



Hillside School and Nursery

January 2023



The Silver Edition

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first Hillside School Newsletter of 2023!

In October, we provided you with information about our Rights Respecting Schools journey. We revealed that we had hoped to be assessed for, and achieve, silver accreditation from UNICEF for our continued work (demonstrating our knowledge, understanding and respect for children's rights) by the end of 2022. As you may be aware, Hillside School were indeed visited on 7th December and have since received further certification. To celebrate, we are referencing this newsletter as 'The Silver Edition'.

In this newsletter, we will highlight some events and achievements that occurred during the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023, and link these to the learning and teaching of children's rights by including 'Articles' (rights) from the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which underpins both the work of UNICEF and the *Getting it Right for Every Child* approach in Scotland.

Hillside School is now recognised as a 'Rights Aware' school and can use the badge opposite to showcase our achievement. We now plan on maintaining our commitment to children's rights as we begin the early stages of going for Gold!

We wish all our families and community members the best for the year ahead!

Kind regards,

Lesley-Anne Munro & Jordan Leslie
Head Teachers



Hillside School - Rights Respecting Silver Accreditation Report

Along with our silver accreditation, Hillside School received a report citing evidence gathered during the in person visit and through the submission of documents prior.

In summary, the report highlights that Hillside were able to demonstrate:

- children's knowledge and understanding of rights.
- staff awareness of the need to promote, teach and develop an understanding of rights.
- reference to the UNCRC through school improvement planning.
- the school's commitment to restorative practice in supporting children to reflect on their own behaviours.
- the promotion of safety across the school.
- a focus on health & wellbeing.

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- ways in which progress and achievement are recognised and celebrated.
- how the school facilitates children in being able to express their ideas.
- the school's commitment to raising awareness and money for charity.

As we think about continuing our journey to Gold, Hillside School *initially* aim to:

- consider how to make rights more visual/visible.
- explore the meanings of 'rights holder' and 'duty bearers'.
- Make links with other settings.

We look forward to sharing our journey with you through newsletter, twitter and website updates.



Article 1 – All children have rights.

'Wrapping' up 2022!

Hillside School and Nursery had a very busy end to 2022 and enjoyed many activities as we celebrated the holiday season.



We enjoyed a visit from M & M Productions as they performed the pantomime 'Cinderella'. The feedback was very positive, and we also have to congratulate Miss Macbean, Mrs Mitchell, Miss Gibb and Miss Wright for joining the performance for the special 'dance off'. Fun was certainly had by children and staff alike.



Our children were back performing to audiences in December through a range of Christmas shows. The Nursery presented 'Goldilocks at Christmas' in groups, Primary 1 & 2 performed 'The Shiniest Star' nativity and Primary 3-7 had us 'Rocking Around the Hillside Christmas Tree' with some festive favourites.

Article 31 – All children have the right to relax and take part in a range of activities.

Article 29 – Education must develop children's talents and abilities.

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A massive 'thank you' to our wonderful Hillside Parents Group, for organising the Cairngorm Reindeers visit. A first for Hillside, this was a lovely experience for our Nursery and Primary children and one they will likely remember for a long time; it certainly helped spread lots of holiday cheer!

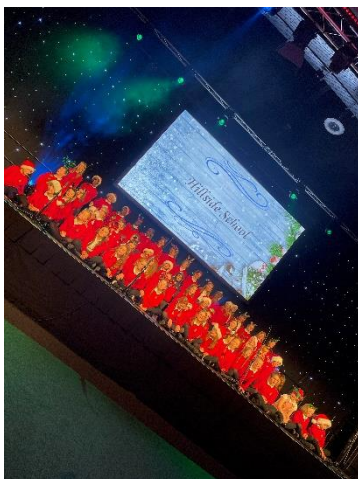


Led by Miss Gibb, our Hillside School Choir continues to impress us. They've performed regularly over the past year but a special congratulations is needed for their participation in the *Evening Express Christmas Concert*, held at the P & J Live! The parents, carers and staff present were full of praise for what was a professional and enthusiastic performance! We are incredibly proud of the Choirs continued success and achievements!

A special 'thank you' for this front row picture too, taken by a parent.

Article 29

Article 31 – All children have the right to relax and take part in a range of activities.



Thank you to all community members for supporting the Rotary Shoebox Appeal in term 2. Hillside School and Nursery donated 128 boxes! A wonderful effort for a worthy cause.

Article 29 – Education helps develop respect for others, human rights, and other cultures.

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Coding Club

Last term some Coding Club members travelled to the University of Aberdeen to meet with staff and students. They were finding out what University was like and investigating coding related opportunities out with the classroom. A report was written for the Scotsman. The article can be found [here](#).

Article 15 – Children have the right to meet with others and join groups.

Poetry Competition 2023

Our annual Scottish Poetry Competition has been taking place this term, concluding on Tuesday 24th January - just in time for Burns Night. We would like to say well done to all children that took part by learning about poetry, learning a poem and/or performing to groups/classes/the school. It was lovely to see so many so engaged with poetry and the final presentations (class winners) were phenomenal! Presenting in front of an assembly audience and community members, the poems were truly performed with confidence, energy and enthusiasm.

The finals were judged by a panel including a range of Hillside community members - we thank them so much for their time and appreciation, but we didn't

envy their job of having to decide upon the school winners.

The following 3 children were delighted to be crowned the 2023 Poetry competition winners and deservedly so.

We are already looking forward to 2024!

A special thanks to our judging panel:

Natalie - HPG

Alison & Joseph - KCA Deutag

Graham - Portlethen Menshed

Julie - Portlethen Larder

Matthew - Hillside School Volunteer



Article 29

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Rotary Writing Competition

Well done to two Hillside Primary 7 pupils for winning the Portlethen Rotary Writing competition! To do so they had to write a short narrative on the theme of 'Peace'. On Friday 27th January 2023 they were presented with a framed certificate and prize voucher. Well done!



Our Hillside Rotary 'Young Writer' competition winners 2023.

A Reminder from NHS Grampian for Children's Eye Health & Sight -FREE EYE EXAMINATIONS-

All children in Scotland are entitled to an annual free eye examination by a qualified Optometrist (Optician). These examinations are really important for checking the health of your children's eyes and for making sure that children get any help they may need to make the most of their vision.

Sometimes children do not notice that one eye cannot see as well as the other and an eye examination can check to see if your child has any squints or 'lazy eyes' or if they need glasses. Vision can change over time so it is important to have checks regularly to see if there has been any change.

The Optician will give a prescription for glasses for your child if they need it. There is no obligation to buy glasses from the same Optician. Your child

is entitled to an NHS optical voucher to help cover the cost of glasses. If the glasses you choose costs more than the voucher, you will have to pay the difference. The Optician will explain this in more detail.

We would encourage all parents to take their children to any high street Optician for regular eye examinations whether or not they think they may need glasses.

Reporting an Absence

Please be advised that Hillside School has a duty to record the attendance of all Primary pupils each morning and afternoon and we **MUST** be informed of any absence.

If your child be absent from school, you should inform us by phone, email or voice message clearly stating the pupil's name and reason for absence. School action is required for any absence unaccounted for. Initially this will be in the form of a phone call. Failing an answer, text alerts and a home visit would follow.

In the event that we have no reason for an absence and no contact from a family, then the school would have to contact other services by the close of day.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you in advance.

Social Media Safety

Police Scotland are highlighting Social Media Safety this month and have sent schools a Social Media Advice for Parents document. This has been attached to this newsletter email. We are sure you will find it useful.

Dates for the Diary

School closed to pupil's 8th - 15th February 2023 inclusive

- Mid Term Break: School and Nursery closed - **Wednesday 8th - Monday 13th February 2023**
- Inset Days (School and Nursery closed to pupils) - **Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th February 2023**