

LISKEARD HILLFORT PRIMARY SCHOOL | 14th January 2022

Dear Families

I hope that you are all well. It's the first newsletter since the Christmas holidays, so I hope that you are well. I wrote to you all on the staff training day about COVID arrangements – so it's nice to write to you about some slightly more positive aspects...especially, dare it be said, if we've seen much better attendance and much less COVID in school this week. Let's hope that I haven't tempted fate!

Have a lovely weekend!



Upcoming Events

21st – 25th Feb : Half Term



Health & Wellbeing

The role of the parent and carer is to support children to find out who they are and what they like to do. With this comes greater independence and responsibility, with children learning that they can still ask for help. We have put together some activities to support healthy social and emotional development through creativity, art and play.

Please visit the [Hillfort Newsletter](#) online to see a list of creative activities that you can use with your child to support their emotional development at home. Play releases lots of feel good chemicals that help us feel calm, steady and connected. If possible, look to do these activities for as much as 20 minutes or more each day.



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Reading at Hillfort

One of the particular pleasures of the last few days has been chatting to children as they have selected new books for their home reading. Lots have passed Accelerated Reader quizzes, lots have talked to me about the books that Father Christmas brought them, and it's a pleasure to be part of those conversations.



Virtual Assemblies

I also enjoyed my virtual assemblies on Friday with Hillfort children. We split the school into different Key Stages – and although we are still with virtual assemblies, it's still great to see the delight in a child's eyes when they receive a certificate or when I read to them. In (almost) every assembly, I read a short story to encourage a love of reading. Recent stories have included extracts from Aesop's fables, myths of the Egyptian and Norse Gods, and a reduced 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Who doesn't love a story being read to them?!



Talk Boost

It's also been a pleasure talking to parents about the impact that Talk Boost, our Speech and Language programme, seems to be having. Having introduced Talk Boost here approximately 18 months ago, we feel that it has really helped children with their language development – so much so that on the staff training day, all colleagues benefited from additional training on Talk Boost so that we can offer it to more children. Thank you to those parents who are happy to pick up later (I know that this can be inconvenient!) – I hope that you are seeing similar improvements at home. We really want children to love reading here at Hillfort!



Bike Track

With the sunshine of the last couple of days, some parents have approached me about the brand new bike track. This will be a facility, principally for use by Hillfort children – with access for responsible community groups. We were only allowed onto the facility a couple of days ago, but it is going to be great fun. We'll set up some after-school clubs in the first instance, and then go from there!



Parent Ambassadors

I'd like to see if there are any parental volunteers to become part of our Ambassador programme. I floated this idea in September – that every class has a parent ambassador to become involved in the life of the school. From typical PTA responsibilities to discussions with myself about next steps for the school. If anyone is interested in a discussion around this position, please do not hesitate to email me at tcCook@hillfort.org.uk and we can pick up a chat!



Parking – Highway Code

There has been an increase in parents parking inconsiderately during pick up and drop off times. It's parents responsibility to adhere to the highway code at all times. We urge you to take due care to ensure the safety of all of our children, parents and staff, especially when collecting your children. Please see Highway Code attached. Thank you for your support.



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Parenting in the Digital World

I would encourage any parents to attend this virtual meeting around online safety. Online safety is incredibly important – the online habits of our young people are something other generations could not have imagined. We hope that through sessions such as these, parents and carers are able to stay as up to date as reasonably possible!

As people's digital lives continue to grow, we know that for young people, spending an increasing amount of time online, holds lots of potential risks and concerns. To all you to help your young people navigate themselves through their ever rapidly growing digital lives, whilst at the same time allowing them to be independent digital users, we are running a special live, virtual online safety presentation on 19th January 2022 at 7pm (on Zoom).

You can find out more about this presentation and the zoom link by reading the PDF letter attached to this newsletter email.

Year2 Trying New Fruits

Tesco was very kind to donate some fruit to our school for Year 2 to try yesterday!

The children had a go at trying a variety of fruits, including; mango, pineapple, blackberries, blueberries, grapefruit, peaches, melon, avocado and persimmon's.

After enjoying all the different smells, flavours and textures, the children then voted for their favourite fruit, which turned out to be pineapple for both classes!

Thank you again Tesco! It was a yummy afternoon

(The sour faces are from the grapefruit!)



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Our School Field

And finally, whilst on the gate the other day, I took some photos of the field looking stunning in the frost. As I looked across, from the bike track to the new football goals, Mr Borlase's tree planting to the Gruffalo carvings – how far we have come over the last couple of years! Enjoy the photos!



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Stars of the Week

YEAR 1

Autumn C ☆ for her imaginative story telling

Sadagi R ☆ for her kindness

YEAR 2

Riley W ☆ for being a fantastic friend

Lilly S ☆ for her fantastic maths

YEAR 3

Abbygale B ☆ for sharing her beliefs and values with the class in such a mature manner

Lexi F ☆ for her positive attitude towards learning

YEAR 4

Kyra L ☆ gaining confidence for talking and answering questions in class

Daniel W ☆ for amazing participation in PE and French this week

YEAR 5

Amelia H ☆ for an improved attitude and fantastic progress in maths

Abi B ☆ for having a positive attitude towards all learning

YEAR 6

Gabriella M ☆ for excellent reading at home and scoring highly in her AR quiz

Izzy C ☆ joined the school this week and has settled into the class extremely well, displaying our core values already



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE

CHAPTER 3

PEGI 12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight - with weapons including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers - to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Some the 'cosmetic' items, like avatars, can be purchased with real money. These items are purely cosmetic and do not affect the game's balance. However, some items can be purchased with real money, such as the 'Battle Pass' which gives you access to exclusive items and rewards. Parents should be aware that these purchases can be made without their knowledge or consent.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite uses a 'battle pass' system where players can earn rewards by playing the game. This system is designed to encourage players to play the game regularly. However, it can also lead to repeat purchases if players are not aware of the costs involved. Parents should be aware that these purchases can be made without their knowledge or consent.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Fortnite is a popular game, and as such, it is a target for scammers. Scammers may attempt to trick players into giving them their login details or other personal information. Parents should be aware that these scams can be used to steal a child's identity or other personal information. Parents should be aware that these scams can be used to steal a child's identity or other personal information.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite has a competitive community where players can compete against each other. This community can be a source of support and encouragement for players, but it can also be a source of pressure and stress. Parents should be aware that this competitive environment can be a source of pressure and stress for their child.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Fortnite is a user-generated content game, which means that players can create their own content. This content can be shared with other players, and it can be used to create a sense of community. However, it can also be used to spread misinformation or other harmful content. Parents should be aware that this user-generated content can be a source of misinformation or other harmful content.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Parents should be aware of the costs involved in playing Fortnite. The game is free to play, but there are many in-app purchases that can be made. Parents should be aware that these purchases can be made without their knowledge or consent.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Parents should talk to their child about the game and its community. They should be aware of the risks involved in playing the game, such as the possibility of scams and the competitive environment. Parents should be aware that these risks can be a source of pressure and stress for their child.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Parents should encourage their child to take breaks from playing the game. This can help to reduce the risk of addiction and other problems. Parents should be aware that these breaks can be a source of support and encouragement for their child.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Sarah-Jane Hill, a leading expert in child psychology, has written a book about the risks of playing Fortnite. This book provides parents with the information they need to protect their child from the risks of playing the game. Parents should be aware that this book can be a source of support and encouragement for their child.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety f/NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

The deadline for applications is 15 January 2022

Starting school September 2022

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018

Attending a nursery or pre-school

You will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. Please note that if a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Information and guidance

Website and application form: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on 0800 587 8191



www.cornwall.gov.uk

Happier January 2022

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Find three things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day	4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why	5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others
8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why	11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime	12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	13 Take a different route today and see what you notice	14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today
15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	16 Contribute positively to your local community	17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	18 Get back in contact with an old friend	19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge	21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone
22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment	24 Take a small step towards an important goal	25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down	26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today	27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently
29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better	30 See how many people you can smile at today	31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together