

THE HILL WEST HERALD

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ISSUE 5



Sports Day Fun in the Sun!



Message from the Head Teacher

It is with great pleasure that I am able to tell you that earlier this year I was approved as an adoptive parent with Barnardos West Midlands. Any of you that have gone through the process yourselves, or know someone who has will appreciate that this is a long journey but one definitely worth travelling.

Once approved to adopt, prospective adopters enter the matching stage of the adoption process. This is when prospective adopters and social workers liaise to identify possible matches (children that compliment your existing family). There are approximately 68,000 children in care in the UK and of course not all of these go on to be adopted but there are many in need of a forever family and a loving home.

Today, very few babies are 'given up' for adoption in the UK but there are a significant number of children waiting in foster care, unable to live with their birth families. The majority are older children, sibling groups who need to be placed together or children with disabilities. Many have also sadly experienced abuse and/or neglect which is the reason that they are in care.

In recent weeks we have identified a little girl that is potentially a strong match for our family. Now the match has been identified a number of meetings need to take place before a matching panel is convened. At the matching panel representatives from the child's local authority decide if the match should be approved. We are provisionally attending a matching panel in August and hope, if approved, that the little girl will join us at home after a planned period of introductions towards the end of the summer. This is of course solely dependent on the outcome of the matching panel and therefore nothing is certain. Social workers remain involved in the process until an adoption order is made and a child must live with adopters for a certain length of time before an application to the court can be made. This means that there are a series of social worker visits to home and regular looked after child (LAC) reviews. As such, if this match is successfully approved I am intending to take a period of adoption leave and will confirm this at the start of next term. This means that Mrs Nichola Leeson will be Head of School until my return and I have every confidence that she will be outstanding in this role.



Learning Partnership News



We are delighted to share with you the good news from one of our partner primary schools.

Ofsted Inspectors arrived at Slade on 26th June to carry out a two day inspection and we were delighted that they were judged as a Good school in all aspects. The inspection team said that

- Pupils' progress in reading, writing and mathematics has improved greatly over the two years that the school has been an academy. All pupils make at least good progress as a result of improved teaching.
- Children make a good start to their personal development and education in Nursery and Reception classes. They are well prepared for Year 1.
- Teaching is good. Teachers have high expectations and plan work that is at the right level for different groups of pupils so that they can make at least good progress.
- Teachers provide pupils with good feedback on how well they are doing and give clear guidelines on how to improve their work.
- Behaviour in class and around school is good. Pupils are friendly and polite towards adults and one another. They have positive attitudes to learning and want to do well.
- Pupils told inspectors that they feel safe and well cared for. They are proud of their school.
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted particularly well through a variety of subjects and activities.
- The school is well led and the leadership have brought about rapid improvements in the quality of teaching and have raised standards of achievement. They are well supported by all of the staff.
- Governors know the school well. They visit regularly and ask searching questions. They provide good levels of support and challenge to make sure the school continues to improve.
- The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership is providing valuable and active support to improve all aspects of the school's work and to bring about rapid improvements.



School's out Harry Cox, Foxes

by Mr Cox, Harry's dad

Harry, has been doing Judo since he was four. He started going with some friends but one by one they dropped out, but Harry kept going.

Harry trains with the 2A's Judo club at Wyndley and at John Wilmot School, usually twice a week, sometimes three. He also visits other Judo clubs from time to time (Lichfield being one) to test the water.

2A's has a number of coaches, Nicola Hayward being one. Nicola is in the British squad, and she narrowly missed out in being selected for the 2012 Olympics. Another coach, Steve Ashford, still competes in national veterans events and wins, and Steve is well into his 50's.

Over the years Harry has done many judo competitions, which are nerve wracking to watch as a parent. On one memorable occasion he weighed in at 9.30am and had to wait and wait until 5.30pm to fight, as you can imagine this is a test of one's resolve! When he did fight that day, he won every fight, except the final against a much bigger boy, who was a blue belt, even then Harry tried his hardest.

Harry has taken several Gradings over the years and is now a green belt with a blue bar, for which he had to fight and beat three other boys who also wear Grading. Judo is not an easy option, but it can also be very rewarding when your hard work pays off.

Most of Harry's Judo has been with the AJA (Amateur Judo Association) and in 2011 and 2013 he won silver in their National events.

He has now also joined the BJA (British Judo Association) and it was the Kent International event in which he recently competed. This was a step up and a very hard competition, Harry had won one and lost one when he stepped up for his third fight. Harry was winning with 8 seconds to go, when he just got caught and lost.

I am sure Harry will come back and try again, since that is the spirit of Judo.

As a foot note, as Harry's dad, he has inspired me to try Judo, and so I know what great courage Harry has shown over the years!



The Comenius Project – Visit to Sweden

By Mrs Balla - Office Manager

At the beginning of May Miss Wilks, Miss Patter and I visited our partner school Västanbyns Skola in Sandviken, Sweden for the fifth meeting with our friends from Poland, Italy and Sweden. Sandviken is in the east of Sweden, about 2 hours' drive from Stockholm. It has a population of around 37,000 people, and is on the edge of Storsjön ("Big Lake" in English) a huge lake which is nearly 44 square miles in size.

After our flight landed at Arlanda Airport we caught a train to Gävle where we were met by Erik from our host school who took us to our home for the next four nights, a lovely old guest house owned and run by Barbara and which we shared with the staff from Poland and Italy.



On the first day we visited Sandvik which is a global engineering company and the largest employer in Sandviken. Interestingly the company has a long standing connection with Birmingham which began in 1914 when the then owner of Sandvik set up his first overseas factory in Halesowen in Birmingham. Sandvik still donates a huge Christmas tree to the city of Birmingham which is erected in Victoria Square every year.

We were very excited to visit the school and meet the teachers and children and found it interesting how the teaching methods and the way schools are run in Sweden differs so much from England. Children in Sweden do not go to school until they are seven years old, they do not learn to use a pencil until their second year in school and learn to write using laptops. Most of the children make their own way to school, either on foot, as we did, or by bicycle, their parents do not accompany them. However, they are quite safe as there is very little traffic in Sandviken. The class sizes are much smaller than in England, the largest being about 24 or 25 children and no-one wears uniform to school. All the children sit in rows facing the front of the classroom for their lessons and each and every child is given a laptop by Sandvik when they arrive at school at seven years old which is theirs to use until they leave the school. The school grounds are quite extensive but there are no fences and at playtime and lunchtime there are no adults outside on the grounds. So different to England.



Snacks are very different in Sweden too, children are able to help themselves to milk whenever they want and there are crisp breads with butter or cream cheese available in all the classrooms, all provided by the school. On both the days we were at the school we had delicious school meals, again very different from our school meals, the children all serve themselves, including the seven year olds, from buffet carts. The meals are taken back to the classrooms to eat, and there are no Lunchtime Supervisors!



On our second day at the school we were treated to a performance of Abba the Musical which the year 5 children had written and produced themselves and then it was down to the business of evaluating the project and putting the finishing touches to our website. We also shared with the other schools the work our children had done on the project.



On our final day we visited a moose farm. We learned how the moose live in Sweden and were taken to meet one or two of the mooses who live permanently on the farm. Miss Wilkes and Miss Patter had fun trying on the moose horns and we tried our hands at moose spotting. We think one of the mooses must have taken a liking to us as he followed us around until we left for England the following day!



We were all sorry to leave Sweden particularly as this was probably the last time we would see the staff from our partner schools. The project has been very rewarding for us as school staff and also for our children in giving them the opportunity to learn about other countries and their ways of life and to see how children in other schools learn.

Maths Puzzle Day

By Miss Hyde - Class Teacher, Hedgehogs

Tuesday 10th June saw the first puzzle day take place at Hill West. The children had an opportunity to try out their collaboration, reasoning and problem-solving skills in a variety of maths based challenges.

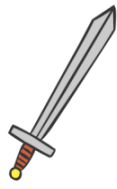
The first one was to place as many penguins onto an iceberg as possible. 'How is this maths?' You may be wondering. Indeed, the children wondered the same! To make it challenging, the iceberg didn't stay still! It wobbled very easily. The children used their balancing skills and had to work logically; a skill that all good mathematicians need.

The children were then left to explore other challenges in their groups. They involved:

- Completing a puzzle map of a city.
- Putting trapeziums into a wooden frame.
- Creating a wooden shape puzzle to match a picture.
- Creating a marble run.

All the children had a fantastic time and enjoyed the opportunity to apply their skills.





Y2 Trip to Warwick Castle

Wednesday 18th June was a day to remember for all of the children in Year 2. The Owls and the Kingfishers went on an amazing adventure to Warwick Castle to deepen their knowledge and understanding of castles and experience what it would have been like to live in a castle. The children really demonstrated their ability to question and use their enquiring minds.

Firstly the children explored the intriguing, magical Merlin's Tower to help Merlin on his quest to help Arthur to fulfil his destiny. The children went deep into the castle and found a magical mirror. Suddenly, a large dragon greeted the children and identified the Dragon Lords amongst us! What a thrilling experience!

Next, the children had a once in a lifetime experience and watched in awe and with anticipation as a trebuchet launched a huge fireball across the river! The children were fantastic and were keen to learn more about how to storm a castle so this became a focus for our subsequent learning.

Completely absorbed, the children watched the Birds of Prey show and marvelled as the eagles and vultures swooped overhead and gracefully circled the arena and landed on the ramparts. The children had to duck a couple of times!

As ever, the children showed exemplary behaviour and represented the school perfectly. As a result of this fantastic experience the children used their individual creativity to create castles for homework. Come and see them on display in Year 2!



Arthur Terry

Students

By Miss Patter



Every year Hill West are given the opportunity to have Year 10 pupils from The Arthur Terry School apply for work experience. This year we were again inundated with letters and CVs by young adults applying for work placement. Letters start coming in at the start of the academic year. This year we were able to offer 12 Arthur Terry students the opportunity to gain experience in the work place.



" I chose to do my work experience at Hill West as I have always been interested in working with children. It has been lovely to experience and work at hill West and has made me secure on my ambition to work with children in the future."

Sahar Hull

"The reason I chose to come to Hill West for a week of my work experience is that I wanted to experience an environment that was based around children to see if that is what I wanted to do."

Molly Shuttleworth



During their time at Hill West we try to ensure that the students are involved with the day to day running of the classroom. They are expected to work alongside teachers and teaching assistants to support and develop the children's learning.

My aim is to ensure that the students develop an understanding of the reality, dedication, time and commitment that is needed to become a teacher.

It has been a privilege to have supported and played a part in encouraging and inspiring the next generation of teachers.



" I have come to Hill West for my work experience because I enjoy working in a social environment. I can see myself potentially working in a school because I can connect with children in a positive way. I like working in a fast paced environment, which helps me challenge my own abilities."

Joseph Gould

" I came to Hill West for work experience as I love working with children. As a brownie leader I knew I could work with older children. However working with Year One is a delight. I enjoy the environment even though its fast paced its been lovely. It has been a pleasure to work at Hill West."

Jess Cox



Cluster Days at Arthur Terry

by Mr Scrivens - Teaching Assistant, Year 5



As a relatively new member of staff I was greatly looking forward to seeing how the students of Hill West would be when they got to Arthur Terry School. We walked up Clarence Road full of expectation and wonderment at the activities planned. The theme was 'Chocolate' which understandably was a subject that everyone was very excited about. Once there we saw students from other schools such as Four Oaks and Mere Green and prepared for a day of fun lessons at Arthur Terry.

Our first lesson was English where we had to design our own brand new chocolate bar. The children had great fun coming up with an amazing variety of fillings and a mouth-watering selection of names such as, 'Fizz-Wizz' and 'Rocket Comet'. We then had to use our knowledge of English to describe our new creations in many different ways in an advertising style that would capture the imagination and make people want to buy our imaginary confectionery treats. I was immensely impressed with the children and they took on this challenge with relish.

In the Afternoon, following lunch which by now we were more than ready for, we sat down to enjoy a performance of 'Willy Wonka's World'. The Arthur Terry production was fantastic and transported us directly to a world of chocolate straight out of the imagination of Roald Dahl. A few of the comments I heard were, 'Magical', 'Wonderful' and 'Brilliant'. A great way to finish off the day and we walked back to school in high spirits after a day of learning and fun. Can't wait for next year!

Our New Outdoor Area

By Mr Fennell - Teaching Assistant, Wrens

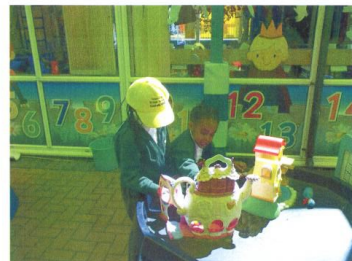
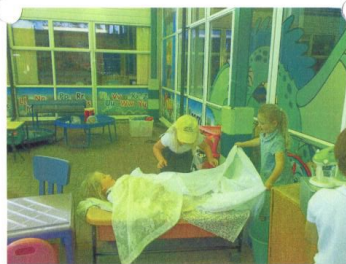
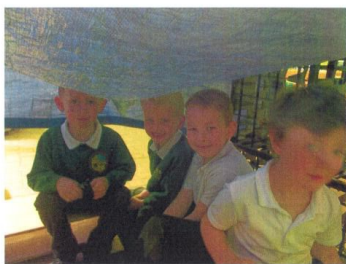
During the Easter holidays reception had a brand new canopy installed to protect our outdoor area from the elements. This was Mrs Page's project and she organised meetings, pleaded and finally cajoled people into agreeing to the new canopy in order to utilise the outdoor area properly.

Was it money well spent? Is it a success? Well as the other Teaching Assistant in reception I can only say it transformed it from a cold damp, under used area and although the children loved playing out there, it was subject to the vagaries of the weather especially during the winter months when it was too cold to venture out unless well wrapped up against the elements.

Just by adding the bright yellow canopy has truly created an inspiring place for the children and staff to play and learn in. It is a place where I have my Phonics group and it inspires me to plan more exciting and creative ways to teach phonics. (Burying phonemes in the sand pit, can the explorers find them? Hanging diagraphs from washing lines, using puppets on the stage to help teach and excite the children).

Teachers are inspired by the new area incorporating it into lessons. The children use the space anyway they can and are limited only by their imagination. Stages to put on shows, tickets are made; guest lists written, supplying imaginary popcorn for the interval. Meanwhile just a scant few feet away other children are sticking, painting, using scissors and folding bits of paper. Everyone is working on individual projects, which will in turn inspire their peers to have a go and to create something for themselves. It is here that the children develop friendships, learn self-control and develop empathy for others. It is here the children begin to develop their learning skills.

Do I think it money well spent, is it a success? If the criteria are, to play an important part in developing the future well rounded, inspired and creative citizens that our Hill West children will become, then the answer is a resounding yes.



Comenius 2014 - Italy

3rd - 8th June 2014 - Palermo, Sicily, Italy.

Staff - Mrs Cook, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Scandrett and Mr Fennell

Children - Omar, Ali, Milly, Rebecca, Lily and Alex.



Our warm welcome to school in Palermo.

Following a delicious lunch, put on for us by the parents of the school, we were whisked to the school hall where the children sang a range of welcoming songs to us. We also visited every class in the school, where the children spoke to us in English and welcomed us individually.

After two plane journeys and 7 hours in Milan we arrived at Palermo airport, where Rosa eagerly awaited us with open arms. We spent our first evening enjoying dinner on the terrace of our B&B, taking in the beautiful views of Palermo. The next morning we headed straight to Luigi Capuana primary school where we were overwhelmed by the welcome that we received. Every corner of the school was filled with welcoming messages and decorations and we were made to feel at home by all of the members of the school.



We were greeted with welcoming messages in every classroom in the school



We were given a personal performance to welcome us to the school.

Later that afternoon we were lucky enough to be taken on an open tour bus trip around Palermo! We listened carefully to the history of the different monuments and familiarised ourselves with beautiful Palermo. Following this hectic day we thought there was only one place to relax, the beach!



Mondello Beach—Palermo

After a few days of getting to know the children and teachers at Luigi Capuana primary school we attended our farewell celebration. It was clear that all of the staff and children had been spending months practising their songs, dances and plays that they performed for us, it made us feel so special! The children showed us some ball room dancing and even asked us to join in which we really enjoyed!



Our amazing Year 5 children joined in with the ballroom dancing!



The reception children performed a play about healthy eating for us. We loved the costumes .



The choir performed 12 songs for us, 2 of them were in English which really impressed us!

Later that evening we attended the theatre where we watched local children perform a ballet. Following the ballet we attended our farewell meal at a local restaurant where we had some delicious Italian food. The Italian children were sat on a separate table and warmly welcomed our Hillwest children, teaching them various Italian phrases. In return we taught them different songs and phrases which kept us very entertained. Meanwhile the teachers from England, Italy, Sweden and Poland were all sat together discussing their fantastic week and the end of what has been an extremely valuable Comenius project.



We had great fun sharing songs and phrases with the Italian children over pizza!



We had a lovely dinner outside the gorgeous cathedral in Chevalu. We even saw a bride and groom get married at the cathedral!

At the end of the week we visited a local town called Chevalu where we went shopping, ate some delicious gelato and paddled in the sea. After a fun filled week full of unforgettable memories we were excited to get home to share our amazing week with friends and families.

E - Safety

by Mr Stanway - ICT Technician

E-Safety is a very important topic at Hill West, one that has to be kept in mind every day!

Oftsed have found that E-Safety issues can be categorized into 3 main areas of risk: Content, Contact and Conduct.

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

In school we follow the SMART Rules! These can be found on the Kid Smart website: <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/> and cover the following headings:

S.M.A.R.T.

S SAFE

Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.



M MEETING

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous, so it's not a good idea. Only do so with your parents' or carer's permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.



A ACCEPTING

Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!



P RELIABLE

Someone online might lie about who they are. If you are chatting online it's best to only chat to your real world friends and family. Information on the Internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.



T TELL

If you are getting cyberbullied always tell an adult.

Tell your parent, carer, trusted adult or Childline 0800 1111 if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.





Parent, carer or trusted adult – the first person you should speak to if you see something that makes you feel uncomfortable while using the internet, or if you are contacted by someone you do not know!

The Internet Police – CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) - help children stay safe online, any incidents can be reported to them via their website: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/> or wherever you see the Report button. Remember, if urgent immediate help is required call 999.

If you are looking for a website to learn about E-Safety and how to stay safe online, try the CEOP Think U Know website: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> This has information for children of all ages, adults, parents and carers. Try searching 'thinkuknow' and see what you can find out.



For safe internet searching try:

<http://www.safesearchkids.com/>



Leicester's National Space Centre 2014

Year 5's Space topic lifted off with a bang, on Wednesday 4th June 2014, when they visited Leicester's National Space Centre. The journey there was arduous, but when pupils finally arrived they were greeted with the iconic Rocket Tower which houses a number of satellites, rockets and space memorabilia. They walked along a track of astronaut footprints towards a gateway of fun and adventure.



Inside, was like a huge mission control, with rocket like stairs, bright danger signs and various levels and shops to discover. Hill West's pupils were given freedom to explore the constellations and planets via the Space Centre's galleries and exhibits. They read fun interactive facts, viewed sparkly moon rock and were even able to produce their own weather reports. They particularly liked filling the café with smoke by pressing the forbidden rocket button!

Pupil's completed their visit with an outstanding visit to the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium. They learnt that the exploration of space is the greatest endeavour that humankind has ever undertaken. What does it take to be part of this incredible journey? What does it take to become an astronaut? They experienced a rocket launch from inside the body of an astronaut and explored the amazing worlds of inner and outer space, from floating around the International Space Station to manoeuvring through microscopic regions of the human body. They discovered the perils that lurk in space as 'Chad', a test astronaut.



As homework Badgers were asked to write a script for their assembly – the theme, of course – was Space. They collaborated well to combine all of their research efforts and fully got to grips with creating the set, finalising the background PowerPoint (complete with holograms), learning their words and singing a space rap. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable topic!



Mrs Gould - Catering Manager

We value the high standard of school meals served here at Hill West and the lady we have to thank is Mrs Gould.

In fact the menu that she put together for our children has been recognised as being excellent by Direct Services, the company who employs school catering staff across the city. Shortly all schools in the Birmingham area will be given a new menu to follow based on the one devised here at Hill West and the one used by Four Oaks Primary. A great accolade and testament to the nutritional value and tastiness of Mrs Gould's food.

Direct Services have also asked us to provide meals for Manor Primary School in Streetly which means expanding our kitchen and increasing staff numbers in order to produce the extra 160 meals. This, combined with the additional meals generated by the KS1 Universal Free School Meals policy, means that Mrs Gould will be extremely busy but don't worry she is not only a great cook but also highly qualified and experienced, having a NEBS diploma in Advanced Catering, City and Guilds 1 & 2 in Catering and qualifications in Hotel Management, Food Costing, Advanced Pastry work etc... the list goes on! She has worked at Tally Ho the West Midlands Police HQ, The Belfry, the Hollybush, the Robert Peel Hospital as well as schools and nurseries.



Hill West celebrates... The Junior Rotary Award



On the evening of 8th July, we proudly watched as our year 6 children received their hard earned Rotary Award at Sutton Town Hall.

The award consisted of four main areas including, learning a new skill (such as cookery), community service, physical skills, and the arts. They started the award back in October, finishing it mid-June. It has required a lot of hard work, commitment and dedication from our children.

The evening was a great success, some children brought along samples of their cooking skills, treating guests with their wares. Others showed off their skills by performing on stage: Sophie Cox- ballet, Angelos Di Mascio- Breakdancing, and Jocelyn Thomas- displaying a fantastic gymnastic routine.

‘Congratulations to you, well done for being so courageous and representing our school so brilliantly.’

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the celebration; we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for supporting their children.

Children achieving The Rotary Award this year are:

Rebecca Woodfield
Jocelyn Thomas
Ella Richards
Michael Maguire
Ana-Victoria Curry
Ellie Staples
Ausaad Hashmi

Aarti Sanghi
Samuel Anderson
Angelos Di Mascio
Georgina Elliot
Ellie James
Sophie Cox
Isobel Neate





The Special Educational Needs Overhaul

As of September 2014, there is to be a complete overhaul of the current systems for Special Educational Needs (SEN) within schools. The new Code of Practice has recently been finalised and approved by Parliament and will be implemented in schools as of September. It is underpinned by the principles in the



The Children and Families Act does not refer exclusively to SEN. It includes legislation referring to adoption, family justice, SEN, child care, sharing parental responsibility and the role of the Children's

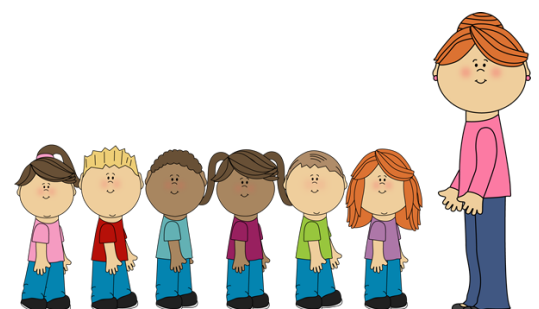
What does the Children and Families Act say about SEN?

- The SEN system is to be extended from birth to 25 years.
- The Local Authority will have a major role in ensuring children with SEN and those with disabilities, and their families, are involved in decision-making.
- The Local Authority will be required to publish information about the services they expect to be available for children with a SEN or disability. This is called a Local Offer
- Schools also have to produce their own local offer. In collaboration with Mere Green and a working party of parents we have already co-produced our local offer. Watch out for it on the website soon!

THE NEW SEN CODE OF PRACTICE

Within the new Code of Practice there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that children have their needs met through:

- normal teaching and learning strategies,
- modification to teaching approaches
- classroom organisation



SEN Support

In spite of high quality teaching there may be some children who fail to progress as expected. Some may have Special Educational Needs (SEN) that require additional support and/or intervention that are additional or different from those normally provided. Those who have these additional needs will be provided for in school by the single category called 'SEN Support'. This will replace the current School Action and School Action Plus categories.

Those who have significant needs and are currently provided with a statement, will become eligible for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). These will be phased into schools over the next three years.



Four areas of primary need have been identified for those children with SEN. It is recognised that many pupils do not easily fit into just one area, or that their need may change over time.

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health
- Sensory and/or physical

Individual Education Plans or Passports to Learning as we call them, are to be replaced by a needs driven document, rather than a targets driven one. In preparation and support of the transition to another year group, the staff are currently completing a single page profile for all pupils with SEN, outlining their needs and how the needs are best met, ready to pass onto the next teacher. From September these single page profiles will replace the current Passport to Learning

Please contact Mrs Leeson should require further information.

So often you find that the students you're trying to **INSPIRE** are the ones that end up inspiring you.

Sean Jenkins

venspired

Single Page Profile	
Pupil Profile for: Stanley Studc	Need: Social and communication.
In, trends/hobbies/likes Playing with my play dough Dressing up Watching TV Looking after my gold fish	Things I would like you to know about me I don't like loud noise I am good at drawing and painting I like to work on my own. I have a big sister. She is in Year 4.
Things I may find difficult and strategies to support I find it difficult to organise my own thing. Stanley has his own area of the cloakroom to hang his bag and coat. He has a list of items that he needs to check he has in his bag every night. I don't like loud noise Stanley will work in a quiet area of the classroom. There are ear defenders for his use if required. I find lunchtimes difficult Stanley will eat his lunch in the classroom. He will use the indoor provision at lunchtime on a Tuesday and Thursday It is hard for me to know when I can give my answer in the classroom and sometimes I can shout out Stanley will need regular reminders to put up his hand to answer a question. The teacher will choose Stanley second whenever he has his hand up so that he develops his waiting time.	
Targets	Provision

Sports Round-Up

by Miss Rowe - Class Teacher, Hares and PE Co-Ordinator

As we approach the end of term we can look back on a great deal of sporting success. Sport's Day was a terrific day, which really showed the talent and enthusiasm of our children (and parents)! Many exceptional running performances... and some great balloon and jelly races!



Cricket

Last week Year Three took part in their rearranged cricket event at Wylde Green. Both teams played well, with the Rabbit's team eventually being crowned the tournament winners!

Football Tournaments

This term we have entered four football tournaments at Wyndley. A Girls 6-a-side, a Year Six boy's 6-a-side, a Year Five boy's 6-a-side and a B/C team 6-a-side. The children gave it their all; some of the teams only narrowly missed out on a medal. As we look towards next year, we will be holding football trials for the Year Five children later this week!

Well done to Kahrel (Year 5), who is now training at Aston Villa.



Sports Leaders

Throughout the summer term we have been training some of our More Able P.E students as Sports Leaders. They began to develop the skills they need to coach and support others. Next year we hope to use them to support children throughout the school.



Football Team

This year our football team did incredibly well, winning five out of their six matches and scoring eighteen goals. The top three teams in the league were tied on points and we eventually finished 3rd on goal difference.

Area Sports at Wyndley

As this edition of the Herald is being put together, we are busy preparing our 65 children for this year's Area Sports Event at Wyndley. We have been outside each lunchtime honing our skills and ensuring our baton passes are faultless!

Coaching

This year we have enjoyed in-school coaching from WBA, Aston Villa (football) and Clayton Edge (tennis). Clayton has been impressed by the skills in Years One and Three and the children have really enjoyed the sessions. These coaching visits also serve as CPD for our staff, helping us to broaden our skills and knowledge for teaching P.E.

If your child is interested in playing tennis, Clayton runs a group each Thursday night, 5.00pm at Little Aston Tennis Club, which it attended by several of our children. Please contact him on 07780 777774.



Special mentions this term:

Well done to Freddie G (Year 3), who began enjoying tennis sessions with Clayton during curriculum time and went on to play in a regional final in London. Freddie had to show his tennis skills and control and was highly commended and even made the Observer!



Girls netball Team

Cross Country Team



Well done also to Lois (Year 5), who has been selected to represent Warwickshire Cricket team. She has played two matches – and won two! Great start!

School's out ...

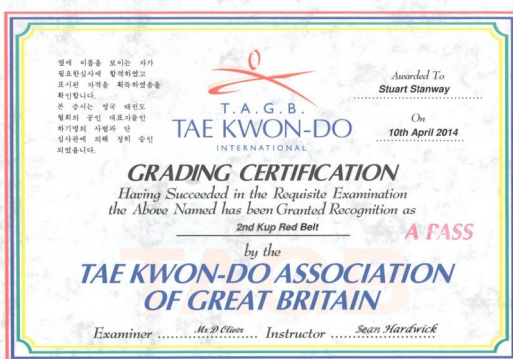
Mr Stanway - ICT Technician

I started training in Tae Kwon Do over 10 years ago, my initial thought before I first entered the Dojang (Training Hall) was that I would probably end up being beaten up, I couldn't have been more wrong. What do you think is the first thing they teach you to do in Tae Kwon Do?...

I worked my way through the grading's until Red Belt where other commitments meant I had to stop training. I started training again in October last year and was allowed to retake my last grading in April this year which I passed, hopefully I will take my Black Tag in September with the aim of taking my Black Belt grading next year. I am a member of the T.A.G.B. (Tae Kwon Do Association Great Britain) which is the largest association in Great Britain and holds numerous competitions each year, my highest achievement in a competition was 3rd in the English Championships for sparring, having fought 5 competitors reaching the semi-final.

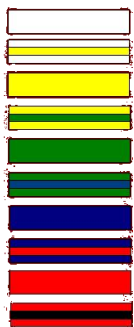
Tae Kwon Do is a martial art perfected in South Korea, the simple translation is: Tae 'Foot', Kwon 'Hand', Do 'Way Of'. It is recognised as an Olympic sport, and children as young as 4 years old can join the TAGB Tigers.

For each grading you have to learn a different pattern, a new range of movements, sparring which starts off with a rigid structure and becomes more free style as the knowledge and experience of Tae Kwon Do increases with grading's, and some Korean.





It takes a minimum of three and half years to go from White Belt to Black Belt. Starting at White Belt (10th Kup), students work their way up the grading's to Black Tag (1st Kup) before taking the Black Belt grading and if successful becoming 1st Dan Black Belt. Below are the names of the colour belt patterns and their associated level, leading up to Black Belt, these have to be learnt before taking each grading. Each pattern is made up of a series of movements and all have individual meanings behind them, with the exception to Sajo-Jirugi No1 and No2 which are a series of basic movements for the beginner or white belt student.



- Sajo-Jirugi No 1 and No 2 - 10th Kup - White Belt
- Chon-Ji – 9th Kup - Yellow Tag
- Dan-Gun – 8th Kup - Yellow Belt
- Do-San – 7th Kup - Green Tag
- Won-Hyo – 6th Kup - Green Belt to name just a few

The answer to my question above: When in a confrontation, if possible, always run away!

So what's it like being a new member of staff at Hill West?

Mrs Bowkett - Teaching Assistant, Squirrels

I joined the Hill West family at the start of the summer term, along with Mr Lackenby, the Squirrel's class teacher, and I have to say that I have been made most welcome by all the children and staff here.

I felt very lucky to have been given a job at Hill West as I had heard many lovely things about the school. Even my own children, who had visited Hill West on a few occasions with their own school, were keen to tell me all about the wonderful playing fields and equipment! I certainly wasn't disappointed when I arrived on my first day. I was so pleased to see all the children playing outside together and making the most of the outdoor space and quite surprised to discover that the school was also home to hens and ducks!

I have settled in to Squirrels class very well and we have had a lot of fun this term. We've had a sandwich bar (where we were very creative with our sandwich making!), produced our own surrealist pictures and composed graphic scores to go with our work on the Second World War! There's also occasionally been the odd doughnut for everyone to enjoy!

One of the highlights this term for me was the Year Four trip to Kingsbury Water Park. All the children on the trip really did us proud and we received some lovely comments about their behaviour and manners. My group started the day with a pond-dipping activity, searching for tiny creatures and organisms living in the pond but we somehow managed to catch a fish instead! We then went into the woods to build a shelter, which was a lot of fun and a real team effort.



Miss Jones - Year 1 Class Teacher

I have recently joined Hill West as a trainee to do my final placement, starting in September as the Year 1 Teacher. The staff at Hill West have all been very friendly and supportive, welcoming me into the Hill West team. This has helped me to settle in and learn all of the daily routines of the school.

The school has been going the extra mile to help prepare me for my first year with them, already giving me many CPD opportunities to help develop myself further and I can not wait to get started. The staff meetings have been very productive and helpful in assisting this, and the inset days have been great to be involved in structuring a long term curriculum map and getting to grips with assessment without levels. Alongside this, the staff work together as a team and I have enjoyed getting involved in organising activities for sports day and the Summer Fayre performance.

Being in Year 1 in an early years setting has been new to me and the staff have guided and modeled good practice in this setting, helping me to understand the ethos of the set up. All of the staff have been open to letting me observe excellent practice and this has really helped me to better understand the ethos of the school and see more varied examples of outstanding teaching.

The children have also been enthusiastic and eager to learn which I have loved. They thrive off challenges, meaning I can really push them to achieve higher. Through the school ethos, it also means that the children are creative and are effective learners, allowing me to try different approaches to encourage their learning, something I have enjoyed doing.

Overall, my first term at Hill West has been very exciting and I look forward to joining the team permanently in September.

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Mrs White - Family Support Worker

I have now been working at the school since November 2013 and I can honestly say I have never had such a rewarding but exceptionally busy job. To say that no two days are ever the same is an understatement.

Some days I can meet with lots of parents, who may just need a listening ear or need to talk about issues of importance. These can range from bereavement support, relationship issues or signposting to other agencies to name but a few. It may be that their child is experiencing additional challenges at school or at home and parents requires further liaison with class teachers.

During the week I undertake several home visits to parents that wish to discuss issues in their own home.

I can truly say that I feel that I have found my vibe! I love working with such a dedicated group of staff and the parents are pretty fabulous too.

If you ever feel like dropping by for a coffee and chat, please feel free. Pop into reception and they will find me...wherever I am hiding.





welcome!!

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE NEW

DAY ONE AT SCHOOL



DAY FIVE AT SCHOOL



ONE MONTH LATER



WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE NEW AT HILL WEST

DAY ONE AT HILL WEST



DAY FIVE AT HILL WEST



ONE MONTH LATER



Thank You For an amazing summer term Hill West!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Kingsbury Water Park

By Mr Lackenby - Class Teacher, Squirrels

This term, Year 4 went on a very exciting trip to Kingsbury Water Park and we couldn't have been luckier with the weather. The sunshine was absolutely glorious, which was just as well because we spent the whole day outside, exploring the environment and the habitats of the different wildlife that live there.

Our day started with a visit to the amazing learning centre, where the children investigated all sorts of creatures living in Kingsbury Water Park, including a range of creepy crawlies, birds, foxes, bats and even grass snakes. Who knew they could get so big? After meeting our wonderful guides, Squirrels headed for our first activity of the day - pond dipping.

On our way to the pond, we had to stop and allow a gaggle of noisy geese to pass in front of us. Rob, the wildlife whiz instructor, questioned us about species adaptations and it was great to see the Squirrels children using their science knowledge to explain how birds have adapted to flight. When we got to the pond, we split up into teams and Rob challenged us to find as many species as we could, using nets, trays and magnifying jars. It was great to see Squirrels using their excellent collaborative learning skills and getting stuck in as a team. We caught all sorts of creatures including midge larvae, water snails, nymph flies and leeches (the biggest ever seen apparently). Dillan even caught a fish but don't worry, we put it back!

After pond dipping, both classes got together and we enjoyed our lunch alfresco style. In the afternoon, we swapped activities and Squirrels headed off to do some shelter building. This was an amazing activity and everyone worked together to create some brilliant shelters. I think we might have been a little excessive when the children started building our 'cathedral' but, nevertheless, it provided shelter for our whole class.

We ended our super day with a visit to the gift shop, where the children bought allsorts of great games and toys. I know many of the children will be visiting with their families again, soon.





Choir of the Year Competition

Every two years Choir of the Year brings together choirs of all ages, music styles and backgrounds for a series of live Audition days. This is a great opportunity for choirs to pick up new performance and repertoire ideas, sing to a large audience and be supportive critics of each other. Choirs are encouraged to demonstrate their versatility via programmes which demonstrate a variety of styles, techniques, changes of mood or pace. The expert judges are tasked with providing constructive feedback which highlight choirs' qualities and achievements as well as suggestions for further development.

Following the Auditions, the best choirs go forward to the Finals and national acclaim. Many of the past winners' success in the competition has opened up a range of exciting performance, broadcast and recording opportunities.

As you may already know, the Four Oaks Cluster Choir competed in the audition round for Choir of the Year 2014 in May at Warwick Arts Centre, and won 'Choir of the Day'! This means that they are now in with a chance of being selected for the Category Finals, which is what happened in 2012. Keep your fingers crossed and a massive 'well done' to all who took part.

The Accidentals, the adult choir run by Mr Jeffries, also won 'Choir of the Day' in their category. Well done to them too!

If this has inspired you to test your vocal abilities then don't forget that Mr Jeffries is running his popular 'Spotlight' summer workshop here at school in August. Please feel free to telephone for further details.

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th August 2014

8.30am drop-off (9.15am start) to 4pm

£90 for the week, £25 per day

SEPCIAL RATE for choir members: £75 for week, or £20 per day

Contacts: Richard Jeffries (07736 318340) Helen Willetts (07981 957 061)

Liz Birch (07716 305033)

www.suttoncoldfieldchoirs.weebly.com

<http://www.fouroaksclusterchoir.weebly.com/>



The Jungle Book



This year's eagerly awaited Leavers' Production is The Jungle Book. Year 6 have worked hard to produce scenery, props and costumes and have been busily learning lines to be on schedule to put on another stunning performance.

Leading the cast is Amy Beck as King Louie who is really embracing the nature of that character and Ana-Victoria Curry and McKenzie Dyer as the all singing, all dancing Baloo. Mowgli will be played by Bobby Singh and Nadine Mann – they are really swinging!

We have transformed the KS1 stage into a makeshift Jungle and are making sure the sound effects and lights add the required atmosphere.

We hope that all Year 6 parents and family really enjoy the show.



Being new to Leadership

By Mrs Massey - Class Teacher, Swallows and EYFS and Phase Leader

Earlier this year I was appointed as EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Leader to cover for Mrs Pardo whilst she is on maternity leave and this year has been the most challenging, exciting and proudest of my career so far and I have loved every second of this experience.



I have really enjoyed developing a close relationship between the staff in the EYFS and the staff in Year 1. For the transition to be smooth and the assessments to be robust we have developed an open dialogue and cross phase moderation to ensure that our children are being suitably challenged and lessons are being taught at a consistently outstanding level.



The Early Years
Foundation Stage

As a result of our hard work the style of teaching has also changed in Year 1. We realised that by analysing the results of the cohort of 2012-13, that our previously formalised learning style would not suitably challenge and fulfil the needs of the children we were inheriting. We now promote a much more child centred learning with child initiated topics and continuous provision, which allow the children to access a wide range of subjects and resources at any one time. The children receive a high quality focus group with an adult each week for both literacy and numeracy, they work independently on differentiated challenges throughout the week and they are also picked up daily by our play facilitator, who works on the children's next steps across a range of subjects. We encourage our children to be independent, curious and resilient learners, with an ability to drive their own learning and resource based on their individual needs. It has been a pleasure to promote this style of teaching to staff in and out of our school and our results speak volumes.

I have also been proud to be a part of the organisation of the EYFS CPD (Continuing Professional Development) across the partnership schools. Our teams meet regularly to share best practices and develop areas of weakness, staff are able to discuss expectations of each ELG (Early Learning Goals) and what evidence they would expect to see or collect in order to show a child has achieved in this area. The most beneficial element to this collaboration has been cross school moderation, during which our schools are able to collect evidence of moderated work and a continuity of EYFS levels can be seen across the partnership. The impact of this CPD has also been better AFL (Assessment for Learning) in our EYFS to ensure all of our children are making better or expected progress, evidence is more detailed and linked to the Early Learning Goals and staff have more confidence in



My new leadership role has given me greater understanding of the EYFS and the data impact from this end of the school as the children reach significant year groups, such as year 2 and year 6. I have a closer relationship with the EYFS team and as a result feel that progress between our phases can be more closely monitored. The impact of this will be felt during the transition of our current reception into Year 1 and our current Year 1 into Year 2.

My teaching has also improved as a result of my CPD, ensuring progress in my year group is expected or better by the end of this year and targeted interventions can take place in light of our predictions for the end of the year.

I feel extremely lucky to have been given this opportunity and look forward to the next challenge. I am passionate about our school and our creative, child centred approach to teaching and it is a pleasure to be a part of our forward thinking leadership team!



Reception Trip to Twycross Zoo



What a fantastic trip for Reception! From the moment the children could see the double decker bus, the excitement grew! As we arrived the children decided that they would like to navigate the way using the zoo maps!

So off we went through Wet & Wild to see the penguin lagoon and the beautiful flamingos. Then through to Elephant Creek which then led on to Kingdom of the Apes! We got to see the baby gorilla Lope, in the gorilla house! We also met Tim, a giant tortoise who is nearly the same age as Mrs Page- 90 years old! Wow!

We walked through Life In The Trees, where we could see the monkeys swinging, the kangaroos jumping and the emu's running!

Then it was time for our picnic lunch before we went through Butterfly Forest! Next stop was the ice-cream parlour! Delicious!

Just before home time we had lots of fun in the Explorer Zone! Wow –what a busy, fun- packed and enjoyable experience for Reception!



And finally.....

We are sadly saying goodbye to 5 members of staff at the end of this term; Miss Wilks, Mr Hamilton, Mr Sheard, Miss Baker and Miss Shirley.

We are sure you will join us in wishing them all the best with their future endeavours.

Mr Hamilton - Class teacher, Otters

Wow, what an eventful 5 years it has been, both professionally and personally! Since joining Hill West back in September 2009 I have bought a house, got married and had 2 children! I started my exciting journey as an NQT and taught for two incredible years in Reception. After getting over the initial shock of teaching 4 and 5 year olds, I quickly learnt that if I was going to survive in this profession then I would need to make sure that I got plenty of sleep!

I have worked alongside some truly wonderful people in the last 5 years. A big thank you must go to Miss Clarke for giving me a wealth of opportunities and some incredible experiences along the way. I would also like to thank some to the fantastic teachers and teaching assistants that I have had the pleasure to teach with, both past and present. Namely Mrs Pardo, Mrs Duckworth, Mrs Sharp, Mrs Pick, Mrs Anderson and of course last but certainly not least, Mr George (who incidentally isn't anywhere near as scary as he'd like you all to think!) But don't tell him that I wrote this as it may ruin his persona!

I have spent the last 2 years teaching in Year 6, which I have enjoyed immensely. Helping children to achieve their potential, academically and as they mature into young adults, has been incredibly exciting and rewarding. It has been an honour to work with these children through their graduation and transition to secondary school and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it.

Finally I would like to say thank you and goodbye to the parents that I have met and children who I have taught since 2009. The children at Hill West really are exceptional and its working with children like this that makes teaching such a rewarding and fulfilling job. I will certainly look back upon my time at Hill West with great happiness and with some fond memories. Who knows, I may be back again sometime (if they'll have me!)



Miss Wilks - MFL and Global Citizenship

And so it's official; I am leaving Hill West in a matter of days. No longer am I talking in weeks or months... I will be an ex-member of staff in just a few short days.

To try and summarise my time at this amazing school in this article would be an insurmountable task. I have countless memories, experiences and moments etched in my mind, which I will never forget and are too numerous to detail here.

From stepping through the doors at Hill West as a Newly Qualified Teacher in Year 4 in September 2010 to walking out of them this July I have grown in so many more ways than I could have ever thought possible. (And not because I have been raiding the biscuit tin in the staffroom!) I have learnt so much and been given so many opportunities in a relatively short time; it has been a steep learning curve at times, but one that I have relished. From honing my classroom skills by learning from some of the best; to increasing my leadership capacity and developing others; from cultivating my subject knowledge across all areas in the Primary Curriculum; to specialising in a passion of mine this year, I really feel like I have had the most fantastic opportunities at Hill West.

What will I look back on most fondly? Of course there are the big things like the foreign visits we have introduced; sending our staff and children to France, Poland, Sweden, Italy and Tanzania. More recently I have really enjoyed getting to grips with the new National Curriculum and developing the 'Hill West' approach alongside our staff. However it is not just these things I will remember; I will remember the class assemblies, the whole school events and the constant buzz around our school from something exciting going on. The little things too; having that 'light bulb' moment with a child, where they finally understand something, sharing a joke with a pupil or watching someone excel at an activity outside of the classroom. Hill West is truly a special place to work and one which I have felt privileged to be a part of.

I am, of course, looking forward to taking up my new position at Kingsthorpe Primary School and go safe in the knowledge that I am very well-prepared for this next stage in my career.

So it's not a goodbye from me but more of an 'au revoir', which when literally translated means 'see you again.' I will never forget the incredible parents, staff and children at this school who really have made my four years here a pleasure. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and I will hopefully see you again someday!



My Favourite Memories Miss Shirley

I have had the most wonderful two years working at Hill West and it is hard to put my favourite memories into just one page but I will try!

I have been lucky enough to teach two of the most fantastic classes of Swifts and have got to know some truly amazing and inspirational children and adults and have gathered memories which will last a lifetime.

I have enjoyed working as part of a dedicated team to motivate and inspire a child initiated curriculum in Year One. This has been an exciting journey which has taken us from formal whole-class teaching to small focus groups, allowing children to direct their own learning and take ownership of their achievements. I have seen the children at Hill West grow into independent, resilient and collaborative learners who are curious about the world.

I have really enjoyed taking our wonderful children to many exciting places over the past two years. This has included Aston Hall, the West Midlands Safari Park and the Hippodrome. During every trip I have been proud to represent Hill West with the excellent behaviour and fantastic manners displayed by our children.

I am leaving Hill West to move home to Swindon to be with family; with two nephews already and two more on the way, it is becoming hard to stay away! I will also enjoy not spending my weekends sitting on the M5!

I am excited and a little nervous to be starting at my new school in Swindon. This will be a new challenge for me as it is a school with very different needs to Hill West. I look forward to taking all the excellent practice I have been lucky enough to encounter at Hill West and inspire others to be passionate and driven to get the best possible outcomes for all children.

Thank you Hill West, I will miss you,

Miss Shirley xxx



Swifts Class Assembly 2014



World Cup Cheerleading!

Miss Baker - Class Teacher, Kingfishers

Sadly, I will be leaving Hill West Primary School in July 2014. Hill West has been an inspirational and stimulating place to work and it is with great sadness that I am leaving. The staff have been continually supportive, fun loving and a real pleasure to work with. The Kingfishers have been a delight to teach and every day each one of them makes me so proud and smile from ear to ear. The parents have been fantastic and supported me and the school throughout the year in all aspects of school life. I would like to thank everyone that I have had the pleasure to know and express to you how much I appreciate your time and effort. I have some brilliant memories of my time at the school and have made life-long friends. I am going to miss you all very much as I begin a new journey.

I have decided to pursue my passion for teaching children with special educational needs and have secured a post as a teacher of Literacy at Baskerville School. I am looking forward to new challenges and using all that I have learnt at Hill West to further develop my career.

During my time at Hill West I have been given a variety of opportunities to develop professionally and I am grateful for all that the school has done to make me a better practitioner. It is with a heavy heart that I leave the team but I know that Hill West will continue to be a fantastic school where learning is fun and all children succeed!



Mr Sheard - Class Teacher, Moles

It has been a short but eventful time at Hill West. From the beginning I found the staff and leadership supportive. I had one of the leadership team as a 'year partner', who was helpful and gave me guidance at the start. Not long after, I was asked to go into Moles as a class teacher. I could not wish for a better class to be in. Just like me they were a happy class. Just like me they were a funny class; great sense of humour. Just like me they were a chatty class. They made me feel part of their class straight away.

Teaching Moles has been fantastic and together we have had some interesting times. We have had two great assemblies; the Easter assembly (let's not mention the out of tune guitar), and the Titanic. When practicing these assemblies, I could see how hard working, how much pride and the perseverance that Hill West had.

I am grateful to Hill West for so much. For giving me an opportunity to develop my career, for the chance to work with some amazing people, and for some of the most awesome kids to teach, who everyday made me feel like a million bucks.

I will miss Hill West immensely and if I was ever to go back in to teaching, Hill West would be the place to go.

Thank you Hill West for everything.



Schools Direct

What is Schools Direct?

Schools Direct is a route into teaching which is more school-led and allows practitioners to spend more time in classrooms so that they are exceptionally well-prepared for their first teaching post. It is a great opportunity to 'grow our own' and many of this years' participants have secured posts in their placement schools.

So how does this work with the Arthur Terry Teaching School?

As part of their role as a Teaching School, Arthur Terry provides a Schools Direct programme in partnership with Birmingham City University. This course allows successful applicants (Associate Teachers) to gain a PGCE with QTS and spend more time in participating schools. As well as sessions at university, Associate Teachers will also receive training through the teaching school, attending sessions at participating schools which focus on aspects of teaching such as creativity, assessment for learning, provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and developing subject knowledge. This year at Hill West we have hosted 2 Associate Teachers for a total of 3 placements, one of whom has secured a teaching post with us as of September.



Who is the representative at Hill West?

Our Schools Direct lead (Learning Coach) at Hill West is **Sophie Roberts**. She will be coordinating all placements and supporting Associate Teachers in the 2014-15 cohort.

Which schools are involved?

Currently the following Primary Schools host Associate Teachers as part of Schools Direct:

- Hill West Primary School
- Dosthill Primary School
- Brookvale Primary School
- Mere Green Combined School
- Greysbrooke Primary School
- St Michael's Primary School

For more information visit: <http://www.atnts.com/school-direct>