



Hillside School and Nursery

August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to welcome all of our families back after the Summer break and we hope you had a wonderful holiday! It has been lovely to see our pupils and hear their stories of travels, days out, playing in the garden and very long lies! The weather in Aberdeen was a little mixed this year but hopefully lots of fun was still had.

Our new Primary 1 Pupils have now joined us and are looking very smart (and grown up!) in their Hillside uniforms. They have been busy learning about school routines, how a classroom works and making new friends.

We would also like to extend a warm Hillside welcome to our new Nursery families and those who have joined us from other schools/areas this session.

As the new school year starts, our team are feeling positive, ambitious, and motivated. We look forward to working in partnership with you to make Hillside the best it can be!

Kind regards,

Lesley-Anne Munro & Jordan Leslie
Head Teachers

Staffing Update

This term we welcome to our team,
Miss Sinclair - P3 Teacher
Mrs Chopra - P4/5 Teacher
Miss Taggart - P5 Teacher
Mrs Robertson - PSA (Monday/Tuesday)

They are all excited to meet all of our fabulous children!

A little reminder that, this term, Mr Leslie will be Acting HT at another Aberdeenshire School Monday-Wednesday, but back at Hillside on Thursdays and Fridays. We will miss him on the days he is not here, but we wish him well.

School Improvement Plan 2023-2024

Each session, we are required to submit our school improvement plan for the year. This sets out key tasks and work we plan to do as a school to raise standards. Improvement priorities are developed after rigorous evaluation and must be in line with local and national guidance.

Our SIP priorities for the coming session include:

Priority 1

To improve our universal and targeted approaches in supporting learners at Hillside School

Priority 2

To develop the use of Digital Technologies in the classroom.

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We plan to update you regularly on our progress. Watch this space.

Homework Reminder

Those of you who have been with us a while at Hillside will know that every few years, we review our approach to Homework. Homework is an incredibly divisive subject in all schools. We have many parents/carers who would like more homework and we have many who feel that there should not be any.

Over recent years there has been a significant decline in pupils completing homework. Despite this, we know that it is still important for many families and will continue to issue tasks.

Each term our class teachers issue a 'Learning Leaflet', outlining the curriculum focus across different areas. Families are always welcome to explore/practice skills further by referring to this.

So, with all this mind, below is a reminder of what Homework looks like at Hillside School.

P2-7 Homework

Class Teachers to post information about homework on TEAMS. (TEAMS are currently being created, your child should have access to their class TEAM in the next couple of weeks at which point Homework will begin.)

Weekly

- **Oral Reading** (pages to be read at home)

- **Spelling words** to be uploaded to TEAMS to practice if you wish.

- **Recording task that will rotate weekly**
 - o Week 1 - Topic Based
 - o Week 2 - Spelling Based
 - o Week 3 - Literacy Based

The marking of homework will be minimal. It could be stamped or ticked by the class teacher or self/peer marked. Any feedback could also be given orally.

Primary 1 families will have separate information given to them by the class teachers.

ILD



Our existing families will be aware that for the last few years we have used the Interactive Learning Diary as a profiling tool for our learners. Parents have been able to see snapshots of learning at home and also add to this themselves. This is a tool widely used across different schools.

Aberdeenshire Council are withdrawing the use of ILD until a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is completed. Unfortunately, this can take some time and, like the other schools using this system, we need to find an alternative profiling platform for this session.

As a team, we need to spend some time developing this. We will keep you up to date on any changes.

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Ball Games

Please note, the children have been reminded by class teachers and at our assembly that there should be no ball games in the school playground in a morning. While our SLT often try to come into the playground in the morning, this isn't always possible. School playgrounds are not staffed in a morning before 9am.

We will continue to remind the pupils of this rule.

Dogs on the School Premises

We would like to remind our families that **dogs are not permitted on the premises of Hillside School** (except for service/assistance dogs).

Open Afternoon - Welcome Back to Hillside!

We are absolutely delighted to invite you to an open afternoon on today **Tuesday 19th September 4-5pm.** Please save the date.

This afternoon is an informal chance for you and your child(ren) to visit your child's class and/or have a walk around our school. Please note that there will not be an opportunity to talk about your child as an individual at this event, but there will be at parent consultations later this term. Please feel free to reach out to class teachers if you have anything you wish to discuss prior to that.

At that time, we will also have consultation stations where we gather parent voice on subjects and we will also have information stations where you can learn a little bit more about things that go on in our school. We are still in the planning process for this event.

Social Media/Internet Safety

Please find attached some very interesting information regarding keeping our children safe online. There are some great tips on these leaflets that are worth looking at. These have been shared with us by our local Policing Team.

Special Mail!

Over the Summer we received some very important mail. A thank you card from the King and Queen for the artwork we completed as a school. This will be shared at assembly with our pupils.



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Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 19th September - Open Afternoon 4-5pm
(drop-in session)

Wednesday 4th October Community Café - 9.30am-
11am - Run by P6 Mrs Lindsay's class

Thursday 5th October - Parent Consultations - 3.45
- 6.30pm

Tuesday 10th October - Parent Consultations - 3.45
- 6.30pm

Friday 13th October - Last day of term - October
Break