

# NEWSLETTER



## We need your green fingers please...

We have been trying to secure funding for our forest school through a variety of ways and our wonderful PTA have been supporting us, however we do have a long way to go.

We have managed to remove excess trees and get the storage container moved to maximise ground space. We now need to re-establish the pond; clear out rubbish and create vegetable patches and flower beds; build insect hotels and a pen for chickens; dig fire pits to roast marshmallows and create a nature trail.

We would also like at some point to have a secure area for a bee hive so we can produce Hurst Hill Honey for the children as well as planting fruit trees. Research has shown that children flourish when learning outside and we want to ensure that all pupils benefit from wider experiences as well as understanding sustainability.

If you are interested in being part of this project, I will be opening up the forest school area for parents and relatives on Wednesday 8th January between 9 and 10 am. This will allow you to view the area and gain greater insight of the project - participants would then be able to discuss how they might support and help us create a plan of action. We realise this is a big ambitious project, but hopefully with community support, we can accomplish wonders.

It's been another action packed week for children at Hurst Hill. Our playground buddies have begun their super role and proudly wear their new Buddy Jackets; the 'Year 5 Inspire Session' was a huge success with a fantastic turn out from parents once again and year one had a visit from a tortoise - they were so excited. David Brown - a local minister who delivers assemblies across many schools - joined us on Wednesday.

He was full of praise for Hurst Hill and commented on how wonderfully well behaved the children were. They were confident and respectful during the assembly contributions. We are indeed very proud of the behaviour at Hurst Hill, we do have high standards and expectations and this in turn encourages pupils to be the best version of themselves.

In school we guide and support children to make the correct decisions, we advise them on how to use social media safely with kindness at the forefront. This week we had to speak to pupils who were being unkind on WHATS APP whilst at home. We had to address this as it was impacting on pupil's ability to learn—some pupils were anxious about influencers and words that had been exchanged between groups. I would like to ask parents to support me in emphasising that group chats should not be used as a platform to ridicule others. Nor should it be used as a voting platform to encourage others to behave in a negative way. The laws around unkindness and bullying online are clearly displayed on our website and we will work with authorities to tackle any inappropriate online behaviour that takes place at home if it impacts on the learning of pupils. If you would like extra support regarding screen time and negative behaviour, then please speak to the school office and Mr Johnson will arrange a time to meet with you.

Please also see the caring link overleaf for additional guidance <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/>

Next week we have the Hales Valley Trust Maths competition, Mrs Garbett's Inspire session and the 'Animal Man' in Reception. I am sure they will all be a success.

Have a super weekend.

Mrs Johnson

## Attendance

Attendance at school is **mandatory**. Whole school attendance should be **at least 96%**.

**The winning class was Mrs Westwood's class.**

If your child is too ill to come to school then you should **contact the school office before 9.30am**, either by telephoning 01384 818845 (option 1) or using the absence reporting feature on ParentMail. Do not use our social media pages to report absences. Please remember that school can administer medication in certain circumstances.

## Safeguarding

We all have a **responsibility** for the welfare of our children. If something concerns you about the welfare of a child within school then please contact the class teacher in the first instance who will refer to the School's Designated Safeguarding Leads within school.

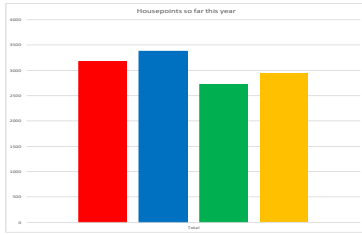
If you have concerns which are **not** school based you can: Call the children's services referral and advice service on **0300 555 0050** during office hours (9am - 5pm). Out of office hours contact the Emergency Duty Team on **0300 555 8574** or in an **emergency call 999**.

Alternatively you can call ChildLine on **0800 1111** or email them by visiting [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

# HONESTY-POSITIVE ATTITUDE-RESPECT-RESILIENCE-CARING

## HONESTY

We use house-points at Hurst Hill to reward pupils for following our school rules and values.



This week our house point totals are:  
Ruby– 255  
Diamond–222  
Emerald – 222  
Sapphire– 232

Well done to this week's winners– Rubies

## DIARY DATES

**Monday 6th February**– Reception Animal Man Visit

**Wednesday 8th February**—6JG INSPIRE session

**Tuesday 14th February**—2NF INSPIRE session

**Wednesday 15th February**– Year 4 trip to Thinktank

**Thursday 16th February** Year 3 TimeZone visit & PTA Valentine disco

**Friday 17th February** Last day of half term.

We return to school Tuesday 28th February

## CARING



As part of our caring values this week, we would like to share this support platform. It is free to register and offers parents advice to support with different behaviours at home such as calming down, screen time, relationships and mental well-being.

## RESILIENCE

Our skill builders award winners this week are

Maja, Milan, Amiyah, Myles, Melissa, Caleb, Danny-Lee and Lloyd



## POSITIVE ATTITUDE

We have been trying really hard with our **reading on MyOn**.

**Below word count for each class for the week**

Year 2– 13,434  
Year 3– 62,484  
Year 4– 62,214  
Year 5– 54,059  
Year 6JG– 25,189  
Year 6MJ– 85,562

This week's Century winners are:

Harriet, Abdullah, Daisy, Sky and Aminta

## RESPECT

**Star Pupils of the week** show our school values of honesty, positive attitude, resilience, respect and caring.

**Reception**– Carter W for resilience in school

**Year 1**– Tillie-Rose for positive attitude in all areas

**Year 2**– Chelsea for positive attitude in all learning

**Year 3**– Domas for resilience in writing and reading

**Year 4**– Zuzia for resilience in all areas

**Year 5**– Riley for positive attitude in Maths

**Year 6MJ**– Macey for resilience in class

**Year 6JG**– Elliot for resilience in the MoneySense workshop