



Hillside School and Nursery

January 2021

HAPPY NEW
2021
YEAR

Dear Parent/Carer,

A warm welcome back to Hillside School. As I have said before, this is not quite the start to the term (or year) we had anticipated but as ever, we are encouraged by the support and positivity of Hillside's school community.

After one week of remote learning, we are already reflecting on our provision and doing our best to respond to any feedback received. To help us understand broader parental views and with school decision making, we include a link to a remote learning survey. We appreciate that this is a demanding period, so all responses will be valued and appreciated. Despite some nationwide technical difficulties encountered on Monday, GLOW and Microsoft TEAMS appear to have been working more smoothly since. However, rest assured, we continue to monitor our platforms and will try to offer suggestions/solutions as required.

Overall, we have been very impressed with pupil assignment engagement and attendance at live sessions: this is wonderful to see. We do continue to stress the importance of daily registration and ask all parent/carers/pupils to register on their class Team by 11.30am every day. Please do reach out to the school though, should you have any challenges with this. Absences also need to be recorded daily, including any pupil who will not be engaging due to Covid-19 symptoms. Please do ensure you call/email the school office if this is ever the case.

As we start the new year, Hillside welcomes new members of staff to our team. Mrs Middler is Hillside School's first Early Years Senior Practitioner as we prepare for Nursery expansion, Mrs Fish joins Miss Read and Mrs Swanson in Primary 1RFS as class teacher and Ms Janssen is supporting

Hillside this term as a permanent supply teacher. We hope all of our new staff members enjoy being part of the community! Miss Munro also sends her best to all families of Hillside. Miss Munro and family are all doing really well, and we look forward to welcoming Miss Munro back to Hillside at some point in term 4.

In addition to remote learning, Hillside continues to open on an exceptional basis for children of key workers who have no viable childcare alternative. We continue to be advised by the Scottish Government and Local Authority that we must keep numbers to an absolute minimum to reduce interactions within the community and school.

Please do note, that staff responsibilities are varied during this period and some will be expected to support in school provision on a rota basis. Initially, support is provided by Pupil Support Assistants, Early Years Practitioners, teachers not assigned to whole classes and senior leaders. Some class teachers will also support in the coming weeks. Messages, emails etc. will be responded to as soon as we possibly can.

We continue to wish all our families well during this period and a happy New year ahead. If anyone has any questions or needs support from us, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We will do all we can to help until we can make a safe return back to school.

Kind regards,

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Parental Remote Learning Survey

As mentioned above, please find the link to our remote learning survey below. We thank you for your participation in advance and look forward to updating you with a summary of responses in due course.

[January 2021 - Remote Learning Survey](#)

Remote Learning on TEAMS Top Tips!

- When using the 'ask the teacher' channels, try including the @ function as part of the message. For example, if asking Mr Leslie a question start with Hi @Mr Leslie (as soon as you type @ and Mr/Mrs etc. you can search for the correct member of staff. By including this in messages, the staff member will be sent a specific notification/alert.

Assemblies

We were impressed with the attendance at our first remote assembly on Monday. However, given this is open to the whole school, there appears to remain a capacity limit to any meeting of 250-300. As a result of this, and to ensure all who wish to do so can access assemblies, we will prerecord assemblies from this Monday. This will still be posted in the SLT TEAM.

'Hear a story with SLT' will continue to be live sessions.

Posting messages on TEAMS

Please remember that all conversations/messages posted on TEAMS groups are visible to all members of the TEAM.

Twitter

From Monday 18th January, our Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) will be posting an activity or challenge every day on Twitter. Parents/carers are encouraged to share any responses through Twitter tagging [@SchoolHillside1](#). Please note these activities/challenges are entirely optional for families to engage with.

Hillside Scottish Poetry Competition 2021

We are launching our annual Hillside Scottish Poetry Competition this month. All pupils will, over the coming weeks, be issued a Scottish poem to learn at home by their teachers. Once all poems are heard, class teachers will choose a class winner to put forward to SLT for the competition. We are very lucky to have a panel of judges from the local community who have agreed to then hear all poems before deciding on a P1-2, P3-4 and P5-7 overall winner. These winners will be announced at Assembly on Monday 22nd February. We wish you all lots of luck with learning your poems!

Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Website

A reminder of this very useful website in support young people through this challenging time:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/>

The EPS also run a dedicated phone line for parents/carers who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call back they can email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with their name and number.