



Hilltop School Newsletter

Issue 1 2026-2027

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope everyone had a happy fun summer holiday. The children have settled smoothly into their new classes across the school and it has been lovely to welcome in our new Reception children and their families.

The weather since we returned has certainly been different to July. The extreme heat, combined with little rain has caused the ground to crack in a few areas. Please be aware of the **uneven surface when walking up the driveway and playground** at drop off and pick up times. We have made the local authority aware of the situation. Unfortunately, the very big cracks in the top and bottom fields mean that it is unsafe for the children to play there for the time being. We hope that with a little rain this will be resolved.

As we are seeing the start of the cooler, less predictable weather, please do make sure that your child has a **rainproof jacket** in school every day. A reminder that blue school **water bottles** need to be in school every day. Replacement bottles and lids can be purchased from the office via the Arbor App.

We still have spaces in our **Thursday afterschool club**. One of the Windsor Schools Sports Partnership coaches runs the sessions. Each week a different exciting sport will be on offer including archery, frisbee, paddleball, footgolf and croquet. The club is open to all children from Year 1-Year 4. Places can be booked via Arbor.

Parents/carers may be aware that schools are now required to follow Benedict's Law with regard to managing **allergies in school**. We have published our new policy on the school website. We have had to make few changes to our practise. A reminder to all families that we are a **nut-free school**. Please check the ingredients in cereal bars and sandwich spreads as we have members of our school community who are severely allergic to nuts.

A reminder that children who require **asthma inhalers** should have these in school at all times. Any parent/carer requiring their child to have **medication** administered during the school day, must fill in a consent form available from the school office. Please remember to pick up the medication from the office at the end of the school day.

authority to take part. I am exceptionally proud of the fact that of the 2555 schools who took part, Hilltop was place 20th on the national leaderboard. We have awarded certificates to our top ten readers in assembly today. The first three places went to Elias, Leandra and Penny who have won Book vouchers.

This week all children have taken home new Hilltop **home reading diaries**. Please try to establish positive home reading routines as soon as possible. We do expect all children to read at least four times a week with a home grown-up. Bronze, silver and gold badges are awarded each time a child has met the goal for 10 weeks. We did exceptionally well with this year with 75 pupils being awarded our special diamond award for meeting the goal for 40 weeks across the year.

Parent/carer **curriculum information meetings** will be held in the coming weeks. Please do try to come to one of the meetings relevant for your child. We will be talking through key areas relevant to each year group.

Year 1: Wed 16th @2:45pm & Thurs 17th @9am

Year 2: Thurs 17th @2:45pm & Fri 18th @9am

Year 3: Wed 23rd @2:45pm & Thurs 24th @9am

Year 4: Thurs 24th @ 2:45pm 7 Fri 25th @9am

Class teachers will begin sending home **written home learning** next week. Children in Years 1 and 2 will bring home learning on a Friday to be returned to school the following Friday. In Year 3 and 4 the cycle will run Wednesday to Wednesday. Our priority at this stage is establishing a good home learning routine which the children will later take on into middle school where the homework expectations increase significantly.

We ask that you create a quiet space where your child can sit at a table to complete their written English task. They will need a sharp pencil to write with. Tasks are always based on classroom learning and your child should be able to complete it fairly independently. If you find that home learning is posing a challenge please do speak to your child's class teacher. Home learning should take around 10-15 minutes to complete at Year 1 & 2 level and around 20 minutes for Year 3 and 4 pupils.

In addition to written home learning, all children have a **Numbots/Times Table Rockstar** login. Please do not share

www.hilltopfirst.co.uk

these logins with anyone else. Our maths expectation is as follows:

Year 1 & Year 2: 2x 10min Numbots practise each week

Year 3 & Year 4: 1x Numbots & 1xTTR practise each week

Focus **spelling words** are sent home weekly. Although children do practise these in class, it would really benefit them from additional practise at home during the week. Encourage your child to practise writing them from memory and spelling them aloud using letter names (not phonics).



This year we will be inviting children in Year 2-4 to participate in the **First Maths Challenge** organised by the Maths association in the summer term. This exciting national competition is designed to inspire a love for mathematics by taking students beyond the standard classroom curriculum. Instead of testing routine calculations, the challenge presents participants with stimulating, open-ended puzzles that require deep logical reasoning, sharp analytical skills, and creative problem-solving techniques. It is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to stretch their minds, build academic resilience, and discover the joy of tackling complex mathematical riddles. Children who wish to give it a go will be given a weekly challenge to complete at home. Your child will bring home more information about the challenge next week.

We are always keen to have **parent/carers volunteers** who have the time to listen to children reading in school. If this is something of interest, please speak to the school office.

Next week we will be handing out **Year 4 leadership** badges. All year 4 children are invited to apply for a role. We have discussed the roles with the children and they have been reminded that the deadline for application letters is next Wednesday. Year 4 parents are invited to join us in assembly on Friday from 1:30pm where we will hand out badges. All year 4 children will have an opportunity to try a coffee shop role before they decide to join the team for the rest of the year.

We will be continuing to partner with **Well Windsor**. This valuable local charity supports local school increase their resources for meeting children's social, emotional mental health needs. Well Windsor have kindly agreed to continue to fund our **MyHappyMind membership**.

A reminder that families can download the HappyMind family app which contains useful ideas for parents/carers. Our school code is 109833. Watch this video for more information.

<https://myhappymind.lpages.co/myhappymind-parent-app-introduction/>



Well Windsor are planning to host a number of **parent workshops** through the year. The first entitled "Let's Talk About Our Kids and Their Tech," is running on Thursday 24 September.

To book your free place scan the QR code here:
OR visit www.wellwindsor.org.uk/phones

Any questions please contact
events@wellwindsor.org.uk



All parents/carers are invited to join us for our **MacMillan coffee event** on Friday 25th September after drop off and from 3pm. As well as supporting a charity very dear to my heart, this is a lovely informal opportunity to connect with other parents/carers over a cuppa and some cake.

Annual Autumn Picnic

All families are invited

Friday 2nd October

4:30pm onwards

Bring your own picnic.

Tea, coffee and hot chocolate will be on sale alongside tasty baked treats.

Dates for the diary

Fri 18th – Year 4 leadership assembly

Fri 25th Sept – bags to school

Fri 2nd Oct – Jeans for Genes

Fri 2nd Oct – 4:30pm Family Picnic – **weather permitting**

Lynn Bima

September 2026