

12 JANUARY 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

VALUE OF THE HALF TERM – Altruism

A VALUE IS A PRINCIPLE THAT GUIDES OUR THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR

Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome back – I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It was so lovely to see the children return happy and excited to start the new term.

A special welcome to our newest and youngest members of Hill Farm who joined nursery this week for stay and play sessions. The nursery staff were amazed at how quickly they settled and played together.

You would expect the first week back to be a quiet one – but not at Hill Farm! Our teachers had planned some wonderful, immersive learning experiences for pupils to launch their new topics as well as adding more exciting trips and activities to enhance their learning over the coming months.

The Hill Farm Community Library is almost finished and we will be having a grand opening shortly. In the meantime, we have a large amount of older books that we no longer require. Mrs Nicholds, the school librarian, will be giving these away at the end of the next few days on the KS2 playground – please freely take as many as you wish.

The new after school co-curricular club timetable was sent out this week. Please return the slip as soon as possible if your child would like to take part in a club. All clubs start again next week.

The importance of raising our school attendance figure remains and I would ask that you only keep your children off school if they are ill. Please make appointments where possible outside of school time and please avoid booking holidays in term time. We will be launching more attendance prizes and initiatives in the coming weeks.

Finally, the closing date for applications for a place in reception is **15th January**. If you know anyone who is looking for a school place for nursery/reception children next September please could you let them know.

Thank you for your support.

Dawn Wilson - Headteacher

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY TIMETABLE



Our Celebration assemblies for Years 1 to 5 are held in the **KS2 Hall** and start **at 9:00am**. Year 6 have a monthly showcase/celebration

assembly starting **at 2:45pm on Tuesdays**. We would love it if you could join us with your family and friends. If your child is due to be presented with a certificate or an award you will receive an invite to the assembly no later than the Wednesday of that week.

- **Friday 19 January 2024 - Y1-5 Celebration Assembly**
- **Friday 2 February 2024 - Y1-5 Celebration Assembly**
- **Tuesday 6 February 2024 - 5DL Class Assembly**

ATTENDANCE



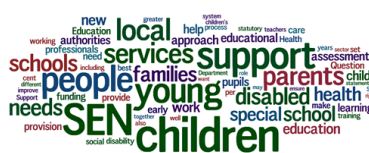
Hill Farm Primary School is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality. Our aim as school is for every child to achieve at least 96% attendance. Whole school attendance is currently

94.7%



Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve

TIME TO TALK' APPOINTMENTS



We offer weekly
'Time to Talk'
parent/carer appointments with
Miss Roper (SENCO). It is an
opportunity to talk about any
questions or concerns you
have about your child's edu-
cational needs or SEN support for your
child. Appointments are available
on a Wednesday and can be made via
phone or in person. Appointments
are available
9.30am.



Coventry Complex Communication Team free workshop sessions for parents and carers of children and young people on the Autism spectrum or with complex communication needs

Each session will be delivered virtually through Microsoft Teams and presented by a specialist practitioner in the field of Autism and complex communication needs. There will be a series of sessions focusing on a range of topics, which include:

- Week 1: Understanding your child and their Autism
- Week 2: Supporting your child with self-care and independence
- Week 3: Supporting your child and their sensory processing differences
- Week 4: Supporting your child and their behaviours
- Week 5: Supporting your child with their learning
- Week 6: Supporting your child with transitions

The aim of each session will be to:

- To raise an awareness of how Autism/CCN affect your child
- To develop a shared understanding of some of the challenges that our children face, and the strengths they can bring
- To increase your confidence in understanding and supporting your child
- To build up a bank of ideas and strategies that can be used to support your child

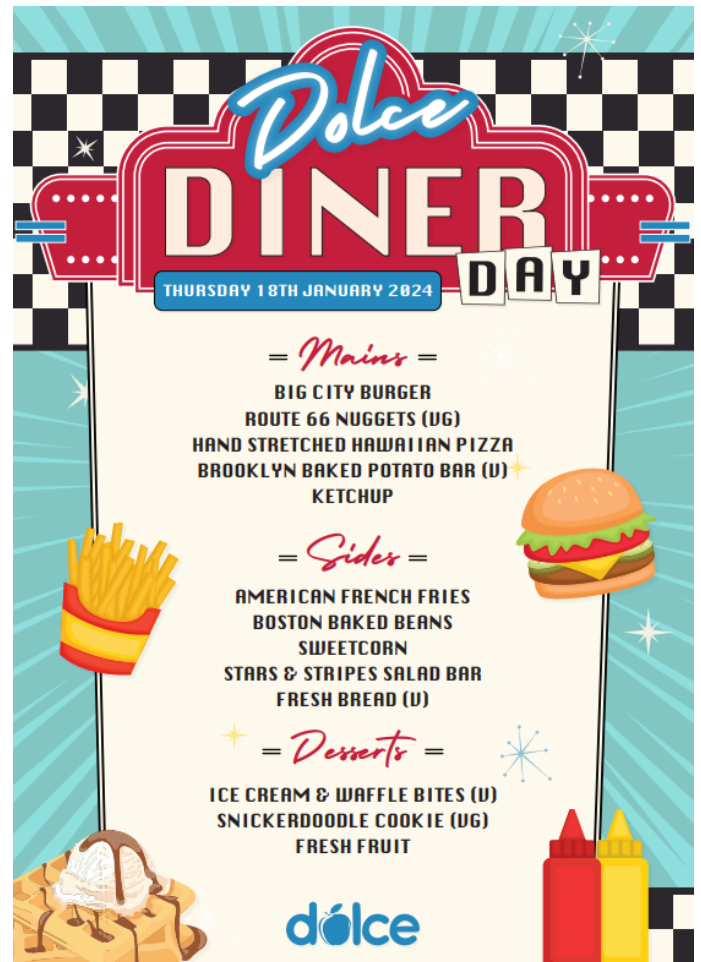
All sessions are 4.30pm-5.45pm and run half termly. There are also weekly advice clinics that accompany each session, where time slots are allocated to ask specific questions relating to your child.

Please email BSCLimbrickWoodCentre@coventry.gov.uk if you wish to attend these sessions.

Whilst we appreciate you may not be able to attend every session due to work/family commitments; the expectation is that you **must** attend week 1 as this provides the foundation for the remaining sessions, and that you are able to commit to at least three of the following sessions

DOLCE DINER DAY

If you would like your child to have a taste of our school catering, why not book on to Schoolgrid and order them a lunch on **Thursday 18th January 2024**, when Dolce are hosting their **Diner Day Special**.



ATTENDANCE



You may have seen this week on the news that school absence has become an increased concern following the impact of the pandemic. Nationally, 1 in 5 children are classed as persistently absent from school. At Hill Farm, we want to avoid children being persistently absent from school, as not only will they miss out on learning

but they will not have the opportunities to make memories with peers and teachers. Mrs Hammond will be contacting families where the children have fallen below 90% attendance, over the coming weeks, to explore reasons and offer support to ensure that every child has the chance to experience every moment of their school life.

SCHOOL EVENTS



We have some very exciting Events happening throughout the school year. Keep checking our Key Dates to find out what's coming up and when.

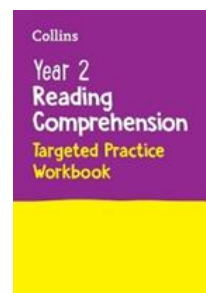
NEWSLETTER NATTER



Debate this week's Newsletter Natter
at home with your family and friends to
put your Oracy skills to the test.

- ***Teachers should wear a uniform***





NEW COMPREHENSION BOOKS



As you know, Hill Farm is committed to ensuring every pupil is a confident and able reader as we recognise how important it is to your child's success in all areas of the curriculum. To help improve your child's reading comprehension skills, Hill Farm have purchased a high quality, comprehension book for each pupil from year 2 to year 6. A letter, with more details has also been emailed home today.

CONTACT DETAILS



    Please remember to update the school office if any of your contact details change; like your **mobile phone number, email address or home address.**

KEY DATES 2023

Date	Year Group	Event
Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Year 1	Sacred Spaces Trip to St Francis' Church - afternoon
Monday 5 th - 11 th February 2024	Whole School	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 th February 2024	Whole School	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Whole School	Half Term Disco
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Year 2	Trip to Selly Manor
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Whole School	Break up for Half Term – 3:20pm
Friday 9 th February 2024	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Monday 19 th February 2024	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Tuesday 5 th March 2024	Year 3	Greek Day in School
Thursday 7 th March 2024	Whole School	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March 2024	Whole School	Non-uniform Day for Donation of Easter Eggs
Monday 11 th - 15 th March 2024	Whole School	British Science Week
Thursday 14 th March 2024	Year 6	Height & Weight Check
Thursday 21 st March 2024	Whole School	Easter Bingo Eggtravaganza !!
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Nursery & Reception Years 1 & 2	Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Hard Boiled Egg Decorating Competition
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Whole School	Break up for Holidays – 3:20pm
Monday 8 th April 2024	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Monday 6 th May 2024	Whole School	School Closed – Bank Holiday - May day
Tuesday 7 th May 2024	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Friday 24 th May 2024	Whole School	Break up for Half Term – 3:20pm
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Thursday 27 th June 2024	Whole School	"Wear it White" Disco Party
Friday 28 th June 2024	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Friday 5 th July 2024	Whole School	Big Summer Bash - 2:00pm
Tuesday 9 th July 2024	Year 3	Lunt Fort Trip
Friday 19 th July 2024	Whole School	Break up for Holidays – 3:20pm

LIBRARY CORNER

Happy New Year Hill Farm families! Mrs Nicholds, our school librarian, hopes you made a New Year's Resolution to Read More Books in 2024! Reading does not have to be a solo activity, reading together as a family has benefits for both children and grown-ups! Your child is more likely to read if they see their grown-up reading. Here are some tips (for grown-ups!):



1. Reading together does not mean having to read worthy or complicated books. You can read a comic, sharing laughter and creating memories.
2. Take turns reading - read a page, a sentence, or a line each. A lot of children's books have lists in them, so read a line each, or action words written in LARGE FONT! Mrs Nicholds always asks her children to read these out whilst she reads the rest of the page. Or you could become characters in the book you are reading.
3. Read anytime, anywhere! Reading at bedtime is a great idea, but not always possible. A little and often is always good! Most of us grown-ups have phones & you can always search for a free story extract, or download a free library app such as BorrowBox or Libby, onto your phone.
4. Slow down! You will both enjoy it more if you slow down your reading pace when reading aloud, and add lots of expression, children love it and will be more engaged. Every now & again ask questions such as 'What do you think will happen next?', 'How do you think this character is feeling?', or comment on the action. This makes your experience more interactive and memorable.
5. Just give it a go & enjoy it!

