



HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rushey Way
Lower Earley, Reading
Berkshire RG6 4HQ

Headteacher: Mrs N Morris

6th September 2022
H/Com/OL/HT/Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic school year 2022-2023. I hope you've had a wonderful summer and are ready for the Autumn term to begin.

It was wonderful to have everyone back yesterday and also to welcome our new children to Hillside. We really hope our new families will quickly feel welcomed and part of the Hillside family. Your child starting school can be quite daunting, so please ask if you have any questions. Your child's class teacher or Debbie, our Senior Family Liaison, are good first points of contact. Debbie can be contacted on: sfl@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk

Today, we had our first whole school assembly of the year. In this assembly, we focused on September's school value which is '**courage**'. We talked about people who have shown courage in their lives and that, without this courage they may not have achieved what they have. Courage is needed in all sorts of ways and incorporates perseverance, challenging yourself and having a positive attitude; all of which we encourage and support at Hillside and ask you to support at home. If you would like to know more about our school values please see our website.

The children looked very smart returning to school and I would like to thank you for supporting our school uniform policy. Please be reminded that trainers are only permitted on PE days and that black school shoes are required on all non-PE days as part of our school uniform. PE kit is a house colour T shirt and blue or black shorts/tracksuit bottoms. On PE days, if it is colder children are expected to wear their school jumpers/cardigans/fleeces (hoodies/other jumpers are not part of school uniform).

May I take this opportunity to remind parents about a few things as we start a new year:

- Please remember to ensure your child brings a water bottle each day filled with water and a healthy snack for breaktime. This might be for example, fruit/vegetables/crackers/low sugar cereal bars or cheese. These are very important as the children will be taking part in the Daily Five (running for 5 minutes each day) which may make them thirstier and become more hungry.
- At Hillside, children do not need to bring in pencil cases or their own equipment as we provide the children with their own stationary packs. Please also be reminded that children do not need to bring in fidget toys either.
- Last year, many children arrived late to school each day which impacts negatively on learning. It is of paramount importance that children are at school for registration (8:50 am) as this gives children time to settle and prepare for their first lesson which starts at 9:00 am. Children not ready for their first lessons will have disrupted learning and disrupt the learning of others as they join the lesson late and the teacher has to start the lesson again.

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- The final reminder is to ensure **all** clothing (uniform, coats, shoes, PE kits and bags) are labelled, as we always have so much clothing which we can't return to the children as it is unnamed and ends up in the lost property boxes.

It was wonderful to receive a letter from The Queen today, thanking the children for their cards and kind words on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. I have shared this with the children and attached a picture of the letter which we will proudly frame. There was much excitement receiving such a letter!

I'm pleased to let you all know that over the summer vacation we recruited a new member of our Learning Mentor team. We welcome Mr Keith Vertigan, who will be working in Year 1. We are still seeking staff who have experience working as a Teaching Assistant. If you are interested please contact the school office for a job description.

Finally, congratulations to Miss Kelly in our Early Years Team, who got engaged over the summer break - which is very exciting indeed.

Yours sincerely,

N Morris

Mrs N. Morris

