

HILLSIDE AVENUE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Hillside Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew, NORWICH, NR7 0QW

Tel: 01603 433453 Fax: 01603 701836

e-mail: office@hillsideavenue.norfolk.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Gutteridge



no 1 16 January 2012

Dear Parents

Distribution of Newsletters by E-Mail

We have had a good response to our invitation to sign up for receiving school newsletters by e-mail. If you have not signed up yet and wish to do so, please visit the school website:

www.hillsideavenue.org and follow these instructions:

- click on 'our school info' on the menu at the top of the screen
- scroll down to 'newsletters' and across to 'e-mail subscription page'
- click on 'e-mail subscription page'
- insert password, which is 'pilot'
- enter your own details and follow the prompts

This is a secure system and you will be sent a confirmation **e-mail** if you have successfully navigated it.

Equality Plan

We are currently updating our Equality Plan within school. Please look out for the questionnaire coming home soon and return it to school, so that your comments can be incorporated into our review. Any forms received after the end of January will not be included, so please return your form as soon as possible.

Holidays in Term Time

I have received several requests recently for holiday during term time. As I have explained in previous newsletters, I can only authorise holidays taken during term time in exceptional circumstances and unfortunately, cost alone does not constitute an exceptional circumstance. I would therefore advise you not to go ahead and book a holiday until your request has been authorised. To enable me to consider your request, I do need you to give a full explanation as to why your holiday needs to be taken in term time and to provide written evidence, where possible, from your employer, if you are citing work commitments as the reason. The Government are tightening up on absence from school and they have recently published lower absence thresholds for all absence including illness, medical appointments etc which if reached, will lead to a child being classed as a 'persistent absentee', with a resultant referral to the Attendance Improvement Officer, who does have the authority to impose a penalty fine. Obviously any holiday taken in term time will contribute to your child's absence percentage. I will consider every request on an individual basis. The position regarding holidays taken in term time is explained in detail on the back of our Leave of Absence Request Form and I would urge you to take note of this before submitting a request.

Safety with the School Grounds

I was at the rear school gates recently at the start of the school day and was pleased to see that most people are aware of the need to WALK once you are on the school grounds. If your child has had a new bike or scooter for Christmas, please remind them of the need to get off and push the bike or scooter as soon as they come through the gate into the school grounds. We must all be aware of the obvious risk of collision with pedestrians, especially with some of our younger children.

'Hillside Trees'

We are very grateful to John Lewis for donating some of their Christmas decorations to us for use within school. You may have noticed the lovely wooden trees, which we are planning to use in various ways during the year.

Thorpe St Andrew Cluster Extended Schools Co-ordinator

Our Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Linda Blakeway, has asked us to pass on the following information to you:

'Activities for All' Fund

Did you know that some families, for example families living on a low income, can receive extra funding to help their children participate in out of school and holiday activities? 'Activities for All' funding is available for children from Reception upwards and can be used to help meet the costs of a wide range of activities including:

- Activity Clubs based within school
- Holiday Playschemes and Holiday Clubs
- Sports Clubs, Sports Coaching and Physical Activities such as Football, Swimming, Gymnastics or Martial Arts
- Uniformed Groups such as Scouts, Cubs, Brownies or Guides
- Music Tuition, Dance Classes or Drama Groups
- School Residentials and School Trips
- Outdoor Pursuits such as Sailing, Cycling or Canoeing

The funding can also be used to buy the equipment or clothing associated with an activity for example, a tennis racket or a Brownie uniform.

For more information and to find out if your family qualifies for financial support to help your children participate in their chosen activities please contact Linda Blakeway, Extended Schools Co-ordinator on **07824 526509** or e-mail your enquiry to extendedschoolsTSA@yahoo.co.uk

Support for Parents and Carers

Parenting isn't an easy job and, at times, things can get tough. Parent Support Advisors are here to help you if you have any concerns about your children.

Parent Support Advisors can offer FREE informal, confidential support to parents and carers on a wide range of issues such as ...

- Starting school, moving to a new class or forming new friendships
- Managing behaviour, low self-esteem or bullying
- Supporting parents and carers to become more involved in their children's learning
- Tips on how to improve attendance and getting to school on time!
- Strengthening family relationships and how to cope with changes within the family
- Information and support with claiming benefits

If you would like to speak to our Parent Support Advisor please contact Linda Blakeway on 07824 526509 Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm or e-mail extendedschoolsTSA@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Gutteridge
Headteacher