



## Dear Families

I do hope that you are well and that you had a pleasant half-term week. It seems a little while ago now! I'd like to offer particular congratulations this week to our new School Councillors – we've had the results for a little while now, but wanted to get past the bug at the end of term which kept off so many of our winners. We wanted them to hear the good news in assembly, so congratulations if you entered and won. And more congratulations if you entered and didn't win. That happened to my middle son recently, and sometimes it's not easy. Well done for trying.

I wanted to write to you about several matters this week, including Reading, the Parent Survey and our school premises.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [tcook@hillfort.org.uk](mailto:tcook@hillfort.org.uk)

Have a lovely weekend and be safe on Fireworks Night!



### Upcoming Events

8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> : Math's Week  
14<sup>th</sup> : Remembrance Sunday  
15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> : Anti-Bullying Week  
19<sup>th</sup> : BBC Children In Need



### Health & Wellbeing

Parents and carers can support and acknowledge children's emerging values and morals and individual ways of doing things. Parents can teach children the significance of rules and regulations and support them to develop their negotiations skills. Children enjoy sharing their options and using their skills.

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!



As you know, here at Hillfort we LOVE reading – from stories to non-fiction, reading is incredibly important to us. I was pleased to come back after half term to see our new storytelling area in the Early Years area (although I suspect there will be other classes sneaking in...). I personally can't wait to read "The Gruffalo" out there to children!

I was just as pleased to see some great photographs come to my email account – of children over half term reading in all sorts of places. I think my personal favourite was reading whilst going down a vertical slide. I'm a bit too old for that sort of thing, but that make me grin from ear to ear! Well done to Peter P, Jacob H, Evie-Rose H, Daisy W, Sofia B – you are the winners of the Headteacher prize (a token for the book vending machine)!



As a helpful pointer too, for families where children are working with our phonics programme (Read Write Inc.), they may find it helpful to take a few moments to review the '[Oxford Owl](#)' website, which has a handy parental guide. Any help that parents/carers can provide is truly welcomed!



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## Parental Questionnaire

I have taken some time to review the responses. Firstly, I'm really grateful to those folk who gave up their time to go online and offer their thoughts. Not for the first time in a survey, I'm humbled at some of the comments and outcomes. Every single parent/carer who responded, for example, would recommend this school to another parent. Wow!

	<b>Approval rating</b>	<b>Unsure or not applicable</b>	<b>Disapproval rating</b>
<b><i>My child is happy at this school</i></b>	98%	0%	2%
<b><i>My child feels safe at this school</i></b>	98%	2%	0%
<b><i>The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved</i></b>	85%	15%	0%
<b><i>My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively</i></b>	34%	66% (n/a)	0%
<b><i>The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year</i></b>	70%	21%	9%
<b><i>When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly</i></b>	59%	41% (no concerns)	0%
<b><i>My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed</i></b>	34%	64% (no concerns)	2%
<b><i>The school has high expectations for my child</i></b>	76%	24%	0%
<b><i>My child does well at this school</i></b>	88%	12%	0%
<b><i>The school lets me know how my child is doing</i></b>	73%	13%	14%
<b><i>There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school</i></b>	83%	17%	0%
<b><i>My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school</i></b>	68%	23%	9%
<b><i>The school supports my child's wider personal development</i></b>	88%	12%	0%
<b><i>My child is happy with the new 3:40 finishing time</i></b>	54%	2%	44%
<b><i>I would recommend this school to another parent</i></b>	100%		



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As I say, there are many positives. I think as a school we will keep looking at how to ensure messages about learning get home – although this survey was done just before Parents' Evening. Therefore, I am hoping that the teacher conversations were positive and might improve this rating a little. We also keep putting more and more information onto our school website, so do please have a look at the curriculum pages.

In terms of the extended day, that's really split opinion. Next week, I'm meeting with various groups of children to take their views directly. We're listening carefully, and will keep parents abreast of any changes if that becomes necessary! In the meantime, please do be rest assured that we are giving the children appropriate breaks in school, especially in the afternoon and especially for the younger children.



## Site Matters

Just a quick one, but as well as the Storyteller chair, we were delighted to get planning permission for our new Outdoor Classroom and for our Cycling Track. These are both significant pieces of work that will be installed over the next few months – but that's more experiences and facilities that your children will be able to enjoy here at Hillfort.



## Online Lunches

Unfortunately we are still not ready to launch our online ordering via Parentpay. The background systems are not ready for us to use therefore we have had to postpone this for another week.

We will make an announcement when everything is ready for us to finally get online!



## Book Shed

Hillfort are looking to create an outdoor book shed for our pupils. If you have a boat, or possibly something else that we could use to create our little nook, please let us know.

We are welcome to any other idea you may have, so make sure to share your creative inspirations with us!



### Starting school September 2022

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

**The deadline for applications is 15 January 2022**

**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 own admission 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](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)  
Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto: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 8392



[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)



### Transfer to secondary school September 2022

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

**The deadline for applications is 31 October 2021**

**Information and guidance**  
Website and application form: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)  
Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)  
Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY  
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**What Parents & Carers Need to know about SNIPCHAT 13+**

**CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS**  
SNIPCHAT is a social media app that allows users to connect with strangers. It is important to be cautious when interacting with people you do not know.

**EXCESSIVE USE**  
Using SNIPCHAT for long periods of time can be addictive and may affect your child's schoolwork and sleep.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
SNIPCHAT may contain inappropriate content, including images and videos that are not suitable for children.

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**  
Talk to your child about the risks of using SNIPCHAT and set boundaries for their use.

**TURN OFF QUICK-ADD**  
Disable the 'Quick-Add' feature to prevent your child from being added to groups without your knowledge.

**CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS**  
Encourage your child to only add friends they know and trust.

**TALK ABOUT SETTING**  
Discuss the importance of setting privacy settings to protect their account.

**KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE**  
Ensure that all SNIPCHAT accounts are set to private.

**BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT**  
Teach your child how to block and report users who behave inappropriately.

**Meet Our Expert**  
HOS (Hillfort Online Safety) is available to provide advice and support.

**National Online Safety Week**  
Join the national campaign to raise awareness of online safety.



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# School Councilors

## YEAR 1

Chloe T  
Katie G  
Luka G  
Amelia W

## YEAR 2

Emma B  
Theo M  
Iyla C  
Sidney O

## YEAR 3

Ryan W  
Lacey N  
Lola S  
Sienna G

## YEAR 4

Soloman B  
Beau D

## YEAR 5

Ben J  
Mason C  
Emily C  
Aimee B

## YEAR 6

Jacob H  
Elenor W  
Bethany L  
Tia C



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