

# HILTINGBURY HIGHLIGHTS

Issue 06  
13th October 2023

## Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week we have our first Parents Evening of the new year and we are very much looking forward to seeing you all, sharing how your children have settled into their new year groups. Please feel free to arrive early to have a look at your children's books as well.

This week we celebrated World Mental Health Day. The theme of the day was 'Mental Health is a universal human right'. Mr Achilles, our Mental Health Leader, planned some exciting activities to raise awareness of this theme and drive towards a positive change for everyone's mental health. He added; 'You're a star kindness challenge was the children's favourite activity. Each class put up individual stars on their night sky display boards, recognising this quality in each others actions and thoughts. The children also very much enjoyed the 'Take 10' reading activity as a way to promote the wellbeing benefits of reading. Thank you to the Wellbeing Ambassadors for all of their help towards such an important day.'

Thank you also to the whole school community who supported us to raise money for the NSPCC; in total we raised a staggering £830!

We have an exciting weekend ahead with the developments in our building project. We have just heard that our new panels, that are being delivered from Scotland, are still on time arriving today at school at 4pm. We cannot wait to get back to school on Monday morning and see what the transformation looks like. Please see the teaser below of the new panels!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parent Coffee morning. We thoroughly enjoyed sharing an insight into our SEND provision and for your feedback on how we can continue to work in partnership with you all. A huge thank you to Mrs Holt, our SENCO, for leading this session. We have put a new date for next term in the diary that we will share with you soon.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

*Zoe Loosemore*

Best wishes,



## Dates for your diary

### 17th & 19th October -

Parents Evening in school  
(no sports/chess clubs on  
parents evening days)

### 19th October - Raffle

ticket winners non-  
uniform day

### 20th October - Library

open after school to Year5  
& 6 / Last day of school  
for half term

### Reminder INSET day Monday 30th October

### 31st October HSPTA -

Spooky Non-uniform day  
online donations

# 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

At school the children listened to author and broadcaster Susie Dent online as Susie brought to life her new book *Roots of Happiness: 100 Words for Joy and Hope*. She showed us just how wonderful words can be – and how they can be used to make the world a happier place. In this session the children escaped their ‘mubble fubbles’ and grinned like a ‘gigglemug’ and everyone was reminded of the benefits reading can have on our mental wellbeing.

During a wellbeing assembly children explored the mental health benefits of reading for 10 minutes a day and enjoyed reading for 10 minutes to relax.

Take 10 is a campaign to promote the wellbeing benefits of reading. Try it for 10 minutes today and see where it takes you. Please remember to record your child’s reading in their reading record, your child’s teacher collects these every Thursday and issues rewards for regular reading.



## **Children in years 5 and 6 are welcome on Friday 20th October after school**

We are encouraging our children and their parents/ carers to escape into a book and #Take10ToRead in support of World Mental Health day during our library sessions. Mrs Thomas will also share top tips on encouraging your child to read for 10 minutes a day and be available to offer 1:1 support for parents if they have a child who is a reluctant reader.

Mr Achilles, our new mental health leader, will be in the library to meet parents and highlight the importance of mental health. He is very much looking forward to the sessions and the contribution this will have on National Mental Health and Wellbeing day on 10th October.

Please sign in at the main school office after collecting your child at the end of the day. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Mrs Thomas and Mr Achilles will be waiting for you in the library area.

## **Take 10 minutes to read every day**

The benefits of reading are endless

Sharing a book with a child is fun. It’s a time for affection, laughing and talking together. And it can also give children a head start in life and help them become lifelong readers.

Reading for at least 10 minutes every day is great for your child’s happiness, wellbeing and, of course, for improving their reading and writing.

Making time to regularly read with your children can help them to:

- Relax and unwind.
- Escape from the pressures of life.
- Improve memory, concentration and focus.

## **Ten tips to help your child take 10 minutes to read every day**

Follow these top tips to help everyone in your family build a daily reading habit:

1. Create a routine, set a specific time each day to read that works best for your family. You could set up a cosy reading corner at home or be out and about!
2. If your child is an independent reader, make sure you grab your favourite book to read as well to show them how important reading is to you.
3. Set a timer to help you all hit 10 minutes.
4. Turn off your phone or TV so there are no distractions.
5. You could pop to the library to find the perfect book, magazine or comic for you and your children.
6. Create a Take 10 reward board where everyone gets a star for every 10 minutes they read, and at the end of the week everyone can get a treat.
7. Create a bookmark based on your child's favourite book or character.
8. Get creative with technology and set up a Zoom call with loved ones who live far away. What better way to share the Take 10 challenge with family?
9. Why not go digital and try one of many audio books to stir up creativity with reading?
10. Read a book as a family and then find the movie that matches it so you can watch for family movie night.



It was lovely to see everyone who was able to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Quiz of the year! What a great night it was! Congratulations to Team - haven't a Scooby who took the win and will be hosting the next Quiz!

The Quiz raised a total of £565.83!



A gentle reminder that any uniform donations should be logo items only please as our storage is tight! Thank you to everyone who has donated to our second-hand uniform shop.

## Pumpkin Carving Competition

Do you think you have the carving skills to impress? Then enter into our pumpkin carving competition and win yourself a devilishly delightful box of Brownies from Angie's Home Bakes (Gluten Free/Dairy Free available), check out all the delicious goodies she bakes here: <https://www.facebook.com/angieshomebakes>



**How to enter:** Visit our HSPTA page and pay £1 entry: [HSPTA \(pta-events.co.uk\)](https://www.pta-events.co.uk)

Take a photo of your carving and send to: [Events.hspta@gmail.com](mailto:Events.hspta@gmail.com)  
The categories are:

- Most Scary
- Most Funny
- Most Original

The school is happy for you to decorate the entrance to the school with your pumpkins if you wish to.

All entries to be received by midnight on 31st October and winners will be announced on Friday 3rd November. Winners will be chosen by Angie.



# Halloween Dress Down Day

---

Juniors Dress Down Day = Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Infants Dress Down Day = Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

On the above dates children are invited to have a spooky school day - either dressed up in their favourite Halloween Costumes or dressed down if Halloween is not something for you. It will be a lot of fun for all of the children. Please visit our website to make a donation online: [HSPTA \(pta-events.co.uk\)](https://hspta.pta-events.co.uk)  
We will be shaking buckets on the day too for those that still carry cash.  
Help raise some much-needed funds for the HSPTA, all your money raised helps towards the enrichment of the children's experiences in and out of school.



---

We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) last night and have sworn in the committee for another full year. We have been lucky enough to recruit new representatives. Details of Committee members will be added to our newsletter next week!