



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

COP26 / Greening Our School / Veganuary

You may have noticed some changes happening around the school site with the introduction of planting boxes, benches and garden beds. Hillingdon Primary School has begun a whole school greening project in collaboration with the charity Trees for Cities and Planting Healthy Air Project. We are working hard to improve air quality and plant a greener future by improving our site grounds to include more carbon scrubbing plants, trees, bushes and vegetation. Thank-you also to Hillingdon Borough for their gift of the hedge on the Nicholls Avenue site in their drive to 'Green Hillingdon' and meeting some of the objectives discussed at COP26.

On 18th and 19th January, children from years 1-6 will be working with the charity to plant over 500 whip trees and a wide variety of apple tree species over in the field. We are asking our parent/carer community to equip your children with warm clothing and either wellies or old shoes that can get muddy. Wellies or old shoes should be put in a carrier bag with your child's name on it. Children will need to wear a different pair of shoes to school. Children do not need to wear their school uniform and should bring a change of trousers and a small towel to dry off after the planting. Track suit bottoms/leggings would be ideal as they can be easily changed. Children will be working in their classes to plant whips and trees and learning about how planting healthy air can be both beautiful and helpful for air quality in the future.

The children have been learning about the upcoming plant in assemblies and through classroom discussions. Please speak with your child about their learning. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the main reception at school, via email, and we will be happy to support you and explain further.

We are putting in place COVID-19 risk mitigations. As it is outside this makes it easier to do. We are keen that despite COVID-19 we seize the opportunity to take part in this activity.

Tree Planting Day

Please find below the day your child will be helping to plant trees and will need a change of clothes etc.

Tuesday 18th January 2022	Year 3
	Year 4
	Year 1
Wednesday 19th January 2022	Year 5
	Year 6
	Year 2
Reception and Nursery pupils are not taking part this time. We have future activities planned for them during the school year.	

Veganuary

On the 20th January 2022 , The Pantry is organising a Vegan menu. Information was sent home to parents/carers this morning. We would be interested in any child whose families choose to eat a vegan or a vegetarian diet to come forward and talk about their choice in class. One of our TEFAT schools, Greenside, only serves a vegetarian menu and recently featured in the National press to discuss their choice with Jamie Oliver.

COVID-19

We have seen a rise in numbers self-isolating among children and staff. For the last two weeks we have had higher staff absence; we are managing to ensure the children’s education continues and we are all focused on making up for the times our pupils have missed in school. Our school community’s support makes a difference - thank-you.

Car parking at Arrival and Dismissal - A small minority of parents/carers.

Thank-you to the vast majority of parents/carers who support us.

Over the last two weeks, and at different points during the last two years, we have unfortunately seen examples of poor parking. In some cases this parking is unlawful. In some cases it is selfish. In some cases it is parents/carers taking the view that they can park outside the school gates because it isn’t busy. It isn’t busy because the vast majority of parents/carers choose not to park selfishly. I would appeal to the small minority of parents/carers to please consider where you park. I know parking away from the school and walking can be inconvenient but it does keep our children safe. Our children should be able to come out of the gate on Nicholls Avenue and not have to find their way through cars parked on the pavement. This is particularly important for those children who walk home alone, in preparation for secondary school. At present staff who are already stretched due to COVID are having their time taken up managing parking disputes with parents/carers and neighbours. Staff, children and other parents are also hearing on rare occasions swearing; this is inappropriate and reflects poorly on the people using these words. Members of the community look to the school to solve these disputes and although I understand and feel it is important that we play our part, I do get frustrated knowing that it could be solved if we all considered each other. At present staff are dealing with the pandemic and sorting car parking disputes is an unnecessary distraction and takes us away from our core function of teaching and learning in a safe environment. Please keep the area outside the school free of cars. Please park away from the school and walk or walk to school without the use of a car.

Next week, we look forward to a more peaceful start and end to the school day. Thank-you to the majority of parents/carers for your support. We look forward to an enjoyable week of tree planting and thinking about the environment and playing our part in the objectives stated at COP26.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Bowen-Breslin". The script is cursive and fluid.

Ann Bowen-Breslin
Principal