



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

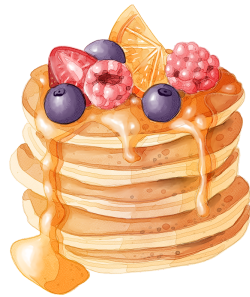
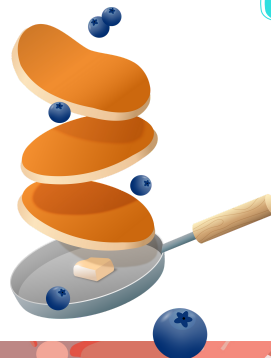
- Friday 9th February
LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 19th February
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Wednesday 27th March to Monday
15th April - EASTER BREAK



SchoolSpider

Please make sure you download the school spider app. We send important messages through the app

*Have a
great half
term!*



PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

HELP US
SOAR TO
NEW
HEIGHTS
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

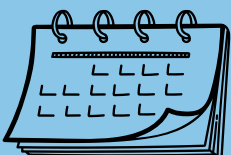


01772 782205

STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome back Mikala Hough, TA2, who will be returning from maternity leave

Goodbye & Good Luck to:
Jo Evans after 8 years at Hillside



REMINDER:

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY



Class 1: Spring 1

This half term our topic has been 'food'. In our daily Literacy lessons we have been enjoying reading the story 'The Gingerbread Man' – 'Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'. All the children have really engaged with this story. In phonics at Level 1 we have been exploring body percussion ie the sounds we can make with our bodies! We have had fun copying actions which make sounds ie clapping, tapping or stomping to the music! Pupils at level 2 have continued learning their letter sounds. In Mathematics we have explored a range of counting songs and finger rhymes, but this time on a 'food' theme! Five gingerbread men lying on a tray and 10 fat sausages have been firm favourites! Each week we have been looking at a different aspect of measure on our 'wow' table – we have looked at size, length and height. This week we will be learning about weight and will be using the balance scales to help us to decide which object is heaviest and which is lightest.

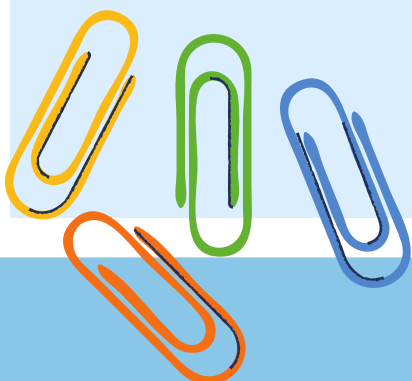
In the afternoons we have listened to a variety of 'food' themed songs in our daily Music and Movement sessions. We have been taking it in turns to choose our favourite song. We have also completed a wide variety of arts and crafts, malleable, and messy play activities on our 'food' theme. For example, we have been enjoying sensory play activities with different foods ie cooked versus uncooked pasta, printing with different fruits and vegetables and making our own gingerbread men models from dough. It's been a short, but busy half-term!

This half term Class 2 have been learning about space with the topic 'Out of this World'.

They have been enjoying the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. They took on the role of different characters and we saw fabulous anticipation of what was going to happen next in the story.

We have also had the pleasure of attending the local children's centre where the children interacted well with their peers. It was great to see the children access the community and engage with a wider range of resources.

Thanks
Class 2



CLASS NEWS



This Spring term Class 3 have been exploring space with our sensory stories; *Whatever next* by Jill Murphy and *Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram, lots of fun tuff trays and learning activities too. We have enjoyed making rockets, writing in moon dust, experimenting with shimmering stars using vinegar and baking powder and creating comets. We have experienced the moon landings during sensory play and even tried moon walking. In maths we have been exploring numbers using our rocket launch and counting aliens. In RE we celebrated Bodhi day and looked at how we can show kindness to ourselves, our friends and families. At the end of term, we went to the cinema to watch Space films, it was so much fun, we even got to have some treats!

The class 3 team wishes everyone a safe and happy half term.



Class 4 have had another productive half-term.

We have explored poetry texts in English and completed phonics, reading, writing, speaking and listening.

During Maths we have practiced number and geometry.

In Science we have investigated forces and magnets.

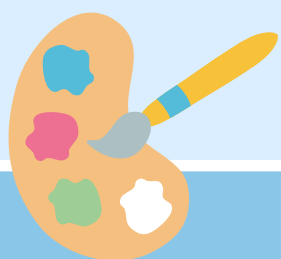
During PSHE we explored the world we live in, how we can help to look after it and belonging to a school community.

In PE we have made progress with our swimming and gymnastics skills on weekly visits into the community.

As part of our creative curriculum we have explored water and the water cycle and 'water lilies' by Claude Monet.

In RE we have explored Sikhism.

Have a great half-term everyone from Class 4



CLASS NEWS



Class 5 - This half term we have been very busy learning all about Egypt with a sensory story and lots of arts and crafts. We have enjoyed weekly time in the forest schools classroom. In PE we have continued our skills in tummy time therapy and in phonics we have been exploring environmental sounds.

Class 5 team

Class 6 are having a busy and exciting half term!! We have explored lots of sensory toys, and making requests for these using either PECs at phase 1, 2 or 3. We are learning about the Egyptians and have a lovely sensory story associated with ancient Egypt- the question is, 'who wants to dress up as a mummy next?' We've been smelling myrrh and frankincense, feeling the bandages to wrap around a mummy, touching the sand from the desert and listening to the wind blowing!!

Wow! What a quick and busy term it's been. Class 7 has had an extremely busy yet enjoyable half term, exploring and learning all about 'water, water, everywhere'.

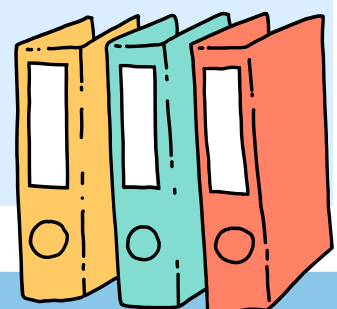
We have enjoyed various texts during our English lessons, including 'How to catch a mermaid' and 'Jack and the flum flum tree'. We continued to explore the topic in our Geography, DT and Art lessons. Exploring the water cycle through various practical sensory based activities, investigating floating and sinking through our DT lessons, allowing the children to experiment with the best materials when designing a boat, and learning about Claude Monet in Art. The children recreated beautiful pictures of Monet's famous 'Water Lilies', exploring texture and form with different materials, tools, and techniques.

During Maths we have been learning all about money; exploring coins and their values, as well as applying our learning to practical and role play situations.

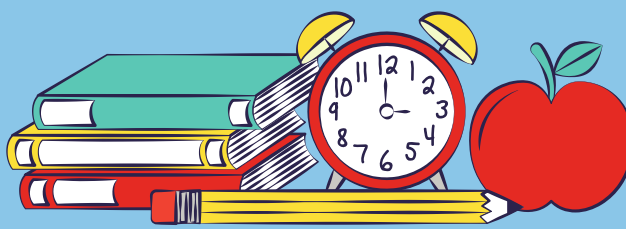
PE this half term has been very busy, the children have participated in weekly gymnastic sessions, developing balance and co-ordination as well as following simple instructions on how to move, e.g. 'walk', 'run', 'jump', 'roll', etc.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break,

Kelly and the class 7 team.



CLASS NEWS



Class 8 - Our curriculum theme this half term has been wild weather and natural disasters. We have explored different types of weather and looked at a variety of natural disasters caused by extreme weather conditions.

In English lessons, we have enjoyed reading the text "Pinocchio" as a class. We have been working on developing independence skills during shopping visits to Aldi supermarket, using the self-service checkouts to scan and pay for our shopping. For our ASDAN work this half term, we have been looking at the clothing/equipment used in different jobs. Some pupils have also been to the recycling centre in Longridge to recycle plastics, glass, tin cans and cardboard.

In PE lessons, we have played team games and practiced batting and fielding skills. We have also enjoyed swimming sessions.

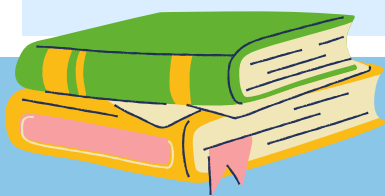


Class 9 have been enjoying going out into the community to do some shopping at Sainsbury's in Longridge. We have been writing shopping lists and then finding the items when we visit the shop.

We have also enjoyed taking part in work experience around school. We have been helping Dan and Darren around the school, collecting leaves and sweeping rubbish. The children have really enjoyed being involved in this.

We have also been enjoying our story Pinocchio, the children have enjoyed reading different sections of the story and joining in.

This half term we have been joining up with class 8 as part of our PE session. It has been very successful and children have gained a lot from it.





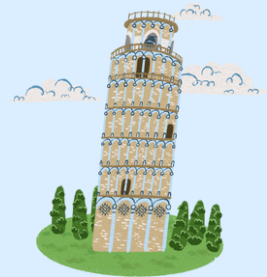
Spring is looking to be another busy term for Class 10

The boys are exploring a range of options for ASDAN - Our music sessions are based on the ASDAN module of Expressive Arts whereby the pupils are learning to play a piece of music and perform in front of an audience. We are going to trampolining as part of PE and the ASDAN sports module. Throughout the Spring term we will begin to explore a range of careers that possibly some of our pupils are interested in pursuing.

In Maths we are working towards Functional Skills and currently concentrating on time and data collection. Our English is also based on Functional Skills, we are currently reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

We are looking forward to an exciting term 😊

This half term Class 11 have been learning about Italy as part of our topic work. We have made landmarks and enjoyed learning about the culture. In English we have been reading Pinocchio and in Maths we have been identifying numbers and quantities. We have also enjoyed the snow and outdoor activities.



Class 12 have been enjoying street dance sessions via Zoom with Dance Syndrome this half term. In English we are reading The Twits and have been learning about non-fiction books. In Maths we have been learning about 2D shapes and naming angles. Our Science has been based on an AQA Unit on shelters. We have loved designing and making chocolate bars and their wrappers in DT as part of ASDAN. They were yummy! Have a great half term.



CLASS NEWS



Class 13 have had a brilliant start to the new year. Everybody has settled back into the college routine well. All pupils have enjoyed lots of different activities. They have done particularly well in the ASDAN lessons building friendships and relationships during dance massage, team games, sensory exploration with friends and intensive interaction.



Class 14 have had a great start to the new year! We have been working on our pathway 3 topic countryside parks and walks, visiting local countryside areas and learning about the countryside code. The students have really enjoyed identifying different signs and looking for wild animals when out on our walks. We have also been learning how to cook a main meal. So far we have made a soup and a stir fry, the students did really well cutting up vegetables and using the kitchen equipment with growing independence. We have been looking at different surfaces and textures in our ASDAN printing module, learning about different everyday materials in science and have done some fantastic work in PHSE looking at public and private.



CLASS NEWS



Although this has been a short half term, it has still been a very busy five weeks for pupils and staff. Pupils have been out and about on community experiences and have been working hard on a variety of topics and themes in class.

If you are keen to know more about the hard work that is happening in school, then there is an opportunity to get involved through the current parent governor vacancy. For more information contact the school office.

Enjoy the half term week.

Paul Leaper - Headteacher

School will re-open on Monday 19th February





A fun night for all the family!

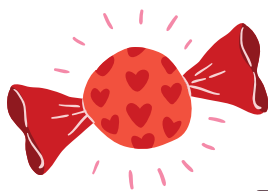
We are hosting an early evening chocolate bingo event on Friday
15 March 2024,
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm in School.

This is to help our School Council in raising funds to purchase
disco lights for the termly disco events they hold.

We thought it'd be a nice way to end the working week and
support the great work of our School Council.

This is open to all staff and their families along with pupils and
their families.

More information to follow..... **SAVE THE DATE!**



**CHECK
IT OUT**
↓

ROBERTS RECYCLING

**will be collecting any
unwanted bags of
clothing on Monday 26th
February. If you have any
unwanted items, then
please can you bring
them in by Friday 23rd
February**

**support our school
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!