

HILTINGBURY HIGHLIGHTS

Issue 04
29th September 2023

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing you all this week and sharing an insight into your child's year ahead. All of the presentations will be uploaded onto your child's year group page on our school website.

Our House Captains have been brilliant in fulfilling their first role in post and leading tours for our prospective year 3 children starting in September 2024. They enthusiastically provided valuable insights into school life at Hiltingbury Junior School. There was one particular proud moment when one of the House Captains shared how supportive and kind the staff are at Hiltingbury and that everyone always listens to any problems or worries children may have, ensuring everyone feels truly valued.

This past week, our reading team; Mrs Spence, Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Richardson, Miss Downer and I all met together to evaluate the effectiveness of the reading experiences we offer our children. Our aim is to challenge the children in their thinking and provide opportunities for them to apply the skills they have learnt across the diverse range of texts they are reading. Year 3 are particularly enjoying their current book which has a unique twist on the classic fairy tale of 'The true story of the three little pigs,' where the children explore the wolf's perspective - questioning whether he was truly an evil character.

Picture books continue to play a vital role in our reading curriculum across all year groups.

For year 6, the captivating book 'The viewer' by Shaun Tan has the year group engrossed, utilising inference and prediction skills to unveil the mystery within. Year 5 is delving into the experiences of refugees and their remarkable resilience. Diverse texts, including those from other cultures, provide our children with opportunities to broaden their cultural understanding. In year 4, the book 'Cloud tea monkeys' encourages reflection of this.

This week marked our first full governing body meeting, during which we discussed the children's smooth transition back into school life and offered our governors a firsthand look at the adaptations we've made in response to the ongoing building project. With the start of the new school year, we are excited about the year ahead and the journey the school is on to continue to achieve our school improvement aims.

If you happen to pass by the school this weekend, be sure to keep an eye out for the arrival and installation of our first panels. We eagerly anticipate returning on Monday to see the transformation!
Enjoy a wonderful weekend.



Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd October - Y4
Hoccombe Mead walk / School
Tour 9.15am

Tuesday 3rd October - School
Tour 9.15am

Thursday 5th October - National
Poetry Day

Friday 6th October - School
Tours 9.15am & HSPTA Quiz
night

Monday 9th October - School
Tour 9.15am & 10.15am

Tuesday 10th October - World
Mental Health Day-non uniform
day in support of Childline

School Tours

Do you have a child starting
year 3 in September?
Join us for a tour of our
school - see leaflet below for
more information

Weekly Year group highlights

Year 3

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Year 4

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Year 5

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)



Year 6

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Reading Updates



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Did you know October 5th is National Poetry Day?



We will be celebrating this event on Friday 6th October in our library after school. Please pop along to browse a selection of poetry books. Mrs Thomas will read some poems. If you have a favourite poem you are welcome to bring it along to read and share with your family or friends. This event is open to children in all years and their siblings too. All children must be accompanied by an adult for this session.

Please sign in at the main school office after collecting your child at the end of the day. Mrs Thomas will be waiting for you in the library area.



The Week Junior Book Awards has nine categories which aim to inspire children to read for pleasure, from magical adventures to real-life stories, there's something for everyone to enjoy! The recently-revealed shortlist features a host of fabulous reads for children of all ages including both fiction and non-fiction. The full shortlist and details about each book for The Week Junior Book Awards 2023 can be found at this link: <https://www.theweekjuniorbookawards.co.uk/2023/home>

Highlight Wellbeing



This week, Mr Achilles - our mental health lead in school, has shared some information with staff and parents about our plans to blend a focus on kindness, with celebrating World Mental Health day on 10th October. Thank you also to Mrs Thomas, our school librarian, for introducing the National Literacy Trust and highlighting the importance of both shared stories, and information from books in supporting mental health.

Please spend some time this weekend focussing on kindness in the home with your family. Ask your child - what does it feel like to receive an act of kindness? What does it feel like to give? Small acts of kindness can make a big difference in how a child feels about themselves and their world.

Take the time to notice and reflect on the kindness that you witness at home. For example 'That was a really kind thing that you did, I'm really proud of you'.

'It was kind of you to show your brother how to play that game when he was struggling.'

'It was kind of you to ask Gran that question, she really enjoyed talking to you about that'.

'You put your dishes in the sink without me even asking, that was a kind and helpful thing to do'.

No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.

This term I would like to add a section to Highlight Wellbeing to give parents and children the opportunity to get to know school staff a little better. Each week a different member of staff will have their answers to the same 3 questions featured. - Thank you to Mr Achilles for your answers this week:

Mr Achilles joined HJS in September as a year 5 teacher, and mental health lead.

1. What do you do to unwind and support your wellbeing?

Exercise really helps me unwind. I play rugby, walk, cycle and go to a local gym. I also sauna while I'm there!

2. Please share a favourite piece of life advice which has made a difference to you:

You're only human and you can't do it all. Look after yourself!

3. What do you most enjoy about your job?

The children and the people I work with. I love being part of a team.



This year we will celebrate World Mental Health Day on 10th October. The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'.

World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health.

We are also delighted to be supporting Childline by taking part in the Kindness Challenge on the 10th October.

Our Kindness Challenge

We'll be spending the day creating more kindness in our school community by working through a list of kindness acts. We ask that children wear non-uniform in exchange for donations on 10th October.

We've set up a [JustGiving page](#) Please donate and share with friends so we can support Childline.

It all adds up

All the money we raise at Hiltingbury will help keep children supported and safe.



HILTINGBURY JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learning, Caring and Achieving Together

School Tours

25th September 2.15pm

26th September 2.15pm

2nd October 9.15am

3rd October 9.15am

6th October 9.15am

9th October 9.15am & 10.15am

To book your place [click the link here](#)

Year 2 children are welcome to join you

For more information please contact

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