



April  
2022

# Hillary Herald

What a glorious Easter break we have had – full of sunshine and a chance to get out of doors. It's been great seeing people appreciate the simple things in life- as you come down on to the main playground the blossom tree has been spectacular and a welcome blast of colour. Like good learning, it restores the soul and makes the world look all good.

## Summit Day Jubilee Garden Party

On 27<sup>th</sup> of May, the Friday before we break up for half term, we are having our usual Summit Day- but this time with a twist. Summit Day is the day closest to when Sir Ed and Tensing reached the summit of Everest- The news reached Britain of their achievement on the same day as the Queen's Coronation 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953.

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee then, we are going to try and have a **Buckingham Palace style Garden Party**. (Weather Permitting- but we think we can bring things inside if need be.)

In the afternoon we would like to invite you for a Cream Tea on the lawns between 1.30 to 3.00 pm. Entertainment will be provided with a few songs and possibly even a band (Y5's on their ukuleles!) The older children will have prepared their classrooms and be running some stalls within the classrooms and we also hope to be showing off their very best work that they have done this year. We will need your help however on the Scones front so the Great Hillary Bake Off is on for the lead up to the day. We can provide the jam, the cream and the tea or lemonade. But the scones would be an excellent cooking with the kids at home activity.

In the morning the children will do activities in their colour teams focussed on the Commonwealth. For lunch we are going to eat like Sir Edmund and the children will

need to have Packed Lunches and appropriate clothing for the weather. Because, whatever the weather, we will be eating outside- even if it means soggy sandwiches in the rain. We have ordered a good dose of sunshine for the day, however. If you need the kitchens to provide a packed - lunch we will be sending a letter out two weeks before so as to order one.

As per every other Summit Day (when things were normal) children may go home when you are ready to leave, to kick off the Half Term Holiday if signed out with the class teacher. It'll be a day of bunting and buns and fun. So, make sure you can organise the time to come in and join in with us and all that is great about being at Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

## Stepping Down from Covid & Attendance

The guidance we are receiving is very much to be trying to normalise our lives and live alongside the virus. This means only staying off school if you are poorly – just like with any other cold. We are therefore no longer recording Covid absences separately- children are now just being marked down as absent through illness, rather than absent through illness with the virus.

We have contingency plans in place should we have an outbreak that is causing concern to the operation of the school which look largely like the changes to operations you have already experienced.

After Easter we have almost seen a return to normal in our attendance- 96%. It had been as low as 92% for many weeks in the Spring Term.

Since September, however, the Government has maintained the legal requirement on parents to send their children to school (and therefore my requirement to enforce this). A child is considered a Persistent Absentee if their attendance falls below 90%. We always analyse the attendance of children below 95% to see if there is anything we need to do to prevent their attendance falling.

To this end we have lettered a considerable number of parents to let them know if their child's attendance is of concern. There is no blame if the cause of absence is genuine illness and largely the letters have been just information.

This is not the case if there are holidays or lateness involved- that is about adults organising and prioritising prompt attendance and very little to do with the child.

## Second Contacts

We have a good practice requirement to ensure that we are certain about the whereabouts of every child every day. This can take considerable time within the office when we have parents who have not told us if a child is going to be absent or how long for. We will ring through your contacts list until we have an answer as to the whereabouts of the child. We have also been known to make home visits. This has arisen through some extremely tragic stories nationally of children starving to death in houses where parents have had accidents. So please make sure your contacts list is up to date.

## School Meals Cost

There is a rise in the price of a school dinner. A two course meal will cost £2.40 from this term onwards.

## Holidays in Term Time

I have been surprised by the number of Term Time Leave of Absence forms we have given out over the last few days. Given that the children have missed so much school over the last few years the priority really should be on maintaining their presence in school and their learning. I know the holiday companies will be desperate for business and marketing like there's no tomorrow- but resist any further disruption to the children's education. The only reason why we authorise holidays in term time is if for instance you are in the Armed Forces and are dictated when you have your holiday. Also remember there are definite fines for holidays in holidays in September or during testing periods or if your child's attendance is already low through illness or other reasons.

## Farewell, Miss Farish

Some of you will be aware that Miss Farish retired last term. The children won't have actually seen her since before Christmas as the toll of working full time was becoming too much. Shirley has been a really significant member of the team for nearly 20 years. As well as support for children in class, Shirley was instrumental in making our wildlife area what it is and become a significant part of our curriculum. She had a particular ambition for children with specific needs and therefore ran our award winning Boccia Team for many years in her own time. We wish her well in her next steps.

## Phonic Progress

As you know, this was our major item of improvement from Ofsted and we have tackled it with our usual Hillary no- nonsense, get the job done attitude. Changing the way we were

teaching Phonics has been a timely thing to do and as staff we are learning a lot in the process.

The children have instantly responded and are enthusiastically engaged in the new systems and especially with the confidence they find in tackling their new books.

We have joined something called the English Hub and this has released extra monies to us. With this we have been able to bring forward the buying of new stock so that some of the children are now able to have a real book rather than the books online, to reinforce their reading at home.

## Assembly songs

These last few weeks in assembly we have been having some fun with some music. I taught the children to Dad Dance to Bob Marley's 'Could You Be Loved' and it was great when the children all knew the words to 'We are Family', by Sister Sledge. They are clearly getting a very good education at home!

A parent told me the other day that they had been listening with their children to some of the assembly songs that we sing and how they had now become songs their family sings. So, I thought I would post a few YouTube links to help share the love:

[Alternate Routes Nothing More](#)

[Miley Cyrus – The Climb](#)

[Young Voices – The Power in Me \(with expressive actions and excessive air guitar playing\)](#)

And then our newest latest biggest hit is also from Young Voices- [Sing From Your Heart](#)

## Governors

Following the last round of Parent Governor Elections, Hannah Holmes was the only nomination received and is therefore duly elected. Amy Doona stepped down from being a governor of the school last term and so we shall start another process shortly. Please consider standing. It is a very important role for our school and can be a rewarding investment of time. Employers should be able to help you come into school on an occasional basis as part of their community service schemes.

## Lunch Time Supervision

We are going out to advert for some new dinner staff so thought I should let you know first. We seem to be a great place for starting people off getting qualifications and moving on into full time posts. We often need Supply

Dinner Staff as well so if you are interested in, or know of someone who may be, get in touch with Anna at the School Office.

### iWatches

New technology seems to need us to generate new policies, so this is where we currently stand on this one. The school has always accepted watches as the exception to the 'no jewellery' policy. We need children to be able to tell the time (preferably analogue) and wearing a watch reinforces this.

Any device that connects to social media or has an e-messaging facility on it is not appropriate for general school wear. In this respect they are exactly the same as Mobile Phones, and school is just not the right place for these items.

Children's concentration needs to be available for the learning presented by their teachers and not on the virtual possibilities.

**And a reminder on phones-** Mobile phones are only allowed in school for children who have alternative home time arrangements. Parents must write a note to this end and they should be handed into the class teacher for safe-keeping.

### Poetry Slam on Website

The winning entries of the Poetry slam are on the Website. 1G with the amazing Playing Hide and Seek with Dinosaurs by Jan Dean was the KS1 class winner. 3G won out of all the classes in KS2 with their version of Kenn Nesbitt's Food Fight. So hilarious in fact that it is hard to hear at some points because of laughter from the audience.

In the individuals, Seren Ford won with Cats Sleep Anywhere by Eleanor Faerjon. Leila North won the individual rounds at KS2 with Paul Cookson's Full of Surprises.

Here's hoping this link works to get to the [Videos](#). Thank you for joining us after school for the outdoor performances too!

### Harley Gallery

I hope you have been able to get to the Harley Gallery to see the children's curation of the exhibition they currently have on. Along with three other schools, our KS1 children have chosen pictures and described what they see and why they chose them. The gallery hosted an opening – with cup cakes- during the Spring holiday but the exhibition is still on for a few more weeks if you haven't yet been.

### Sun Care

Summer requires some preparation. **Water bottles** should only have water in them- please no sugared drinks. The children do have access to these throughout the day. **Please label and name everything:** misplaced jumpers are very common now that the weather is warmer. Please **provide children with hats** as well as this is a key area of the body to protect. The children are rarely out for longer than 20 minutes, but we do want to encourage **good habits with respect to hats and sun cream**. Teachers generally do not apply sun cream to children so we encourage parents to apply sun cream before school. If there are further medical conditions that you feel we need to know about then do let us know- the safety of the children is of primary importance.

### Significant Dates

**For planning ahead this term- you need to know-**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 4H Overnight Residential**  
**9<sup>th</sup> May Y6 Sats Week**  
**16<sup>th</sup> May 4S Overnight Residential**  
**4<sup>th</sup> July INSET day**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Y5 Information Evening at Valley**  
**6<sup>th</sup> July Transition Day1**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Transition Day 2**  
**12<sup>th</sup> July Sports Day (13<sup>th</sup> -reserve)**  
**25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July- Y6 big campout**  
**26<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Leavers Performance**  
**26<sup>th</sup> -July Last day of school**  
**27<sup>th</sup> July First day of the holiday**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sept First Day back for children**

### News from Club Ed

Club Ed is our afterschool provision. The afterschool club is from the end of school until 6pm. You can use as much or as little of this time as you need as we only charge for what you use. We provide a healthy breakfast before school and snack after school. There is a large range of indoor and outdoor equipment to play with. Flexi hours are catered for, so if you need childcare on a different day each week or once a month or even if it's same day notice we will try and help.

**Contact the school office for further details:**

01909 473982

**Out of office hours:**

07881 451499

SEHPS seeks to make any reasonable adjustment for any access needs that you may have. Please inform us if there is any way in which we can better arrange access for you and your family.



## Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2022-23



September 2022 to July 2023

September 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31*		

	School Holidays		Public Holidays		Administration Day		Inset Days
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**Autumn Term**

Schools Open - morning Wednesday 31 August 2022

Half Term - Monday 17 October 2022 - Friday 28 October

Schools close - evening Wednesday 21 December 2022

**Spring Term**

Schools Open - morning Wednesday 4 January 2023

Half Term - Monday 13 February 2023 - Friday 17 February 2023

Spring Break - Monday 3 April 2023 - Friday 14 April 2023

**Summer Term**

Schools Open - morning Tuesday 17 April 2023

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 1 May 2023

Half Term - Monday 29 May 2023 - Friday 2 June 2023

Schools Close - evening Tuesday 25 July 2023

\*Return date for August/September 2023 TBC