

Ashby Hill Top Primary School Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy week in school. All children have been working hard on their learning and I have seen some excellent writing, maths work and artwork from children who have been sent to my office for a special Headteacher sticker- well done everyone!

Walking around classrooms, I have been amazed by the children's fabulous attitudes and thirst for learning- they are all working successfully on their own, in pairs or in small groups: skills that will stand them in great stead as they move on through the school. There is a genuine warmth and enjoyment radiating from classrooms at Hill Top and it is so lovely to see!



Parents Evening- don't forget to book your appointment!

Parents evening is on Monday 12th February and Thursday 15th February, I know that there will be lots of very proud parents and families when you hear more about your children's learning next week! Bookings close on Monday at 9.00am so don't forget to book your appointment!

Safer Internet Day

This week was Safer Internet Day. The theme this year has been: 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. The internet is an ever present part of daily life and has many positive aspects but giving out too much personal information and "over sharing" online can have consequences.



Increasing numbers of children have mobile phones, access to the internet, play games online or use social media sites.



As parents we know that most of these apps/games require users to be 13 years old or older, but children are using them anyway so we need to be proactive in supporting our children to use them safely. This week, we have spoken to the children about the dangers of sharing too much personal information online. A good way to think about this is asking your child, what

details would you be happy to reveal about yourself on a poster in your high street? Children need to think carefully before they reveal any personal information and should be encouraged to think about who has access to it and how long it stays online.



Tik Tok

We have also reminded children that- if you wouldn't say it or show it to your parents; you should not be saying it/sharing it online or in a group chat. We suggest that children use the 5 second rule before sending any messages- think about what you have written for 5 seconds before pressing send- is what you have written appropriate/kind? **If not, DON'T send it!**



We know how important it is to protect and educate young people on using the internet; computing is an important part of your child's education and increasingly their social life. It is essential that at school and at home we work together to ensure that children understand the benefits that technology can bring and ensure that the children know how to use technology safely. Ask yourself tonight; are you checking your children's online activity or chat history? If you are not...go and check!

Whatever your level of knowledge or confidence, these five tips will help you start, manage and maintain an open dialogue with your children about life online, and help you support them to use technology safely and positively.



Be positive and open minded about the internet

It's important to recognise the exciting opportunities that going online can offer children and young people. Although your children may use the internet differently to you, their experiences are still significant. If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail, or you may need to do your own research. Try to keep conversations broad, and value their opinions when they're talking about what they enjoy doing, to show that you are interested in all aspects of their online world.



Talk early and often

The most effective way to deal with any online issue is to make conversations about the internet a part of your everyday routine. Talking openly about life online from an early age, can be a helpful bridge to sharing safety messages and addressing more difficult conversations at a later date; it also shows your child that you are someone who knows about the internet and can help them.



Create a safe space for conversations

Look for opportunities to talk together. Sometimes, talking face-to-face can feel difficult, so talking alongside each other when out for a walk, or travelling in the car for example, are options that might make it easier. The environment needs to be right; free from distractions, so that your child has your undivided attention. Remind them often that they can talk to you about anything, no matter how difficult, and that they will not be judged or blamed. Your child might not be ready to talk about something straight away, so show them that you are there to listen whenever they are ready.



Keep it relevant

As they get older, your children will use technology differently from when they first went online. Their knowledge and understanding will grow too, as will the challenges they may face on the internet. To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversations you have. There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with a teenager, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships. For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are okay to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.



Be proactive

Working together to create an agreement, outlining how the internet and technology will be used within the family, is a useful way to set clear expectations and boundaries for your children. You might include time spent online; who your children can communicate with; appropriate apps and games; and why safety tools are helpful to block and report inappropriate content. Ask your child what they would do if something went wrong online and they needed help, and reinforce the importance of telling an adult as soon as anything happens that makes them feel upset, worried, or uncomfortable in any way.

There is a lot more information about how to help your child stay safe online on the safeguarding page of our website <http://www.ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk/safeguarding.html>

New Computing Equipment

The staff and children have been thrilled this week to receive a new visualiser for each classroom. These fantastic video gadgets connect to the classroom computer and enable teachers to project the camera's images onto the big screen. This can be a piece of text to share with the class or the teacher can demonstrate how to use certain equipment or even model how to work through a mathematical problem with counters. What a difference these will make to our teaching and learning! Thank you to Friends of Hill Top who have enabled us to purchase these through their fundraising.

Water Safety Code

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

Stop and think - spot the dangers

There are many dangers with water, which can include:

- It can be very cold
- There may be hidden currents
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slippery banks)
- It can be deep
- There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- There may be no lifeguards there
- It is difficult to estimate depth
- It may be polluted and may make you ill

Stay together

- It is always better to go to the water with a friend or family member
- Children should always go near water with an adult
- An adult can point out dangers or help if somebody gets into trouble.

Float

If you fall into the water unexpectedly – float until you can control your breathing. Then call for help or swim to safety.

Call 999

You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency. If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a Lifeguard if there is one nearby, or go to the nearest telephone, dial 999, ask for the Fire Service at inland water sites and the Coastguard at the beach.

Water Safety Code



Staffing changes

Goodbye to...

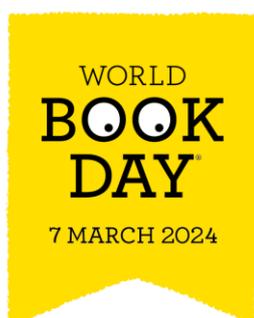
On Thursday next week we will say a fond farewell to Mrs Dorey who has been supporting in EYFS as an LSA. She is moving on to an exciting new opportunity! I know that you will all join me in wishing her well in her next adventure.

Welcome to...

A warm welcome to Mrs Caines who has begun work in EYFS supporting one of our children.

Year 3/4 maternity cover

As you are aware, Mrs Harvey is expecting a baby and will leave us shortly. I am delighted to announce that we have secured a new teacher to join the team. Mr March will be teaching the children on a Monday and Tuesday after half term. He is very experienced teacher and is excited to join the Hill Top team. Mrs Froggatt, will continue to teach the children on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



World Book Day

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Our school Reading Ambassadors are planning our day, alongside Mrs Dexter, and further details will come out to you early next week. I know we will all have a wonderful day!

If you have any questions, please phone school or email office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk

Regards,

Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher



Dates for the Spring Term 2024

| Date | Event | Time |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 6 February | Online Safety Day | |
| 7 February | EYFS Maths workshop for parents | 3.30pm |
| 9 February | Mid-Year Reports out FoHT Spring bulb sale | 3.25pm |
| 12 & 15 February | Parents Evenings | 3.30-7.30pm |
| 16 February | British Values Day EYFS Tea Party (more details to follow) | 2pm |
| 17-25 February | Half Term | |
| 26 February | Y1/2 Samba Drumming visit | All day |
| 28 February | Beaumanor Residential meeting | TBC |
| 7 March | World Book Day FoHT Wonka Bar sale | All day 3.25pm |
| 8 March | Y6 Warning Zone Trip | All day |
| 15 March | FoHT non uniform day | |
| 18 March | EYFS Book Talk meeting for parents | TBC |
| 19 March | Y3/4 Hicks Lodge Trip | All day |
| 20 March | Class Photographs | |

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| 21 March | FoHT Easter Bingo | 5-7pm |
| 22 March | Break up for Easter | 3.25pm |

