

Hill West Weekly Bulletin

Kindness, Compassion, and Connection at the heart of 'Our School'

Week commencing: Monday 20th January



ACE; Ambitious, Curious and Ever-respectful

FOR YOUR INFORMATION; at a glance

We welcome three new associate teachers to school: Miss Haleema Sadia in Year 3 Rabbits class, Miss Natasha Collins into Year 2 Kingfishers class and Mr Sam Gill into Year 6 Otters class

Monday 20 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4.00pm - 5.00pm Learning Futures Workshop taking place in Hares Classroom for PARENTS
Tuesday 21 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.45am – 8.45am Gymnastics training in the KS1 hall with Miss Beardmore for selected children.• 8.15am - 8.45am Pride and Excellence Celebration Breakfast for invited children in the KS1 Hall• 5.00pm Netball match taking place against St Josephs at Bishop Walsh Catholic school
Wednesday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming for children in Years 4, 5 and 6• 7.45am – 8.45am Gymnastics training in the KS1 hall with Miss Beardmore for selected children• 1.00pm – 3.15pm Gymnastics Event taking place at the GMAC Alexander Stadium for selected children

LEARNING FUTURES WORKSHOP MONDAY 20TH JANUARY

We are delighted to be holding our first **Learning Futures Workshop** on **Monday 20th January at 4.00pm in Hares Classroom.**

If you have not already confirmed your attendance and would still like to join the workshop, please click on the attached link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/gV1KbX08ts>

We look forward to seeing you and sharing how our innovative use of technology is making a difference in your child's education.



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RECEPTION CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Our Reception children will be performing their Chinese New Year assemblies on **Tuesday 28th** and **Wednesday 29th January**.



We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us in the Key Stage One hall.

- Tuesday 28th January 9.00am: Wrens
- Wednesday 29th January 9.00am: Robins

YEAR 4 WHITEMOOR LAKES RESIDENTIAL

WEDNESDAY 29TH
JANUARY TO FRIDAY
31ST JANUARY

Located in the south of Staffordshire, Whitemoor Lakes



provides the ideal backdrop for fun and adventure. With over 20 different indoor and outdoor activities there's plenty of opportunity to learn new skills and conquer fears while enjoying time with friends and teachers in a unique setting. There are a variety of activities on offer including kayaking, sailing, canoeing, climbing, zip wire and abseiling.

We hope all of our Year 4 children going to Whitemoor Lakes have a wonderful time, and we look forward to hearing about your adventures on your return

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO FRANCE

As the time for our France visit for Year 6 moves closer, please could we ask that all passports and EHIC/GHIC cards be brought into the school office directly by **Friday 24th January** where they will be kept in the school safe until the children travel.

All children will need to have their own passport with at least 6 months left on it from the date they leave France.

If your child has a European Health Insurance Card EHIC card that is currently in date and will be in date whilst they are in France this is still valid however if they don't have a current EHIC card, you will need to apply for a Global Health Insurance Card GHIC card which can be done following the link below.

<https://overseas-healthcare.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/get-healthcare-cover-travelling-abroad/start>



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BIRDWATCH 2025

We're excited to announce that our school will be participating in the **Big Bird Watch 2025!** This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to connect with nature, learn about local bird species, and contribute to a nationwide effort to monitor wildlife.



To help make this event a success, we're kindly requesting donations of the following items by Tuesday 21st January, if you are able.

- Large empty plastic bottles (cleaned and with caps, if possible)
- Small yogurt pots or similar containers
- Wooden spoons or sticks (to create perches)
- String or twine
- Birdseed
- Any other creative materials you think might be useful!

Please don't worry if you are unable to contribute—there will be plenty for all children to work with, and we are happy to share resources.

Thank you so much for your support. We look forward to seeing the wonderful bird feeders the children will create!

CALM CORNER DONATIONS

As part of our commitment to nurturing our children's mental health, we are enhancing our classroom *Calm Corners*.



To further develop these spaces, we are reaching out to our school community to ask for **donations of the following items, only if you are able:**

- **Fidget toys** (e.g., poppers, stress balls, sensory items)
- **Cushions and blankets** (clean and in good condition)
- **Play-Doh** (new or unopened)
- **LEGO** (small sets or pieces for creative play)
- **Cuddly toys** (soft, clean, and gently used)
- **Small Rugs** (clean and in good condition)

These items will help us to continue to create calming, supportive environments where children can take a moment to reset and manage their emotions effectively. If you are able to donate any of the above items, we would be incredibly grateful.

Thank you for your continued kindness, generosity, and partnership in helping us make Hill West Primary School a safe and supportive place for all.



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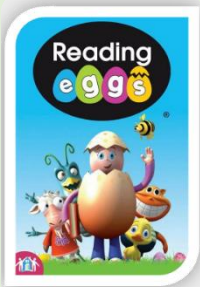
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READING



To further support your child's literacy development, we subscribe to a fantastic online programme called Reading Eggs or Reading Eggspress. This programme is designed to make learning to read fun and interactive. It tailors lessons to each child's reading level, helping them progress at their own pace.

We encourage you to help your child complete **one Reading Eggs or Eggspress lesson each week**. The lessons are designed to be short, engaging, and effective. By

completing one lesson weekly, your child will develop key reading skills in a structured and enjoyable way.

Together, we can help your child develop strong reading skills that will serve them throughout their life. If you have any questions or need help with accessing Reading Eggs, please don't hesitate to reach out.

ATTENDANCE



Regular attendance is crucial for pupils' success, as it ensures they stay engaged with learning and build consistent routines.

Parents are reminded to contact the school by telephone before 9am on the first day of their child's absence. This allows us to maintain accurate records and provide timely support. Additionally, parents can expect a well-being call from the class teacher on the same day to check in and offer any necessary assistance, ensuring that pupils feel connected and supported, even when they are unable to attend.

SAFEGUARDING: NSPCC LISTEN UP, SPEAK UP

It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a community to keep children safe.

That's why the NSPCC is encouraging every adult in the UK to take their 10-minute digital training and learn how to listen up and speak up for children.

Listen up, speak up will show you:

- some signs a child might be at risk, and steps you can take to help
- how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe
- who you can contact if you're ever concerned about a child or their family.

To sign up – follow the link below

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/sign-up/>



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TRAIN TO TEACH INFORMATION EVENTS

Have you always thought about becoming a teacher but aren't sure where to start?

Whether you are graduating this year or you are looking to change careers, find out how we can support you on your journey to becoming a teacher and how you can make an impact in this highly rewarding career.

Arthur Terry SCITT is hosting two upcoming information events.

- **Virtual Information Drop-in Session – Monday 20th January, 5pm to 6pm**

More information and the registration link can be found here; [Teacher Training | Open Events - Arthur Terry Teaching School \(atlp.org.uk\)](https://atlp.org.uk)



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Morning Meet

Monday 20th January

9.30am - 11.30am

Our Place Community Hub
Farthing Lane, Sutton Coldfield
B72 1RN

**SEND parents/carers come and
join us for a coffee and chat**

For more details or to book a place visit
<https://www.growfamilyservices.org/morningmeets>



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Walk and Talk in Sutton park

For Parents/Carers of
children with SEND

GROW
Family Services



Details:

- ✓ Every Friday starting 17th January 2025
- ✓ 10am - 11am
- ✓ Meeting point Visitor Centre - Towngate

No need to book just come along

www.growfamilyservices.org



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Dads' Group

Wednesday 22 January

7pm-9pm Four Oaks Methodist
Church, Lichfield Road, B74 2UU

Join us for a night of discussion and peer support with guest speaker Al Coates

Al is a parent to six adopted children, a former foster carer, NVR practitioner and social worker with lived experience of the challenges and impact of living with children with complex needs, SEN and early adversity.

For more details or to book a place visit
www.growfamilyservices.org/dadsgroup



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