmas!



Another busy term for Class 13! It's been amazing to see the progress that all of the pupils have been making with their Supporting Aspirations module 'Looking After Myself'. We have been ordering and following instructions to make a cold drink as well as a slice of toast. PE has been fun this term, taking part in a range of hockey style games working on our fine and gross motor skills – as well as some yoga! In forest schools we have enjoyed taking part in nature walks each week, taking in our surroundings on a peaceful and relaxing walk. We have also been making collages of different birds each week that we may spot on our walks. In the run up to Christmas we have enjoyed decorating the classroom, taking part in Christmas related activities and some of us even went to church to take part in the choir's Christmas performance.

It's been a pleasure to have taught Class 13 this term, and I wish all the pupils, parents and carers a wonderful Christmas break!

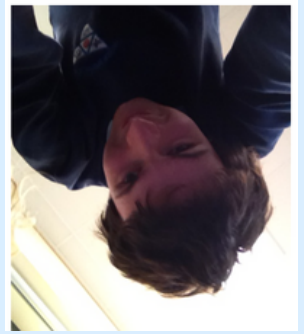
James & Class 13 team.



CLASS NEWS



Class 14 have had a very busy half term! We have been reading our Santa Selfie book in computing, taking our own selfies on the iPad, even some upside down, and putting them onto a PowerPoint, looking at money in maths and making our own breakfast and hot drinks in our ASDAN modules. Our AQA focus has been on enterprise so we have been visiting the local market learning how to sell items on a stall, how to exchange money and what different items are sold at the market. We then made our own items to sell and have made over £500! Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us, all the money raised will be going back to support the students for future visits and activities. We also had our annual Christmas concert at church with the choir and some of our students performing, it was fantastic to see all the students having such a great time and thanks again for all the support from parents! We want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Thank you for all the support we have received for our Christmas events across school, including those events out in the local community. Both the pupils and staff really appreciate it.

We have had a term of fantastic fundraising activities which will benefit all of our pupils and it's great to see the progress they are making. We even enjoyed a surprise visit from Father Christmas as a result of your fundraising efforts.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Paul Leaper
Headteacher



FUNDRAISING NEWS



THANK YOU SO MUCH!



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual bingo event. We were overwhelmed again by how many people joined us to support the school.



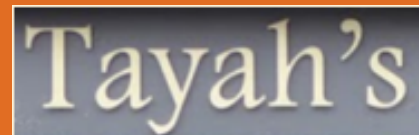
Emma Lord Artwork



✦✦ **We raised an amazing £2284.50!** ✦✦



Thank you to Bingo Ben our fantastic caller, all the parents & relatives who donated raffle prizes for non-uniform day and all the businesses that kindly gave us donations or bingo prizes. We couldn't have achieved this success without you all!



FUNDRAISING NEWS



THANK YOU!



The donations continue!

Jon and Dunc raised an amazing £965 for the sensory trail by running the Lakeland 100 ultra marathon non-stop across the Lake District in July

Centrica Big Difference have increased this further by donating £500.

This makes such a difference and we are extremely grateful!



The PSFA would like to thank all those who took on the Smarties Challenge!

A fantastic £238 was raised for school!



£43 was raised on Christmas Jumper Day



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join our lottery!**

Sign up today at www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play

For every ticket sold 76% goes towards school and prizes. If you would like to take part please go to:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>
to join

£1 per ticket!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all - We look forward to welcoming the pupils back in January!