



Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2024



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 28th October
SCHOOL REOPENS
- Friday 20th December to
Monday 6th January
CHRISTMAS BREAK



Arbor

Please make sure you download the Arbor app as this is where we send important messages and you can see pupil information

Fancy a
clear out
during
half term?

ROBERTS RECYCLING

will be collecting any unwanted bags of clothing on Wednesday 30th October. If you have any unwanted items, please can you bring them in by Tuesday 29th October & help raise funds for school

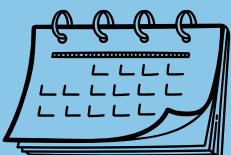


STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome to the team:

Shamyana Dashu TA1
and Ben Rawstron TA1

Goodbye & Good Luck to:
Laura Gerrard



REMINDER:

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER



The PSFA are hosting our annual Bingo night on Friday 8th November. This is always a fun event and a great fundraiser for school. We would be very grateful for any prizes that can be donated. Please contact any businesses that you think might be able to help too. This would be really appreciated!



We have a new website address:

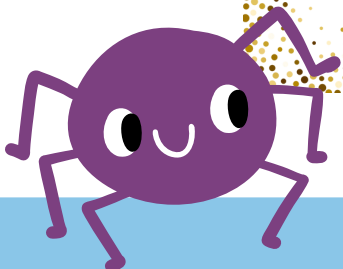
www.hillside.lancs.sch.uk

I would like to give a warm welcome to the families of those pupils who have started at Hillside this term. It's great to see how everyone has settled into a school routine. We have had a busy few weeks and it is great to see photos of the activities the pupils have been working on. Please support school in our upcoming fundraising events. If you would like to be more involved, contact the school office for information on our PSFA meetings.

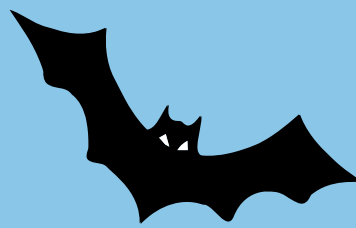
Have a good half term week.

Regards

Paul Leaper - Headteacher



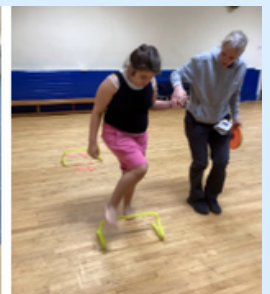
CLASS NEWS



In class 6 we had a lovely first half term settling back into the school routine and getting to know each other. We enjoyed lots of different sensory experiences throughout our whole curriculum. In our English and Communication lessons, we enjoyed our sensory story 'my five senses', we then moved on to working on communicating likes/dislikes and commenting on textures whilst exploring with our five senses. We then enjoyed 'Peppa Pigs Windy Autumn day' sensory story working on communicating and building sentences using colourful semantics. The pupils loved our number themed Attention Autism Maths lessons, before moving onto our sensory story all about time. We have been little drummers during our music sessions, learning to listen to and repeat a beat and progressing on to playing along to We Will Rock You! In PE, the pupils have loved our colour stations game followed by developing turn taking skills during Boccia. In our 'World About Us' lessons, we have learnt all about Harvest through a sensory story and story massage and people who help us both within school and in the community.



This half term Class 10 have all settled in really well after the summer break. We have enjoyed exploring the topic of Music. In English we have been reading Creepy Crawly Calypso, pupils have enjoyed listening to different musical instruments throughout the sensory story. In Maths we have been focusing on number, with pupils all working hard towards their individualised targets. PE has had a focus on functional movement where we have been able to practice gross motor skills. Throughout other areas we have been exploring Buddhism in RE, different ways to play instruments in music and self-awareness in PSHE, finding out what makes us happy! Class 10 have also been enjoying weekly forest school sessions.



Class 5

This half term we have been looking at things we like. We have enjoyed sensory stories about activities, toys and food. In phonics we have been listening, identifying and making different sounds, lots of mark making and exploring using the tuff trays. In maths we have learnt about quantity using our AA bucket with ducks and frogs.

RE has been fun, finding out about harvest, making harvest sensory bottles and having our own harvest festival in class singing songs and sharing food. In PSHE we have looked at things we are good at and how this has changed as we have grown

We have been developing our ball skills in PE, enjoyed time in forest schools and looked at bones in science, playing with skeletons, making bones and looking at x-rays. We continue to practice our life skills this term, working on doing lots more for ourselves without help. We have also had lots of appointments; eye tests, school photos and a visit from the school nurses for flu jabs.

The class 5 team wishes everyone a safe and happy half term.



Class 9 have been enjoying reading music is for everyone in English whilst listening to different types of music and identifying how instruments are played.

In Maths we have been practicing identifying and sorting shapes. In PE we have been doing sensory circuits. Our topic this half term was based on music and through this we explored sound, for example by using paper cup telephones. We've played instruments along to music. We have also started our ASDAN qualification and are currently learning about rules.

In PSHE we've talked about things we are good at and enjoyed watching a PowerPoint of photos of things we like to do.



Class 4

Wow! What a busy and fast first half term. Everyone has settled really well and are beginning to build great relationships.

This half-term, our topic has been, 'Wild weather.' In English the children have enjoyed a variety of stories, including, 'Meet the Weather', 'Shark in the Park on a Windy Day' and 'Little Raindrop'. Fantastic work has been completed, working on writing, reading and comprehension.

In Maths we have been learning all about position and direction as well as continuing to build our number skills. The class have loved following 'Bug' on his 'Big Trip', watching him hide behind the animals, slide down the elephant's trunk and hide under the cranes wing. Kites have been the main focus of our DT sessions. The children have had the opportunity to explore and investigate different types of kites, the best types of materials and what kind of patterns and decorations they liked the best. We are looking forward to testing out our designs – fingers crossed for a bit of wind!

During Science, the children have been learning all about 'States of Matter' – they have loved various practical explorations; making different potions using a variety of liquids, identifying different properties of various solids, and experimenting with gases to inflate balloons and power bottle boats. Furthermore, we have also explored changing states; watching chocolate go from a solid to a liquid when making crispy cakes, watching ice melt from the sun and the heat of our hands, and observing wax melt from a solid into a liquid when heated.

Our PE sessions with Superball Paul have been a lot of fun; the sessions have been filled with energy and plenty of excitement. All of the children have made amazing progress and they have definitely enjoyed themselves.

We continue to work on our individual targets and develop our independence throughout the day.

The class 4 team wishes you all a happy and safe half term.





Class 1 have had a very busy, but lovely first half-term in school! We have been getting to know our friends and supporting adults in class and have focused on developing our understanding of daily routines and expectations.

Our topic has been 'Ourselves'. In daily literacy lessons we have been enjoying the story/song, 'If you're happy and you know it', and have loved joining in and copying the actions. We have more recently read 'The Family Book' by Todd Parr and have loved exploring this story through a sensory approach. All of us have enthusiastically engaged with this story and the props! In maths sessions we have been working on our counting and number skills through engaging with a range of counting songs and rhymes. Our dough disco sessions have proved popular, and we have thoroughly enjoyed practicing our fine motor skills through copying actions with play dough: 'pinch, roll a ball, squeeze and splat!' We have all had fun exploring a wide variety of messy play and creative activities in the afternoons, and look forward to our daily music and movement sessions too. We like to explore objects on our 'wow' table – this half term our 'wow' table was colour themed and we've been investigating objects of a different colour weekly. We like to be active in class 1 and have loved playing in our small soft play/matted area in the classroom and we also like to run, climb and explore in our class outdoor area lots too! We are keen to develop our sharing and turn-taking skills and we are working hard on practicing these skills with the support of class 1 adults.

We have all settled really well into class 1 and our teacher and teaching assistants are all very proud of us :)

(Chantelle and the Class 1 team would like to say a big 'thank you' to all our fabulous parents– your help and support has meant so much to us this half term whilst we've been getting to know and settling the children- Thank you so much!)

Class 14 have had a fantastic start to the new academic year! We have welcomed some new students to our classroom and they have settled into college life well. We continue to access the local supermarket so that the students can prepare their own meal plans, make their own dinners and learn about making choices and money. Our focus for AQA this half term has been cleaning. The students have been learning about different cleaning words and following instructions to clean our classroom. They have been cleaning up after making some biscuits. We have been learning about germs, using our magic glowing germs in the sensory room to learn how to wash our hands properly. We have been learning about shadows in science and telling the story of The Three Little Pigs. We have enjoyed creating our own exercise circuits and drawing them on the floor to follow each step. We are all looking forward to our Halloween party and we are already getting excited for our Christmas enterprise and Christmas performance!





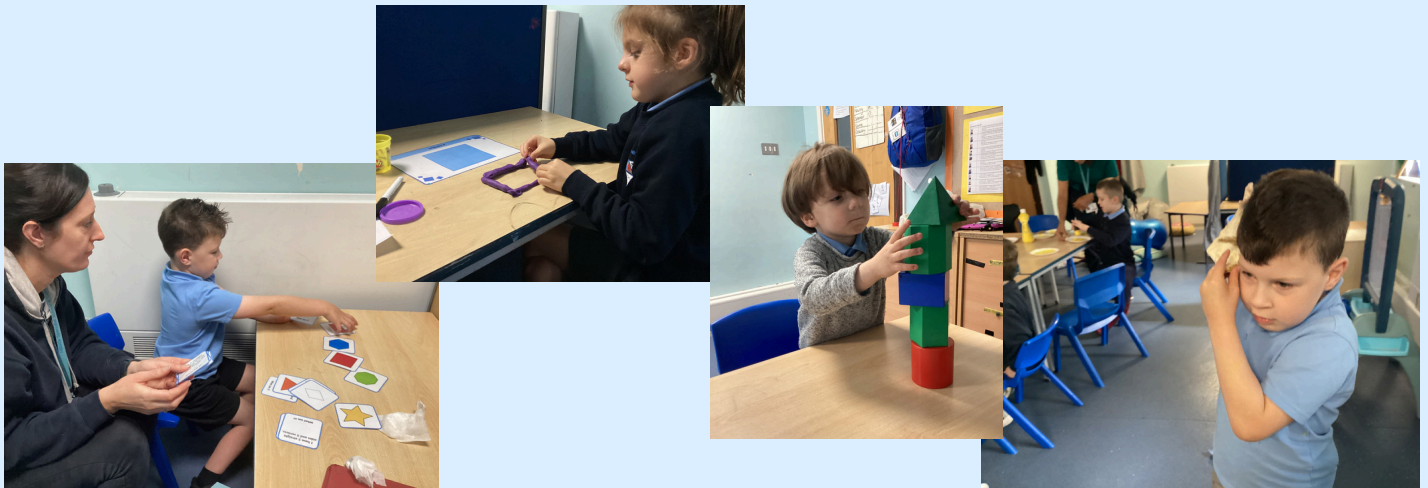
Class 2

The children have had a very busy half term and have settled back well into the school routine after the summer break.

We have been learning about shape in maths and explored both; 2D and 3D shapes and their properties.

Our sensory story stories have kept us busy and the children particularly enjoyed 'Percy the Park Keeper - One Snowy Day!'

Our weekly Super Ball Paul sessions have been a massive hit and the children have made amazing progress in their ball skills.



Class 8 have had a great start to the new academic year.

We have been busy learning routines and enjoying lessons as a new class group. In English we have completed activities linked to 'The Hodgeheg' and worked on making progress in speaking and listening, individual/shared reading, comprehension and writing.

During Maths we have completed activities linked to number and shape.

In Science we have investigated Forces.

Our PSHE lessons have explored personal strengths.

During History and Art lessons we have explored the Tudors.

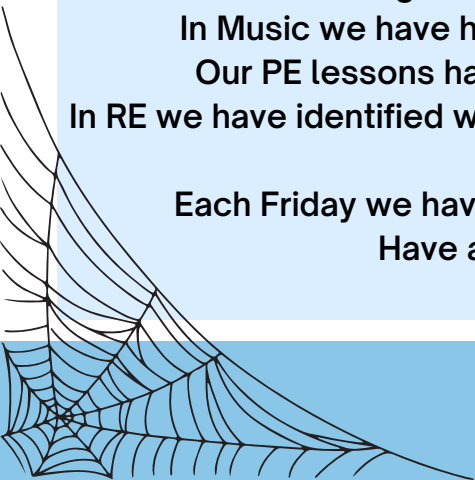
In Music we have had the opportunity to play a variety of musical instruments.

Our PE lessons have focused on ball skills with an outside specialist coach.

In RE we have identified ways of looking after ourselves and others and related this to story of the Good Samaritan.

Each Friday we have celebrated our achievements in our Key-Stage assembly.

Have a great half-term break everyone from Class 8 😊

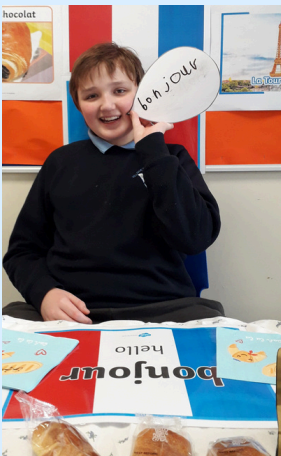


CLASS NEWS



Class 7 have had an Awesome Autumn Term so far 😊 We've been learning health and hygiene in PSHE and ASDAN. Each student has impressed the class team with how they have been getting along and playing together; during ball skills in PE, during group activities, and also in our daily Games Club time. Everyone joined in peeling, chopping, weighing and mixing ingredients to make our Harvest Apple Crumble, which was given the seal of approval by most of the class, especially Robyn and our lovely Wendy. We've also enjoyed a French breakfast together, learning and saying French phrases (either verbally, using theme boards or pressing sound buttons) and each student chose their favourite pastry to try. Très bien

Classe 7! We've been learning how to write free verse and acrostic poems, by using describing words and learning how to rhyme; I've been blown away by everyone's efforts!



New routines, wow moments, Yoga poses high,
Friendships building, laughs; Autumn 1's flown by.
French words, apple crumble, ball skills in the Hall,
Class 7's had a great go at them all!



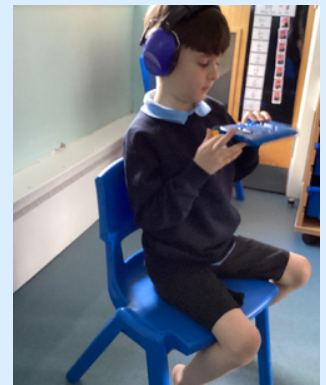
The children have settled into Class 3 really well and have enjoyed our topic 'Hot and Cold' this half-term. Throughout the topic, the children have been learning about the different seasons, the weather they might experience during these times and the clothes they will need to wear. The children have also been feeling hot and cold objects and tasting hot and cold foods.

In maths, the children have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes and have been working with circles, triangles, squares, spheres, cylinders, cubes and cones. They have enjoyed creating patterns with the shapes and even completed a shape hunt around the classroom which was lots of fun.

In English this half-term, the children enjoyed listening to our class stories 'Shark in the Park on a Windy Day and Elma's Weather'. The children have completed lots of activities based on the stories including a character description, created a weather wheel and even made their own Elma the elephant.

In RE this half term, the children have been learning about the story 'Noah's Ark'. The children really enjoyed learning all about Noah and the animals and made animal masks which they used whilst they sang 'The Animals go Marching Two by Two'. They even had a go at making their own arks using junk model materials and tested them out in the water tray.

The children have all worked really hard this half-term and the class 3 team are really proud of them.



CLASS NEWS



Class 12 have had a busy first half term! We've got stuck straight into our exam studies for functional skills maths and English. We've enjoyed a range of Kahoot quizzes to test our knowledge in both maths and English, with the odd Disney one as a reward!

We've been working hard on our PDP Silver qualification with a number of projects. During forest schools with Julie we've been working on improving the look of the school grounds - including weeding, planting shrubs and bulbs and general maintenance. We've been busy planning our enterprise projects, including selling breakfast delivery to staff and making brownie mix jars - we're hoping to commence after half term so look out for our adverts.

Our Friday mornings have been filled with music, as we've been exploring a range of instruments and learning to play them together as a rock band with our music teacher Tim.

It's been lovely to see how well everyone has settled into college life and Class 12.

Have a lovely half term - James and the Class 12 team

Class 13 have had a busy and productive first half term. Our theme has been colour and shape and this has worked as a cross-curricular theme. We have been using our communication skills and learning key words to support us with this. We have been practicing key words (colour and shape) during our functional skills and Maths and English lessons. We have then used these in practical situations - following instructions to colour different shapes, baking biscuits using shape cutters and communicating which colour icing sugar we'd like to decorate them. In art we have made a shape collage choosing shapes and colour using our communication skills. We have followed a sensory story called 'Colours, Colours' and followed a colour dance massage routine. In PE we have played Boccia as a team game and have been learning about Zones of Regulation in PSHE.





*Please support the PSFA
for a great night!*

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Hillside PSFA

BINGO Night

CIVIC HALL, LONGRIDGE

FRIDAY **DOORS OPEN AT 7PM** **8 NOVEMBER**

FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE
BAR OPEN
CASH ONLY

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
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 **HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

