



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning and Achieving Together

Values for the School Year (2023/2024): Mutual Respect, Kindness and Belonging

Belonging - Our Personal Development Curriculum

It is important for our children's well being to feel that they belong; they are special and important in their school community. Knowing you belong supports a child's resilience. It enables them to enjoy life and to cope when they have challenges because they know that the school community (adults and children) is there to support them. We are preparing our pupils for life in modern Britain when at various points in their lives they will become part of different communities that they choose: university/further education, work, faith, family and many more. How much they benefit from being part of a community and whether they feel they belong will depend on whether they have the knowledge to know how to be part of a happy and successful community.

This time of year is traditionally a time when we have community events to foster that feeling of belonging. As well as their usual learning (maths, reading and writing and other subjects) pupils enjoy events that give them an opportunity to be with their friends and teachers. They learn to be part of a community and this includes managing the complexities of how to be a good friend and how to handle disagreements among their peers.

Within our staff team we have been talking a lot about what makes a happy and successful community. We know from talking to a group of Year 6 pupils that they would like us to bring back our 'Culture and Heritage Week' or a similar event when we have an opportunity to celebrate living in Britain and learning at Hillingdon Primary School. We are a community where pupils, staff and parents have families from Hillingdon, different parts of the United Kingdom and the World. We are very fortunate and we can learn a lot from each other.

We have therefore made a few changes to the end of the Autumn Term. The school fayre (or a similar community event) will now take place in the summer term. This will enable us to use the outdoors. Since the introduction of free school meals for key stage 2 pupils we have less flexibility with the use of the school hall. We take longer to prepare the hall and clear up although we still manage to ensure our pupils have lunch at the same times so it now makes it difficult to have a fayre during the winter

months. We are still going ahead with the non-uniform day on Friday 1st December but with *a few changes* to what has been advertised. Please find the details below:

"We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 1st December to raise donations for a Festive raffle. We are asking pupils to donate chocolate or sweets in their original wrappings (please check the ingredients to ensure items do not contain nuts). More information to follow regarding how to buy tickets for the raffle." School Dates Letter (Autumn Term) with some adaptations from the original.

Note: Pupils who have PE on Friday must still come prepared to do PE. They don't need to wear their PE uniform but should be suitably dressed. Pupils who are not doing PE must also be suitably dressed for playtimes outside. Warm clothes and suitable/safe footwear are important.

All the remaining events will continue as advertised including our Festive Celebration on Tuesday 19th December.

"Children and staff will be celebrating the festive season together.

- All children are invited to attend school wearing their favourite festive jumper (or a top in festive colours: green, red or gold.) In addition pupils may choose to wear party dress. This can be traditional dress as part of their heritage or what they would usually wear for a party. PE will not take place on this day to enable the children to dress up for their class party.
- Our school meals provider, Dolce, will be serving up a traditional Christmas Lunch (this must be pre-booked). Children having packed lunches are encouraged to bring a festive treat to join in the special occasion.
- Children will finish the day with a fun afternoon playing traditional party games at their class parties." School Dates Letter (Autumn Term)

Please do ensure that your child attends school unless they are too ill. I know there are still comments made about children *just playing* at the end of term and I understand this *may* have been parents' own experience at school. Our pupils continue their learning until the end of term. This includes their formal subject learning alongside our personal development curriculum. Our school attendance is 95.58%. It has come down from 97% at the start of term and this dip is a concern. We need to ensure that it does not go below this so that our pupils continue to access their education. We continue to monitor attendance closely and are speaking to parents and sending letters where there is a concern. Thank-you to all those parents who continue to support us and give their child the best chance of an excellent education.

We are looking forward to enjoying the festive fun with our pupils and parents and look forward to welcoming you to school for these special events.

Best wishes,



Ann Bowen-Breslin
Principal