



Hilltop School Newsletter

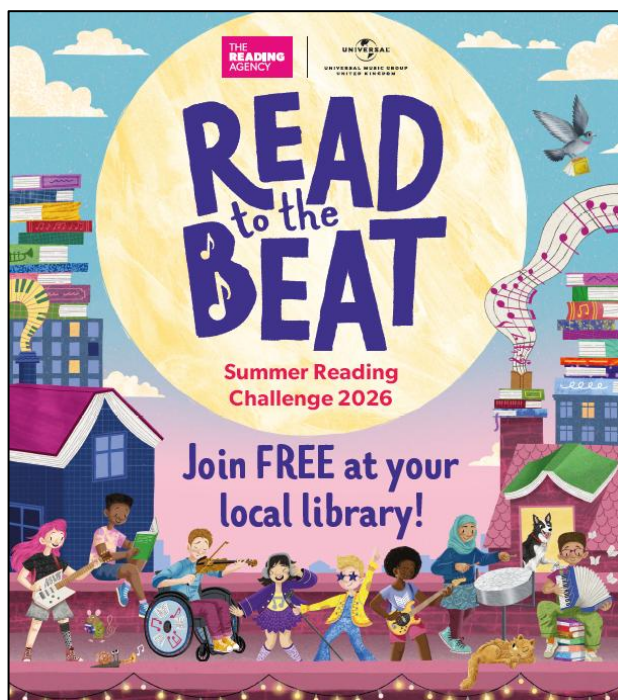
Issue 8 2025-26

We are almost at the end of the school year. We all look forward to warmer summer weather but the recent sunshine has certainly challenged us a little. I am proud to say that the staff and children have shown resilience and creativity in adapting here and there so that as much as possible we have been able to stick to our usual end of term fun activities.

As we come to the end of the year, it is important to look back and celebrate our successes. I am extremely proud of the academic outcomes achieved by the children in **statutory end of year assessments** this year. 79% of our mainstream Reception age children achieved the Good Level of development. 90% of Year 1 children attained the end of Year 1 phonics threshold score and 32% of Year 4 children achieved full marks in the times table check with the whole cohort achieving an average score of 21.4 out of 25. All of these results are up from last year and higher than the national average. A very big congratulations to all staff and children involved and thank you to parents who have supported with reading and maths home learning!

Around 70 children across the school have earned their diamond reading award. This means they have read with an adult for a minimum of 4 times a week over 40 or more weeks this year. This is only possible if a child continues to read with their home adults through the school holidays. It is particularly important for the children to keep going with reading practise through the long summer holidays.

Laura from Dedworth library joined us in assembly last week to speak about the free Summer Holiday Library Challenge. The children were invited to sign up at their local library and complete the challenges to earn awards along the way with a certificate and a medal for the final challenge.



As a school we have also signed up to the **National Read-Aloud Challenge**. This free summer initiative powered by the **Fonetti app** is perfect for primary-aged children. The platform uses clever speech-recognition technology that listens to children read aloud, turning words green when read correctly to boost confidence independently. Running from **1 July to 31 August**, this game-like challenge allows children to explore hundreds of free books, earn stars and climb leaderboards for a chance to win exciting rewards.

**National
Read-Aloud
Challenge 2026**

Powered by **Fonetti**

Hilltop First School

Register your child for FREE on the **National Read-Aloud Challenge registration portal** to prevent the summer reading dip and keep literacy skills sharp.

<https://readaloudchallenge.co.uk/join/1NJV-MZ2L-KCJZ>

Children in Reception and Year 1 will have ongoing access to the Letterland platform where they can revisit the explore pages and play phonics games.

Thank you to everyone who attended our sports day a few weeks ago. The children enjoyed a well-planned selection of events which support teamwork. Congratulations to this year's winners: **Windsor**



Windsor seem to be on a winning streak this year. We were unable to hold our annual rounders tournament this year because of the cracks on the main field caused by the hot

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weather. Instead, we ran an inter-house benchball competition this week. Windsor won this event too! We will bring the rounders event forward in the term next year to ensure that we do not have a similar situation next year.

Sadly, the extreme heat also led to us cancelling our Year 4 sleepover event. The children look forward to this event through the year and we made every effort to ensure that they could still enjoy all of the best bits in a twelve-hour activity day. The event was a huge success, filled with fun from the time that the children arrived for breakfast, right through to toasted marshmallows and silly songs round the campfire. Thank you to the Year 4 team who put lots of time and energy into the day.



Our most recent event has been the KS2 Wind in the Willows performance. After weeks of practising, the Year 4 children put on a wonderful show supported by the Year 3 choir.



As we approach the end of the year, a number of families have chosen to take unauthorised term time holidays. This has had a disappointing impact on our whole school attendance figure and doesn't reflect the amazing job many families have done in improving their child's individual attendance. This is something we will have to continue to monitor closely next year. A reminder that the dfe expectation for each child is at least 94%. We are slightly under this. 18.9% of pupils across the school still have an attendance under 80%.

	Terms 1-2	Terms 1-4	Year to date
Reception	91%	90.8%	91.3%
Year 1	95.7%	93.2%	94.2%
Year 2	93.6%	93.2%	93.2%
Year 3	93.7%	94.5%	94.6%
Year 4	94.6%	94.2%	94.1%
Whole school	94%	93.8%	93.6%

With just one week to go, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support for Hilltop. We all wish you very happy family time over the summer holidays. To our Year 4s and other children who are leaving us to move to new schools, we wish you all the best. We look forward to a new school year beginning on Wednesday 2nd September.

- Diary dates**
- Thursday 16th July Year 4 Bikeability
 - Friday 17th July 2:15pm Final coffee shop
 - Monday 20th July 2pm Year 4 leavers assembly
 - Monday 20th July 3:30 Family tea party
 - Wednesday 22nd July 1pm Early pick-up

Lynn Bima



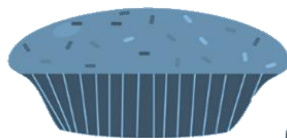
Time for
Tea



Please join us at our

End of Year Staff and Families' Tea Party

On Monday 20th July 3:30pm
top playground
fairy cakes, tea, coffee & squash



Hilltop First School

Register your child for FREE at:

<https://readaloudchallenge.co.uk/join/1NJV-MZ2L-KCZ>



- ★ **FREE for children** from July 1st - August 31st
- ★ Safe and easy for every child to **use without supervision**
- ★ Encourages a child's love for reading and helps **maintain and improve** reading skills
- ★ Uses gamification, competition, leaderboards and prizes as a proven method to further **engage children in a fun and competitive way**
- ★ Encourages a love for reading, fires up their imagination and improves their reading skills
- ★ Winning schools get 4 places to a fully-funded day trip to London to the awards event hosted by **Clare Balding CBE**.

Follow along for updates

- [read_aloud_challenge](#)
- [National Read-Aloud Challenge](#)
- [National Read-Aloud Challenge](#)

**"Reading is fuel for our imaginations
and reading aloud is all about
confidence... So let's get reading!"**

Clare Balding CBE, National Read-Aloud
Challenge & Fonetti Brand Ambassador



#BeProudReadAloud



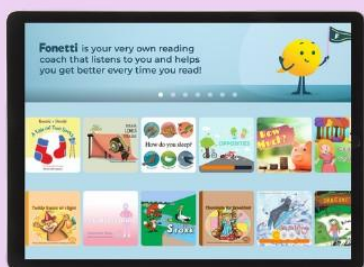
**Official
Partners**



Fonetti

Meet the Personal Reading Coach that creates confident readers.

Fonetti is an award-winning AI-powered reading platform built specifically to listen to children read, transforming them into confident, independent readers.



Children choose from a library of engaging books and simply read them aloud. Progress and stars achieved are shown to inform and encourage.



When read correctly, the words turn green. If skipped or misread, they turn grey. For children, an audible clue can be accessed by simply double-tapping the word.



Children can effortlessly monitor their progress on a daily, weekly, monthly or overall basis! Parents and carers are kept informed with weekly progress updates.

Fonetti is proven to boost oracy, fluency, reading and English language skills.



88%

of parents reported increased reading enjoyment in their children



91%

of parents noticed increased reading confidence in their children



97%

of parents would encourage their child to take part again