



Hilltop School Newsletter

Issue 1 2025-26

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope everyone had a happy fun summer holiday. We've had some lovely weather over the last few weeks and the children have been able to play outside. They are enjoying the new extra set of outdoor building blocks which means more children can join in with building at the same time. 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.

It has been lovely to welcome new families to Hilltop these last few weeks. Besides our new Early Years pupils, we have had a few older pupils joining us further up the school.

You will be aware from updates in the summer term, our **Dandelion SEND Resource Base** has been redesignated as a **SEND Resource Unit**. In essence, this just recognises the level of need of the children accessing this additional provision. The primary area of SEND remains Speech, Language and Communication which may sit alongside a diagnosis of autism.

Some minor building works over the summer has further accommodated the children's learning needs throughout the school day. We currently have seven children in Dandelion class. As they become ready to access areas of the mainstream curriculum and day to day routines, they will join mainstream peers for parts of the week. Resource Unit places are allocated by the local authority in consultation with us.

Elsewhere across the school we are seeing our **pupils' numbers falling slightly**. This is a trend we have seen over the last few years and matches the picture across Windsor. We still have a number of places available in our Nursery class.

Hilltop was the last remaining First School to offer 45 pupil places in Reception, allowing us to run two Reception classes and three classes within both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. As of this year, we have officially reduced our **pupil admission numbers to 30**. As such we have just one class in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We currently still have three classes in Key Stage 2.

Whilst the number of classes has decreased, we have maintained the **high level of adult support** within each classroom. Our Reception class has two full time teaching assistants. Across the rest of the school, every class has at least one full time TA with additional TAs in classes with higher levels of SEND.

In **staff news**, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Sharpley-Smith in our finance office. I am grateful for all of the behind the scenes work that she has been responsible for. We wish her well in her new job. We will be welcoming Mrs Healey in the role of Finance Officer after half term.

Last week we recognised the **leadership roles our Year 4s** will hold this year. All Year 4 pupils have the opportunity to apply for a leadership role. I was incredibly impressed by the standard of letters I received this year. The overall presentation and quality of content was most impressive. In assemblies this week the children were given their Sports Leader, Librarian, Mentor, Eco Agent and Office Assistant badges to wear proudly. I really look forward to seeing all of them grow in their roles.



We also announced our deputy head girl and boy, Sanaya and David who will work alongside our heads who we announced last year, Maisie and Ronnie.

Year 4s now have the opportunity to apply for a place in our Coffee Shop Team. The first group will help with baking tasty goodies and serving at our upcoming picnic event.

Annual Autumn Picnic

All families are invited

Friday 3rd October

4:30pm onwards

Bring your own picnic.

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



Thank you to those parents who joined us at our **MacMillan coffee morning** event on Friday. A number of Hilltop families have been touched in some way by cancer over the last few years. In many such cases, MacMillan have been a valuable support to adults and children. For this reason we support this fundraising event each year. Any parents wishing to still make online donations can do so via the JustGiving page we have created:

<https://cm25.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM25065544>

There are a number of other charities we will be supporting this term.

Next **Friday 3rd October** pupils are invited to wear jeans (or blue trousers/denim skirts) with their school uniform. We will be collecting cash donations on the driveway in support of **Jeans for Genes**. Online £2 donations can also be made via Arbor on Friday.



This October marks one year since the launch of **Well Windsor**, our local parent-led charity dedicated to improving the mental health and wellbeing of school-aged children across Windsor. Over the past year, thanks to the generosity and involvement of our community, Well Windsor has:

- Brought the **MyHappyMind** programme to 12 schools including Hilltop
- Impacted **2,480** pupils learning new habits to build resilience, self-esteem, and confidence
- Trained **15 Youth Mental Health First Aiders**
- Delivered **Drawing & Talking therapy** in 4 first schools including Hilltop
- Helped **214 children** identified by their schools to access counselling support
- Introduced specialist training on **copng with self-harm** into 2 schools



Well Windsor relies on the support of local community in making sure children in Windsor get the help they need, when they need it. To keep the good work going, Well Windsor have invited local schools to host a **non-uniform day on 10th October which is World Mental Health Day**. Funds raised will go directly to expanding Well Windsor's support for children's wellbeing services in our schools. Pupils are invited to wear the colours that make them happy on **Friday 10th October**.

We will also be joining in Christmas Jumper Day towards the end of the term in support of Save the Children.

Autumn is traditionally the time when communities celebrate **Harvest Festivals**, taking the time to reflect and be grateful for all that they have and sharing with those who do not have as much. Across the next two weeks, we will be **collecting non-perishable food items** to be donated to **Windsor Foodshare**. Collection boxes will be available on the driveway at drop off time and in the foyer area. Suggested items:

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Soup
- Rice/pasta
- Cooking sauces
- Teabags/instant coffee
- Sugar
- Cereals/porridge
- Tinned deserts
- Biscuits
- Fruit squash



Our final charity endeavour for the term will be the special Christmas Pyjama Bag project run by our local **Baby Bank**. We will be sending out more information about this in the coming weeks.

We support both national and local charities and are very aware that there may be members of our school community experiencing financial challenges. Please do **speak to myself or a member of the office team if we can help** especially as this time of year can bring additional pressures. These conversations are held in the strictest of confidence.

Our new website is due to be launched any day. As soon as it goes live, we will update the website calendar to reflect the many upcoming events. In the meantime, here are some key dates for this term.

Dates for the diary

Fri 3rd Oct – 8:50am KS1 Parent info presentation

Fri 3rd Oct –Jeans for Genes

Fri 3rd Oct –4:30pm Family Picnic – **weather permitting**

Thurs 9th Oct - 9am Tiny Time – each fortnight

Fri 10th Oct – Well Windsor Home clothes day

Thurs 16th Oct - 9am Parent Craft – each fortnight

Thurs 23rd October - Half term break – 1pm pick-up

Lynn Bima

September 2025