



Ashbourne Hilltop Primary and Nursery School with Enhanced Resource Provision

Wyaston Road, Ashbourne

Derbyshire, DE6 1NB

Head Teacher: Mr Darren Hooley

Tel: 01335 343041

E-mail: info@ashbournehilltop.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.ashbournehilltopschoo.co.uk

Facebook: @ashbournehilltopschoo

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Hilltop News – Summer 2023

Good Luck Mrs Smith

After many years of dedicated service to Hilltop and the children of Ashbourne, Mrs Smith will be leaving the school at the end of this academic year. Mrs Smith has fulfilled a number of roles within the school over her time with us, most recently as deputy head teacher and acting as head after Mrs Jaques' departure in 2019. She has seen hundreds of pupils complete their educational journey and I am sure that every one of them will remember the time they spent with her.

Everyone at Hilltop would like to wish Mrs Smith lots of luck for the future.

Staffing and Classes for September 2023

With the departure of Mrs Smith at the end of this year, there will be some changes to the staffing structure for the coming academic year.

This will be most noticeable in the early years.

I can confirm that Miss Adams will take over the leadership of our early years provision. She will continue to work with our early years team to drive further improvements in provision for all pupils. One of the changes we have made in the last 2 months has been to move towards having an early years unit, rather than 2 distinct classes. In this way the pupils have access to a far greater range of resources and areas of learning, as well as engaging in more high quality interactions with other children and adults.

This will continue into next year, with the launch of our new early years and year 1 unit, to be known as the "Hilltop Den". The Den will technically consist of 2 classes, which will move fluidly through the unit depending on the learning that is occurring at that time.

Yellow Class will be known as "Cubs" and be registered by Mrs Adams and Mrs Scales, while Blue Class will be known as "Lions" and will be registered by another member of staff, alongside Mrs Fearn. The teacher for this class will be confirmed by Friday 23rd June, following the recruitment of a new teacher. We will be offering parents meetings as we move through into the new year to explain the Hilltop Den structure and how the children will access their learning together.

We will confirm the staffing for key stage 1 and key stage 2 by Friday 23rd June also. This will be in plenty of time for our transition days in school, which are planned for 5th and 6th July.

It is an extremely exciting time to be part of the Hilltop family, with so many amazing developments in early years provision, forest school, OPAL, the outdoor environment and an academy chain to give improvement an even greater boost, the future is bright for Hilltop.

Welcome Mrs Selfe

The Hilltop family would like to welcome Mrs Selfe to the permanent staff. Mrs Selfe is an incredibly experienced and skilled teacher who is joining the permanent team after 6 months of teaching on a long term supply. Mrs Selfe is joining to further drive our improvements in English, adding to the work already done on early reading skills, phonics teaching, handwriting and reading practise through the entire school. We look forward to working together to make the most of our wonderful pupils' enthusiasm for learning.

Good Luck Mr Swann

Mr Swann our Site Manager has now left us to expand on his work with the church. We would like to thank Mr Swann for his hard work while he has been with us, building sheds, installing taps, painting and transforming rooms and areas for a different use are just some of the roles he has undertaken. Good luck in the future Mr Swann.

Whole School Transition

We will be moving into our new classes for next year on Wednesday 5th July and Thursday 6th July.

Current Pupils:

On the **5th July** all current pupils will come into school as normal. The children will register in their current classes and then move into their new class. They will spend the entire day in their new class, working within the new class's timetable, until 2.40pm, when they go back to their original class and use this time to discuss what they have been doing, what they are excited about and be able to express any questions or concerns.

On the **6th July** all children will come into school at the normal time. The children will come into their new class and register there. They will spend the entire day in their new class, working with the new class's timetable and leave at 3.15pm from their new class.

Reception Starters:

On the **5th July** at 9.30am The Hilltop Den will welcome their new Reception starters into school. Parents of new starters will stay in the Early Years setting for an hour, learning in the environments with their children. There will then be a parents meeting in the hall for parents of new starters, providing information about dinners, reading, Dojo, OPAL, Uniform, Communication etc.

On the **6th July** new starters should come into the Den again at 9.30am. This time they will stay on their own in the setting until 12.30pm. They will be having lunch so please make sure that you have let us know what your child would like to eat on this day. The menu will be sent to new starters closer to the date. Please pick your children up from the main school entrance at 12.30pm.

Reception Play Session

On Monday 3rd July at 12.15pm, the Play Village in Ashbourne are hosting a new reception starters "stay and play session". This will be a great opportunity for children who have not yet met other children who will be attending Hilltop to make some friends and get to know each other. Miss Adams our early years lead and Mrs Bell who runs our office will be there to answer any questions too.

Nursery Starters:

On the **18th July** new Nursery starters will be visiting us. All nursery children starting in the Den in September should arrive at 9.30am and stay with their children until 11.00am.

On the **19th July** new nursery starters will again attend, but this time on their own. They should be dropped off at 9.30am in the main entrance. There will then be a parents meeting in the hall providing information about dinners, reading, Dojo, OPAL, Uniform, Communication etc. The children can then be picked up again at 11.00am.

Sports Day

Friday 30th June sees our Hilltop Sports Day come round once again. We would like to invite all parents to join us on this day.

Nursery Sports day will take place in the morning. Please arrive at 9.15am via the front entrance to get involved with the fun. We will then show you to where the events will take place.

The reception – year 6 sports day will run in the afternoon. Please arrive at 1.15pm for a 1.20pm start. There will be limited seating so if you feel that an hour and a half may be too much standing then please do bring a chair to carry around the events with you. We will be selling ice lollies and refreshments on the field during the afternoon also.

Please turn over

Summer Fair

A huge thank you to everyone that attended our Summer Fair on Saturday. The Hilltop PTA did an amazing job as always in planning and delivering a fantastic event for us all to share. The Fire Service and Police were joined by a bouncy assault course, Dove Radio, Soak the teacher and a host of other games stalls and charities, all coming together to support our fantastic school. We remain lucky to have the best community linked to our school and together we raised a total of over £2600 that will be spent on experiences and resources for our pupils through the PTA. More information on how this money will be spent and how you can get involved in the PTA will be coming out soon.



Thank you to Michael Hope-Smith from Three Six Seven Nine Photography for the above image.

Year 6 QEGS transition

For those pupils leaving us in year 6, QEGS have three days of transition planned that will be communicated about separately. These will be from 4th – 6th July. Pupils attending QEGS will not have to come into Hilltop on these days and must follow the arrangement put in place by QEGS. Any pupils not attending QEGS should come into Hilltop on these days and attend their own transition at the appropriate time.