



# Hilltop School Newsletter

Issue 2 2026-2027

As you know, our school hosted an **Ofsted inspection** team last week. We want to extend a huge thank you to our entire school community—our fantastic pupils, dedicated staff, and supportive parents—for making the inspectors feel so welcome and for helping us showcase what makes our school special. I also want to thank the governors and local authority for their support over the three days.

This inspection was conducted under the new Ofsted framework, which marks a positive shift in how schools are evaluated. Instead of summarizing a school's entire identity into a single-word overall effectiveness grade, the new report will provide a much more detailed and nuanced breakdown of our strengths and specific areas for growth. We look forward to sharing the final, detailed report with you as soon as it is officially published after half term.

It was lovely to see some of you at our **MacMillan coffee** morning at the start of term. Together we raised £93.



Our second charity fundraiser of the year was **Jeans for Genes** where we raised £46. Thank you for your donations.



Our next charity opportunity is our **Harvest celebration** next week. Rev Paul from All saints will be sharing a special Harvest themed assembly with the children. We will be collecting nonperishable food items to pass on to Windsor Foodshare. This local charity really does make a big difference in the lives of families in our immediate community including Hilltop families so we do appeal for everyone to consider donating something. Please check that all food items are within date as we

have had to throw a large number of items away in the past as they had exceeded their expiry date.

We are already looking towards **Christmas events** and have begun to put dates in the school calendar. Hilltop has a fun history of creating Christmas memories for the children. However, we are at risk of losing this tradition. We had no response from parents in relation to our Christmas Fair so as things currently stand, we will have to **sadly cancel the fair**.

This leaves the question of whether **Elfridges** can still go ahead. We are completely reliant on the time and support of parents to make this event happen. For parents new to Hilltop, Elfridges is our little Christmas shop where children have the opportunity to buy gifts for family members. In the past an army of willing parents have helped with online shopping for small items, wrapping them ahead of the event and helping on the day. If you think you'd be able to spare some time to help in any way please email the office as soon as possible as we need to make a decision soon after half term about whether to go ahead with Elfridges.

Over the last month we have run **parent information meetings** to look at the curriculum and learning within each year group. On the whole, attendance has been fairly low and we would welcome feedback if we could be offering meetings at a more convenient time for parents.

Bookings for **Parent-Teacher consultations** have now opened. We are holding all meetings on a single day this term. Both online and face-to-face meetings will happen on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please do book your appointment as soon possible so that you get your preferred timeslot.

Parents are invited to pop into the hall on the afternoon of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November between 3:15 and 3:40 to see their child's **Christmas card design**. We will send details about how printed cards can be ordered after half term.

Children in Year 4 had their last swimming lesson of the season this week. We are extremely proud of the progress that the children have made particularly in terms of independence and confidence. Swimming will resume for Year 4 pupils next Summer first half term with Year 3 pupils having their turn in the second summer half term.



Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 have been enjoying **Art Week** this week. The focus this term is drawing. Years 1 and 2 have been exploring shape and pattern whilst the older children have been looking at some well-known illustrators. All of the children are looking forward to applying their new skills in their final project at the end of the week. We invite all parents to come along and visit our **Art Exhibition on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.**



Last newsletter, I outlined out **home learning** expectations across the school. On the whole, we have seen an increase in pupils completing their weekly written Prepare and Share to a higher standard. Please could you support your child by establishing consistent expectations around when and where home learning is completed. Ideally children should be sitting at a table for written work.

We have become aware that some home adults are signing **reading diaries** even if the child has not actually read. Please be mindful of the message you are communicating to your child by doing this. Our newly printed diaries have a space for home adults to write a comment in addition to signing the calendar. We do expect this to be completed at least once each week. Your comment is valuable in informing us about how your child is getting on at home. If you are finding any aspects of home learning tricky, please do speak to your child's class teacher.



Our Autumn Book fair runs from 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November. Please [click on the link](#) to download the interactive Autumn book Fair newsletter

#### Dates for the diary

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct – 1pm pickup

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>-Sun 1<sup>st</sup> – Half term

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – KS1 Grown-ups in Golden Time

17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Nov – Scholastic Book Fair

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Nov – Reception Grown-ups in Golden Time

*Lynn Bima*

October 2026

[www.hilltopfirst.co.uk](http://www.hilltopfirst.co.uk)