



Hilltop School Newsletter

Issue 6 2025-26

The sun really came out last week and it is starting to feel like summer is not too far off. On Friday the children were able to play out on the field for the first time this season as the recent warmer weather has dried out the mud. We are looking forward to being able to picnic outside a few days each week next term.

Thank you to all parents who booked and attended **parent-teacher meetings** this term. It is important for class teachers to share the children's effort and progress with you. Thank you for also sharing how you are finding your child's home learning. We can see that a few more children are managing to practise reading with a home adult more regularly and look forward to handing out the next batch of reading badges this coming week. A reminder that the expectation is for each child to **read their school reading book with a home adult at least four times across the week**. Don't forget to initial the calendar at the front of your child's reading diary to show that this has happened.

As the **Year 4 times table challenge** approaches, we are also reminding parents that each child should be logging in to Numbots/TTR at least twice each week. By year 4 the emphasis is really on becoming fluent in answering all forms of multiplication sums up to 12×12 . Please help develop your child's multiplication confidence and accuracy by challenging them to answer one or two verbal sums a few times a day. Multiplication fluency is an essential building block for so many areas of the maths curriculum. Knowing the answers by rote reduces the need to calculate the answers, allowing the brain to focus on solving the larger problem.

The KS2 teachers have set up a **TTR inter-class competition** for the children running until end of April. Battle of the Bands involves classes competing to have the highest average score per player. Each correct answer (in any game mode) earns 1 point towards the team's total in addition to the coins earned for the player. The winning class will be determined by the highest average score per player, making every team member's participation valuable. Because every child is playing games that practice their own personal target times table range, every child is able to contribute at their own level, so we expect all children to take part. We will be awarding prizes for the most valued players in each class.



Thank you to the families who donated a book for our Book Swap. We were able to allow every child to take home a 'new' book to read at home. We were grateful to the parents who came along to help manage the Book Swap especially with the younger classes where pupils needed a little help in choosing something that they felt was 'just right'.



It was lovely to see so many of our parents join us for our **Reading in Golden Time** afternoon as part of our World Book Day event.



Our next opportunity for parents to come along and join us in school will be for our Easter/Spring bonnet parade before home time on Friday 27th March. Join us on the back playground from 12:40 to admire the children's colourful creations. Every year we have a wide range of hats and bonnets reflecting the children's imagination and special interests. Please support them with their creative skills rather than making the hats/bonnets for them. We encourage families to recycle resources but don't just give an older sibling's hat to a younger sibling to wear. Please allow them to 'make it their own'.

We would be grateful for any parent volunteers who can help with a special little job first thing after drop off on Friday morning. Please speak to Moshi if you are available to help.

Our Spring Raffle draw will take place during assembly on Friday morning. Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased through the shop area of Arbor until midday on Thursday



As shared in our previous newsletter, the final pieces of art work from this term's Art Week were on display at our **Spring Art Exhibition** last week. Those parents and carers who visited were impressed by our emerging artists.



Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 enjoyed a special topic linked visit from the Science Dome in the form of a pop-up planetarium. Some of the children have written about the event:

The planetarium came to visit. They visited on Friday. We learnt about constellations and planets and stars. The science dome was in the hall. Year two and year one visited.

Georgie – year 1

On Friday 27th February the Science Dome came to Hilltop because we were learning about space. The KS1 children was invited to the Science Dome. We were learning about constellations, planets and Neil Armstrong plus more! It was enormous! When we went back to class we made constellations out of spaghetti.

Ilgin – Year 2

The KS2 children have their special topic linked trip this week. They will be visiting Butser Historic Farm on Wednesday 25th. Important information about the trip has been shared with parents via email and printed reminders on Monday afternoon. Most notable, is the timing. Because of the longer journey time, the coach is having to leave early. Children must be in school by 8:10. We are happy to accommodate younger siblings in Breakfast club at no charge so that families only have one drop off. Similarly, siblings may stay in Stay and Play after school as the coach is only due back at school at 4pm. If you have not received the full trip information, please contact the school office today. Year 3 children brought home a paper plate on Monday afternoon. Please could each family fill this with tasty baked treats for our cake sale on Thursday afternoon at pick up time. The money raised will help to cover some of the extra

costs of the KS2 trip. Year 4 will hold a similar cake sale next term on Friday 1st May.



A huge congratulations to the KS2 children who recently learnt to ride their bicycles at our KS2 Learn to Pedal session.



Thank you for the positive response we have seen in relation to our focus on attendance. A reminder that we recently shared with you that our First Aid policy has been updated to allow us to administer sachets of Calpol or Nurofen to children where they are otherwise well enough to be in school. We will be sending home personal updates this week for children whose attendance is being individually monitored. Here are our latest attendance figures. A reminder that the DfE attendance expectation is 95%.

	January Attendance	February Attendance	March Attendance
Nursery	87.9%	91.3%	91.5%
Reception	89.4%	90.3%	91.0%
Year 1	94.5%	94.2%	94.6%
Year 2	92.3%	93.4%	93.2%
Year 3	93.8%	93.9%	94.3%
Year 4	93.5%	94.2%	94.3%
Whole school	93.7%	93.9%	93.8%

Thank you for your continued support in this whole school concern.

Dates for the diary

Wed 25th March – KS2 trip to Butser Farm
 Thurs 26th March – Yr 3 cake sale after school
 Fri 27th March – Easter Bonnets Parade – 12:40
 Fri 27th March – End of term 1pm pick-up

Please check the website calendar for Tiny Time and Parent Craft Dates.

Lynn Bima
 March 2026