



Hillside School

Newsletter - June 2017



Here Comes the Summer!



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Hillside,

Session 2017-2018 has brought lots of challenges and excitement for the whole Hillside Community! We have seen Community Cafés, a wonderful Nativity/Christmas Show, school trips, visitors from all round the globe, movie making, sports events, open afternoons, competitions, art exhibitions and much more.

The pupils of Hillside have achieved so much this year both inside and outside school and impress me time and time again with their dedication and will to succeed. The staff and I have enjoyed celebrating success with the children during our 'Hillside Hero' assemblies. Hillside really does have talent!!

This year saw the start of our Football team, Craft Club, Games Con Club, Digital Leaders, Playground Buddies and Young Leaders. Well done to all these groups for such a wonderful start and for all the contributions you have made to the school. Plans are already in place for improving pupil leadership across the school next term for ALL our learners. So watch this space!

Perhaps the biggest excitement of all was the move into our new building! The novelty has certainly not worn off and we continue to enjoy everything our new school has to offer. It was also lovely to welcome more new pupils who have brought lots of personality, skills and ideas to Hillside.

Finally... thank you to our whole school community for all your support this session. 'Team Hillside' would like to wish our families a fantastic Summer break. I hope the sun shines and there is lots of fun for all. We look forward to welcoming everyone back safe and sound on **Tuesday 22nd August.**

Kind Regards

Miss Munro

...And all the staff of Hillside School

Skip-a-thon!

Congratulations to all our children, Nursery through to Primary 7, who took part in our sponsored 'Skip-a-thon'. The staff and pupils spent the entire day skipping non-stop and had great fun at the same time!

I would like to thank our families and friends for their generous donations. We were overwhelmed by the money raised. I can announce that, at last count, we had raised **£2700!** This money will go towards reducing the cost of school trips, learning experiences for our pupils and towards additional play equipment for our playground. We will keep you posted on all of this.

Nursery News

Our Nursery boys and girls have also had a very busy term settling into their new Nursery environment. Not only this, but many of our children have been busy taking part in transition days and activities. They have had visits to the classrooms, playground, dining hall and even taken part in assembly. We look forward to welcoming them as Primary 1's after the holidays.

Lunch Time

After the Summer Holidays we will have 13 classes. To ensure lunch time runs smoothly, we have had to alter the times slightly. So for your information please note that

P4-7 will go for lunch at 12pm-1pm

P1-3 will go for lunch at 12.25-1.25pm (stays the same)



Games Con Finalists!

Earlier this month we were delighted to find out that our *Coding Club* had reached the Aberdeenshire final of 'Games Con 2017'. This group of P4-6 pupils (ran by Mr Ryan) have met every Thursday lunch time since Christmas to prepare a 'Virtual Tour' of Hillside using the computer programme Scratch. The team included Molly, Miller, Fatima, Rayan and Rebecca. They attended the final at RGU and took part in lots of workshops.

A special mention to Miller who impressed the organisers by giving them a hand with some 'technical difficulties'— well done Miller! A great day was had by all and the team came back with a special award for 'Innovation'. We were all very proud!

Go Hillside School!

Bike-Ability and Safe Cycling

Congratulations to a group of our P6 pupils who completed their level 1 Bike-ability. They have started to learn about safe moves and looking after their bikes. All were presented with their Level 1 badges and certificates during assembly. Thank you also to Mr and Mrs Marley for taking them through their training.

On a similar note, I would like to encourage ALL our families to ensure children are wearing their helmets if they are scooting or cycling to school. One of our school values is staying SAFE and any child coming to school without their helmet will be asked to ensure they bring it next time and push their bike/scooter. I am sure you agree that the safety of our children is the most important thing of all.

Assembly Speakers

Every Friday the whole of Hillside School comes together to celebrate/discuss our school values in different ways. Sometimes classes also share their learning at these assemblies. One thing the pupils really enjoy is having guest speakers from all walks of life.

At Hillside we recognise and celebrate the fact that we are a very diverse school community and have families from all different cultures and faiths. If you would like to suggest/know someone from an organisation, church or charity that you are involved in to come and talk to our boys and girls please email/phone the school.

UNICEF— Record of Commitment

We are delighted to announce that Hillside School has been awarded the 'Recognition of Commitment' award, as part of UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools programme.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights, adopting the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UN CRC): a series of rights focusing on what children need to survive, grow and fulfil their potential. The Rights Respecting School Award seeks to recognise schools that teach, respect, promote and protect these rights.

Thanks to Mr Ryan, Miss Kirk and the Rights Respecting Steering Group, Hillside have been introduced to the rights of a child, conducted surveys and completed a very detailed action plan for next session- leading to our recognition from UNICEF. Well done!

We are now on our journey to Level 1 and look forward to informing you of our progress. In the meantime look out for the Rights Respecting logo we now have permission to use and display throughout our school community.

For more information on Rights Respecting Schools please visit www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools.



Primary 7

We would like to wish our 3 P7's (Ethan, Jack and Raegan) good luck as they head off to Secondary School. They have contributed so much to Hillside, even though they are a very small group! They will always be our 'First' leavers. I know they will be fabulous and look forward to hearing how they get on.

Thank you, Cheerio and Hello!

I would just like to conclude this newsletter by saying a HUGE THANK YOU to all the staff who have worked so hard this year. It is their professionalism, commitment and dedication that has made the opening of Hillside School a success. The passion and enthusiasm from the teaching and non-teaching staff is fantastic and makes such a big difference to our young peoples school experience.

I would also like to thank the Hillside Parent Group who have made so many wonderful things happen this session, including the 'Opening Celebration' and School Discos. In addition to this they help work with the staff to best meet the needs of our school community. Many thanks.

Sadly we will also be saying good-bye to Mr Ryan on 30th June, Mr Ryan will go back to join his family in his native Ireland. Mr Ryan has contributed so much this year and has been instrumental in creating the ethos and community feel of Hillside School. He is also fantastic colleague who will be missed!

Saying cheerio to friends is never easy, but we are also saying 'Hello' to some new members of the team in August

Alla Milne - Early Years Practitioner

Anne Ritchie— Early Years Practitioner

Hannah Davies— 6/7 Class Teacher

Amy Sked—P5 Class Teacher

Stephen Watson— P4 Class Teacher

Lyndsey Affleck - P2 Class Teacher

Denise Humphreys—P2 Class Teacher



HILLSIDE
school

We look forward to giving them a Hillside Welcome!

Dates and Information...

Look out for a newsletter early in the new session that will include dates for your diary and some of our exciting plans for session 2017-2018

