

**Newsletter 31**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**



Another half term has flown by at Hillfort. As always, I need to say a huge thank you to the whole community for their hard work for the past 5 weeks.

**Staffing News - Thank you and Goodbye**

We need to say a massive thank you and good luck to Ms O'Boyle, who has finished up at Hillfort today after nearly 7 years working here. Julie is a passionate and diligent member of Team Hillfort. We wish her all the best as she begins her adventure away from Hillfort, looking after her pond and new dog. Thank you Julie!

**Safeguarding**

If you have any urgent safeguarding concerns then please email [safeguarding@hillfort.tpacademytrust.org](mailto:safeguarding@hillfort.tpacademytrust.org)

**Parking**

The new parking system – postponed due to the road works outside school – will start after half term on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There will only be **four** drop off spaces for blue badge holders.

To further increase the safety for our community, the exit car gate will remain closed until the majority of the school have left.

### **Disco**

It was disco fever yesterday at school, but not with the usual disco lights shining but with the bright and beautiful spring sunshine. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for their supremely hard work to organise.

Thank you to all the school staff for supporting with the discos as well.

### **Uniform**

As I first communicated in February the school uniform would be changing, to align with the new government guidance around financial cost for parents.

The first thing to note is that the uniform will be the same for our little newcomers in Rockets and Stars up to Year 6

To keep the changeover simple, and thinking about costs, the blazer, shirt and tie will stop being part of the Hillfort school uniform. The current light blue polo shirt will become the main school top. This can be with or without the Hillfort logo.

Everyone will already have a school polo shirt, as it is currently part of the school PE kit. The only thought parents will have is to perhaps purchase a spare polo shirt.

The polo shirt will be used every day regardless of whether it is a PE day or not.

We are moving to a navy sweatshirt or cardigan, to accompany the polo shirt. Again this can be with or without a school logo.

A primary school is part of the community and that is something I am passionate about. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that Gilberts Outfitters will be our main supplier of school uniform. Supermarkets also sell unbranded school items.

The wonderful PTA will continue with their 'Second Hand Uniform Shop'

The new change will be effective from the new academic year on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2025.**

There will be a handy one page uniform checklist coming out after half term, so look out for that.

### **Start of Day School Bell**

After half term, we will be trialling a new morning drop off routine. To support with a prompt start to the school day, the school bell will ring at 8:45am. By this point parents/carers should have dropped off and have left the playground. If you arrive after 8:45am please drop off at the main school office.

Mr Campbell



## Year 1

This week the children have had a lot of fun practicing for sports day. They have been learning how to pass a baton in the relay race and, as you can see in the images below, they have been learning how to do the sack race. Jumping inside the sack rather than running is not easy!

In maths the children have been learning about the values of coins. Initially, they sorted the coins from the greatest to smallest value and vice versa and then they started to find the correct amounts to 'buy' objects. The greatest challenge so far is that the children want to use 3p and 4p coins. Obviously, they are having to make these amounts using 1p and 2p coins.



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy week this week. We have been learning about sharing in maths. We started the week using smarties to share equally. They are finishing the week being able to write out division equations. We had a fantastic day yesterday on the beach. They enjoyed looking in the rock pools for creatures. The children were fantastic representing the school. Well done Year 2. Have a lovely half term.



## Year 3

This week has been another busy one! In English we have been developing our reading skills and looked at a few example papers. We have discussed how to approach different style questions and how to formulate our answers. In Maths we have moved onto the trickier task of converting between mm, cm and M. We have completed the last lesson in our Science topic of plants and looked at how plants are pollinated and how seeds are dispersed. We then used our knowledge of wind dispersed seeds to design our very own! As we are coming to the end of our Ancient Egypt topic in History, we are looking at our next and final school trip of the year. As soon as details are finalized we will get them to you as soon as possible!

We have finished the week off (well almost) with our school disco on Thursday afternoon. It was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves after working so hard all half term!

Have a wonderful and restful break.



## Year 4

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of this half term already! We only have 7 weeks left together in Year 4 and the children will be in Year 5 before we know it.

Our music lesson was a highlight again this week. In groups, the children have started composing their own lyrics for our anti-bullying rap. We will continue this in a couple of weeks and work towards a finished rap to perform.

In English, the children have really enjoyed writing this week. Creating their own dragons has been exciting and we have seen some great progress being made in their writing skills.

In Art, the children worked on dragon themed artwork with Miss O'Boyle, which was a really popular activity. We are so sorry to see Miss O'Boyle go and wish her every happiness in her retirement. We are certainly going to miss her, and in particular, her fantastic art talent and skills!

Finally, there has been a real push on grammar skills this half term and this will continue into Summer 2, in preparation for Year Five.

The first week back will be an important one, with the Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check. Children have worked so hard and as we have said so many times before, we are very proud of the children and their progress across the year. Practising sound check (without pressing enter) is the best thing to do. Alongside working on the trickier tables: 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12.

From all the Year 4 team - have a fantastic Half Term...let's hope the weather forecast of rain is wrong!



Year 5 and 6 League winners.



### Dates for Diaries

<p><b>Half Term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May Children back in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b></p>	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day KS1 9:30am KS2 1:00pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fayre 4pm – 6pm
<p><b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July Last day of term</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 Return to school for Autumn Term</b></p>	