



Hillside School and Nursery

October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are now starting our second term! What a busy Term 1 it was...

I wanted to start by inviting everyone to please check out our school website. We have recently updated it with the official Vision, Values and Aims artwork and, more excitingly, our official Hillside Song and accompanying video. The song was written and created by our current P7 pupils in collaboration with Beatbox Productions. The whole school has been practicing the song in assembly and you can now join in at home too! The lyrics of the song are representative of our school values.

Ambitious
Respectful
Resilient

We have also introduced 3 new assembly awards, one to represent each value. Last term our focus value was 'Ambitious' and, each week, the adults in the school could nominate a class or individual who demonstrate that value. The award then stays with the class for the week.



Next term our focus value is 'Resilient'. Class teachers and SLT will be referring to this day-to-day and discussing what this really means. We would love it if you could follow up on this discussion at home.

Thanks again for all your support.

Kind regards,

Lesley-Anne Munro & Jordan Leslie
Head Teachers

Staffing Update

In November, we will be sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs McCarron who is off on a very big adventure Down Under! We would like to thank Mrs McCarron for her hard work and wish her whole family well as they embark on their new life in Australia! Miss Brawley will take the P3/4 class on Mondays and Tuesdays, with Miss Young continuing the rest of the week as normal.

We are also delighted that Miss Lynch has now secured a permanent post at Hillside School. Congratulations to her and we are delighted to have her as a permanent member of our team.

We also look forward to welcoming back Mrs Massie this term, who returns from her maternity leave. She will be returning to Hillside two days each week and will be taking a variety of classes to support with non-class contact time cover.

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P.E Kit

This term Mr Leslie will also be returning to Hillside full time after supporting another school as Acting Head Teacher. We can't wait to have him back 😊

Junior Cops!



We were delighted to welcome PC Charnley to our school in September to support us with our ongoing parking problem at Hillside School. He enlisted the support of some 'Junior Cops', who helped remind parents of the importance of following safe parking rules.

We were able to talk to many parents on the day and issued reminders that the drop off zone and turning circle must never be used to park your car.

He hopes to return again next term and our Junior Cops will be back out on patrol!

Last term we noticed a huge decline in pupils bringing suitable PE Kit. This greatly impacts on their ability to fully participate. Participating in school uniform is not always an appropriate option.

Please double check your child takes their PE kit with them to school on a Monday and takes it home again on a Friday. Thank you 😊

Sumdog

The Hillside School Parent Group kindly funded a year's subscription to Sumdog which is a fun, interactive app/website to support pupils understanding in Maths. Staff recently took part in a training session on Sumdog and it is now up and running in all classes. Each pupil has a unique login and questions are tailored to their abilities to reinforce concepts in numeracy, data handling, shape and other maths topics. Sumdog can be used at home and in school. There will also be challenges throughout the session which the school can take part in to complete with schools in Aberdeenshire and across Scotland.



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This school session we have decided to use some of our Pupil Equity Funding from Scottish Government to support wellbeing of pupils through commissioning Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust to do some work with our pupils. Work will largely involve our upper stages pupils, but all classes will have an opportunity to take part in a taster session across the school year.

Our allocated worker is Cameron Jarvie, and he is with us every Monday for the whole school year.

So far, pupils involved have enjoyed the programme and look forward to Mondays coming around.

The aims of this project are:

- Improved knowledge and use of coping skills
- Improved emotional regulation.
- Improved resilience
- Improved empathy and compassion for others

These are all areas that fit with our health and well-being curriculum and school values.

Cameron and Claire from AFC were also able to support us with 'Girls in Sport' week and did a super session with our senior girls.

Pupil Voice

Our Pupil Council representatives from each class (P4-7) have been elected and have met with different members of the SLT to start working on plans for this session. They have been involved in discussions regarding classroom WOW boxes (Ways of Working), to suggest resources that might be helpful on a day-to-day basis in class e.g. Number lines.

They have decided to create a suggestion box for each Zone and encourage pupils to submit suggestions/questions for discussion at future meetings. The Pupil Council asked if it would be possible to take some of these ideas directly to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) every so often. From this discussion, the idea of 'SLTea and Biscuits' emerged! Every month, a member of the SLT (HT or DHT) will meet with some Pupil Council Reps and individuals who have submitted ideas, to discuss and have some juice/tea and a biscuit. Hopefully this will help drive forward some pupil voice going forward this session.

Parent Voice

Hopefully, you all had the chance to read the 'Parent Voice' Newsletter. We plan to issue these twice each session to demonstrate the different ways we use parental feedback. A wee reminder that the suggestion box sits at the school office, and we would love to hear any feedback/ideas you have.

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Digital Leaders - Internet Safety

A huge thank you to our wonderfully talented Digital Leaders and Mrs Lindsay for running a very successful internet safety assembly on Monday 2nd October. It was very informative and also fun! The messages in this were incredibly important and we encourage our families to continue having this discussion at home.

Twitter/X

At Hillside, we use Twitter/X to share a snapshot of life in school and nursery. We share photos of key learning opportunities and successes both for the class and individuals.

Many parents have shared that looking at Twitter with their children helps to stimulate conversations about learning and experiences. To support with locating tweets about your child, each teacher uses the hashtag #P*Hillside on their tweets. (* i.e., #P6LHillside, #P4H1Hillside)

Hillside School Tweets can be found at @SchoolHillside1 and Nursery tweets at @HS_Nursery.

Our pupils and teachers really appreciate any likes and comments on their tweets so please do interact with these if you can!

Odd Sock Day - Anti Bullying Week

Message from our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors...

We need your help! We are asking you to join us in wearing odd socks on **MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER** alongside with the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This date marks the start of National Anti-bullying week (13th-19th November). It is important that everyone does their bit to put an end to bullying, which is a message that will be reiterated throughout the week. We want to encourage you to wear mismatched socks as a way of celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion Let's celebrate what makes us all unique and spread kindness, together! 😊

Children In Need 2023

This year the Rights Respecting group are planning to support BBC's Children In Need 2023 on **Wednesday 15th November**. Hillside school understand fully that ALL children have the right to a good standard of living where food, clothes and a place to live are so important (Article 27).

This year, they have decided to create a fun run for all pupils at the pitch. Pupils will be asked to come as you please, although the theme is Spotaacular, so spotty and Pudsey outfits are all welcome. We are asking that families give a donation to support this cause.

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There will be other activities going on in classes such as designing a cupcake, prizes will be given to the winners. Joe Wicks has been busy doing a Burpee challenge so some classes will be giving this a try.

Throughout this period, classes will be working on learning about the UNCRC, with year groups focusing on specific rights so that we can all share our learning in a rights themed assembly nearer the end of November.

Poppy Appeal



This year, Hillside School is continuing to support the Poppy Appeal. Children in P5/6 will be visiting each class daily over the next two weeks where children can buy a poppy for a donation (50p - £1 suggested).

Community Café

Congratulations to P6 Mrs Lindsay's class and the P6s from Mrs Scott Brand's class for a very successful first Community Café. Monies raised will go towards maintaining our Defibrillator and school fund. In addition to this, the class have voted to make a very generous donation of £80 to Charlie House. Thank you to everyone who came to support the pupils and their café.

Hillside's UEFA Mascot

We were incredibly proud last term when our very own Nathan in P5 was a UEFA mascot for the Aberdeen vs Helsinki game. An opportunity came up for the school to nominate a pupil to do this special role.

Amongst other criteria, Nathan was nominated for his great sportsmanship and for being a good role model on/off the pitch.

Other schools also put forward nominations and we were delighted when we heard he had been selected. He told us he had a super night that he won't forget!

Well done, Nathan!



Dates for the Diary

***NOTE - separate Christmas Diary to follow very soon!**

Thursday 2nd November - Rag Bag Collection

Monday 13th November - Odd Sock Day - Anti Bullying Week - No donations required.

Wednesday 15th November - Children and Need Day - Spott/Pudsey or Dress as You Please

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th November - Inservice Days - School Closed to pupils.

Tuesday 21st November - Community Café (P7W running this) - 9.30-11am

Friday 22nd December - Last Day of Term 2