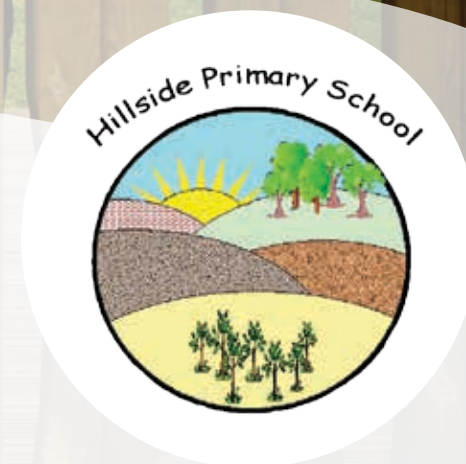




Hillside Primary School

Inspiring the future



Welcome to Hillside Primary School



'Inspiring the Future'

Nicci Morris, Headteacher, says....

On behalf of all the children, staff and governors at Hillside, I would like to welcome you to our school. At Hillside we have high expectations of all our students and staff and believe that every child has a right to an education that develops their personality, talents, and abilities to the full.

It is important to us that our children learn and flourish in a happy, stimulating environment, created by caring and dedicated staff. We promote a forward thinking school, aiming for continuous School Improvement, underpinned by strong leadership.

We have a shared culture of respect and determination, which ensures we have a highly cohesive learning community. This supports our vision of providing every child, throughout their journey at Hillside (aged 3 to 11), with the learning experiences needed for them to achieve the highest possible standards in both their work and conduct. It also instils in them the self - belief, diversity of skills and inspiration to follow their dreams.

Everyone at Hillside shares a common approach to learning, specifically about the importance of Active Learning. This approach utilises our excellent facilities, Forest School, Enrichment afternoons and also helps develop the children's exposure to the Arts, including musical instrument tuition. We believe this approach fosters a life-long love of creativity and learning.

Staff work hard to ensure that every child's needs are met. We achieve this through a truly nurturing approach, clear communication, and a commitment to team-work with children and parents, thus creating the Hillside Family.

I am extremely proud of our school. Visitors frequently comment on the warm and friendly atmosphere, the superb behaviour and the lovely manners of our children. We are not only a learning environment but a community that works as a team. A team of which I hope you will be proud to be a part of.

Come and see for yourself and arrange an appointment to visit our wonderful school. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mrs N Morris
Headteacher



"The school has a lovely, warm, welcoming atmosphere and a lot of it is due to the head teacher who is genuinely interested in all the children and has innovative ideas"

Debbie and Sylvester Callender live in Lower Earley with their son, Louie, aged six, and daughter, Lori, aged five.

Louie and Lori are both excelling in the stimulating environment at Hillside Primary School

Afternoon tea

Debbie loves the way Hillside provide incentives to keep the children motivated. Her son, Louie, is in Year Two and has excelled at reading. She says: "Louie is able to read quite advanced books for his age and in recognition of his success he was invited to go for afternoon tea with the head teacher at the end of last term. He was so excited to be invited. Afterwards I asked him what they had talked about and he said: 'Oh we chatted about all sorts of things.'"

Good behaviour

Debbie said Hillside send letters of recognition to the parents for excellent work by the children. Her daughter, Lori, who is in Year One, received a letter for making a great effort in maths. "We pinned it to the fridge and she is so proud to see it there. Hillside also provide incentives for the children to behave well. If they eat nicely with good table manners at lunchtime they are given stickers. When they have earned enough stickers they can sit on the top table in the dining room as a reward. My children are so keen to earn stickers that we carry it on at home to let them practise."

Fantastic facilities

"The school has a lovely, warm, welcoming atmosphere and a lot of it is due to the head teacher who is genuinely interested in all the children and has innovative ideas," Debbie says. "Hillside's facilities are wonderful. The school was renovated recently and there is a marvellous computer room, an outdoor classroom and an orchard. The children can go pond dipping and learn about nature and there is an outdoor games area."

Making music

"Hillside have bought some brand new musical instruments and aim for every child to have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. The school have also just added some fantastic new books to their library stock. I like the maths, literacy and phonics workshops the teachers put on for the parents, which gives me a better understanding of how things are taught so I can help Louie and Lori at home," Debbie says.

Mixing well

"Louie loves everything about the school but he particularly enjoys 'enrichment afternoons' when the years are mixed together and the children are divided into groups for activities such as cookery, music or sport. He really enjoys sport and making things because he is very creative," Debbie says. "Lori loves playing with her friends in the playground. They are encouraged to play with children from other year groups to get them used to older children. Lori also enjoys music, art and dancing and her reading is excellent."

Friendly atmosphere

"I would definitely recommend the school to other parents. Lots of nice families go there and everyone is very friendly. The head teacher is amazing and is determined to continue to make Hillside better and better."

Children say

Louie says: "School is fun, the teachers are nice and I like the hamsters we have in our classroom."

Lori says: "I love going to school to see all my friends and teachers and I like doing science experiments."

School day



School hours

School is open from 8.50am, and closes by 3.15pm.

Breakfast club

Breakfast Club runs from 7:50am - 8:50am every morning.

Uniform

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school and by wearing it children quickly feel part of the community. School uniform lists can be obtained by contacting the school office.

School Meals and snacks

Caterlink, an award-winning food service provider, delivers a range of varied, delicious and nutritional meals every day. The children can also enjoy Discovery Days, such as Chinese New Year when they have the opportunity to experience new foods.

Break-time

Children are allowed to bring in healthy snacks for break times. These could include fruit, health bars, crackers or breadsticks etc. Crisps and chocolate bars are not permitted.

Drinks

Water fountains are available outside in the playground and children should bring a water bottle to school each day to keep in the classroom. Other flavoured drinks are permitted at lunch times.

School Houses

Each child is assigned to one of four houses, named after hills in the local area:

- Barkham
- Beech
- Hawthorn
- Farley.



"The computer facilities are great and there is a café in the playground that Rubina loves. We actually bought her a toy café for Christmas because she likes it so much"

Natalie and Akif Khan live in Lower Earley with their daughter, Rubina, aged four, and son, Hani, aged nine months.

Natalie and Akif have watched Rubina blossom in her first few months at Hillside Primary School

Caring teachers

Rubina has grown in confidence and progressed in leaps and bounds since starting at Hillside Primary School last September. Her mum, Natalie, says: "She has obviously been given a lot of attention and I can see her changing before my eyes. I am delighted the teachers are giving her encouragement and praise and can tell it is building her confidence."

Reading award

"Her reading is phenomenal now," Natalie says. "I had helped her get started before she went to school, but even I am impressed with her progress. Within a couple of weeks she had started reading proper books. She got an award for reading within the first few weeks and went up to get it in assembly. I was amazed how confident she was about going up in front of the rest of the school, but I am pleased they made her feel proud of her achievement."

Dancing club

Rubina has already joined one of Hillside's after school clubs, much to Natalie's surprise. "I didn't suggest it because I didn't want to overwhelm her at the beginning but she came to me and said she wanted to do dancing after school. She is really confident about being there with new people and joins in well."

Good start

Because Rubina didn't settle well at her pre-school group Natalie was worried there might be problems when she started school. She said: "She took to Hillside right from the beginning. I had prepared

them for the fact she could get tearful, but she started really well. It was a relief for me to know she was happy."

Creative environment

"The computer facilities are great and there is a café in the playground that Rubina loves. We actually bought her a toy café for Christmas because she likes it so much," Natalie says. "They do lots of crafts and Rubina enjoys being in the creative area. There are different themed rooms in the Foundation Unit and the children can move on to fresh environments to find their friends, but the teachers control the flow so it is well organised."

Community feel

"Hillside is a community school and most of the children who attend live close by. The school backs on to a public park close to our house so at the weekend we are always bumping into children and families from the school when we go out. The school definitely has a community feel which makes Rubina feel secure," Natalie says. "I would wholeheartedly recommend Hillside to other parents. I chose to send Rubina to pre-school rather than Foundation One, the first year at the school, but I will definitely send my son, Hani, to Foundation One. I can't recommend Hillside highly enough."

Children say

Rubina says: "I love going to school and learning new things every day with my friends."

Curriculum



Forest School

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic orchard as one of our learning environments. Our Forest School Leader looks after this outdoor area and supports our children's education of the natural world through 'hands on' experiences.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5

Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7

Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- English
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

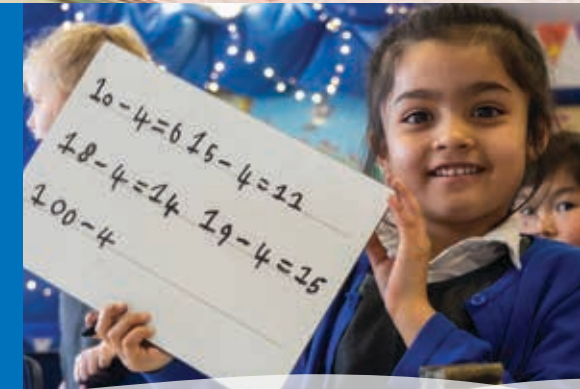


Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Modern Foreign Language (MFL) KS2 only

- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.



Extended curriculum: *trips and visits*



To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities, including:

- trip to Woolley Firs
- swimming classes
- Stone Age evening
- Red Nose Day fun
- Christmas Jumper Day
- trip to Metro Bank
- Celebrating Diversity Evening
- planting our own Tower of London Poppy Garden
- residential trip to Acorn Adventures Wales for Year 5
- residential trip to 'Call of the Wild' in the Brecon Beacons for Year 6.

Communicating with parents

Communication is key between developing good links with home and school. At Hillside we produce regular newsletters, have a mobile phone app, up-to-date website, Twitter account (for residential) and offer many opportunities for parents to meet with teachers to discuss their concerns and review their child's progress.

Parent Council

Hillside Primary School also has a Parent Council that meets regularly to discuss ideas to help develop our school. All parents are welcome to come along and give us their suggestions, ideas or comments.

Hillside Family Centre and Parent Support Services

Hillside Family Centre is a welcoming environment and an important part of our school. It is a hub for our parents and a valuable resource to our wider community.



It embraces all aspects of school and family life and is used to provide a variety of educational, community activities and workshops, as well as providing an information and support service for all.

Parent support services are available to provide a range of guidance in all areas. Children's development and learning, parenting, adult education and much more.

Our Parent Support Advisor can provide guidance in a confidential and non-judgemental way. Her aim is to build parent/carer confidence to help deal with parenting and family problems. To support in strengthening relationships and communications between home and school and help parents get the best out of family and school life. We have a range of services available to us here at Hillside which helps to enhance and promote positive outcomes for all in our school community.

For more information telephone 0118 9755771 or email psa@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk. We look forward to welcoming you soon.



"He had an amazing teacher in Year Three who had a big impact on Charlie and we were delighted he was taught by him again in Year Six"

Jacky and Rick Pott live in Lower Earley with their children, Alice, aged 14, Charlie, aged 13, and Isabel, aged eight.

Jacky and Rick have been delighted with the high quality of teaching at Hillside Primary School

Flying start

Jacky was pleased with the good start Isabel made at Hillside. "I could tell how happy she was as she literally skipped into school each day," she says. "My other two children had both attended Hillside from the earliest age they could start and enjoyed their time there and have done well since."

Kind staff

Jacky believes the excellence of the teachers is the biggest factor in the success of the school. She says: "When they are young and have just started school they need nurturing and the teachers in the Foundation Unit are exactly what you would want. They were extremely caring and I was always confident Isabel would be well looked after."

Quick progress

In Year Three, Isabel's teacher had a massive impact on her, Jacky says. "It was her best year as far as learning is concerned. The teacher was new to the school but Isabel seemed to bond with her in just a few weeks and was upset when she left to have a baby."

"The teaching methods at Hillside obviously work well and Isabel grasps everything quickly. She came on in leaps and bounds with her reading and was soon bringing books home and reading whole sentences. Her progress far exceeded what I had expected."

Popular head

Jacky thinks Hillside's success is down to the ability of the head teacher. "I already knew her because she taught in the school and I was over the moon when they appointed her as head. The children all love her but respect her as well and they know what her rules are. Everything she does is with the children's best interests at heart. I believe the teaching staff and, primarily the head teacher, can mould a school and determine where that school is going if they are good at what they do."

School trips

Charlie is 13 and now at secondary school but has happy memories of his time at Hillside. Jacky says: "He had an amazing teacher in Year Three who had a big impact on Charlie and we were delighted he was taught by him again in Year Six. Charlie particularly enjoyed school trips. When he went to Wales with the school it was the first time he had been away for a whole week and he still talks about it now."

New developments

"I would definitely recommend Hillside to parents looking for a good primary school for their children. I think the school is just going to get better and better. Every week you see improvements and hear about something new that is happening."

Children say

Isabel says: "I always look forward to going to school because I get to play with my friends."

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs

We are totally committed to providing high quality provision and support for pupils who have special needs of any kind. We modify the curriculum where needed to ensure that all child can access education. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged. Children may be added to the Special Education Needs Register, and Learning Goals written to help them reach their potential. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.

Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.



“I am completely confident about James starting school and I am pleased that he will have one teacher in the nursery that previously taught Jake and knows our family”

Hayley Cooke and Peter McCann live in Grazeley, a few miles from Lower Earley, with their sons, James, aged three, Jake, aged seven, and Luke, aged ten.

Hayley and Peter have been proud to see Luke and Jake both make progress at Hillside Primary School

Welcoming teachers

With the support of the friendly head teacher and staff, Luke and Jake are both thriving at Hillside and their younger brother James can't wait to start in the nursery at the school. Hayley says: “Everything is really familiar to him by now and he knows a lot of the teachers, so he is very excited about starting in September.”

Ready to move on

Hayley's son, Luke, is now in Year Six and will start at secondary school in September. Hayley says: “He has loved every minute of his time at Hillside and has progressed happily through the school with all the same friends. I am confident that he will be well prepared for secondary school when he starts.”

Good support

Hillside have also done a lot to support Jake, who is now in Year Three, and has been diagnosed with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder). Hayley says: “Jake needs to be shown visual material and experience sensory things rather than being told facts and information. He has to be kept busy doing activities and doesn't like just sitting still and I think the school have been very good at recognising this.”

Making music

“Jake is very settled at Hillside now and is doing really well at the school. His reading has improved a lot when you consider that at one time he didn't want to sit down and try to read. He is now learning to play the violin at Hillside and everyone is stunned by how well he is doing. He seems to be dealing with the lessons really well and definitely enjoys playing,” Hayley says.

Supportive staff

“We first realised Jake needed special attention when he started school and we noticed that he didn't like crowds. He had been slow learning to talk and we could tell he didn't have a good attention span. But he has been given a lot of help by the school and has really made progress now. He has two different ladies who come in to the school to support him in lessons and we have a regular meeting with the teachers and other experts to discuss how well things are working. I always feel comfortable talking about any issues he has with the head teacher and staff, who have all been very supportive,” Hayley says.

Confidence in school

“I am completely confident about James starting school and I am pleased that he will have one teacher in the nursery that previously taught Jake and knows our family. I would wholeheartedly recommend Hillside to any other parents looking for a primary school.”

Children say

Luke says: “I love going to Hillside and seeing my friends and learning about history and playing football.”

Jake says: “I like going to school and am enjoying learning the violin.”



There are a wide variety of clubs that children can join, during class, lunchtime and after school. Options often include:

- science
- skipping
- philosophy
- sketching
- Book Club
- Lego construction
- street dance
- Loom bands
- netball
- football
- choir
- cross stitch

Sport

As well as following the Physical Education programme of work as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for extracurricular sport and team games. These include football, hockey, netball, and invasion games.

Each year, eight children in Year 6 are awarded the role of Sports Captain and they play an important role in showcasing sport at Hillside. Hillside encourages the development of sporting talent and celebrates out of school achievements of children at special assemblies.



“The teachers care about all the children, the discipline at the school is good and it feels like a safe environment to leave your children in, which has given us, as parents, a lot of confidence”

Teck See and his wife Poh Wong live at Hilmanton with their son, Jun Wei, aged 12, and daughter, Ke Xin, aged seven.

Teck and Poh have seen both their children flourish in the friendly atmosphere at Hillside Primary School

Caring teachers

Teck and Poh have enjoyed seeing both their children progress at Hillside in their different ways and believe that the school has a friendly atmosphere in which children can thrive. Teck says: “The teachers care about all the children, the discipline at the school is good and it feels like a safe environment to leave your children in, which has given us, as parents, a lot of confidence.”

Making progress

“It is a very good school and the teachers and head teacher are all very kind to both the children and the parents,” Teck says. “Jun Wei enjoyed his Maths lessons and doing drawing and he also learnt to swim and play the piano and took part in the choir while he was at the school.”

Reaching targets

“In Year Six, Jun Wei achieved good grades thanks to a lot of support from his teacher at the time, which helped him to reach the targets that had been set for him. I think Hillside did well for Jun Wei and gave him a very good preparation for starting secondary school. Now he is in Year Seven at his new school and he is continuing to make good progress there,” Teck says.

Settling in

When Ke Xin joined the nursery at Hillside she settled in well right at the start. Teck says: “She had a good teacher who gave her a lot of support and she achieved good results. She seemed to enjoy learning and liked doing literacy, maths and science.”

Sport and music

“Ke Xin enjoys doing gymnastics and swimming and has played badminton and did skipping after school. She is also learning to play the piano at the school. She has made many friends and is happy to go to school each day,” Teck says. “We are very proud of Ke Xin’s achievements.”

Happy atmosphere

“I would definitely recommend Hillside to other parents because of the caring staff, the good discipline and the friendly environment,” Teck says. “My children have had completely different experiences at the school but they have both been very happy there.”

Children say

Ke Xin says: “I love going to school each day and learning new things and all my teachers have been very kind to me.”



Admissions



Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our school are invited to visit and look around at any time. For Foundation 1 (F1) children, applications should be made directly through the school from the age of two and a half. Children start at Hillside Primary School in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Applications

The Local Authority Admissions Office deals with all new admissions to Hillside Primary School. Contact details for Local Authority Admissions are:

Tel: 0118 974 6143
Email: schooladmissions@wokingham.gov.uk
Web: www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/inyear



Getting involved



PTA

Hillside Primary School has an active Parent Council and a very enthusiastic Parent & Teachers' Association (PTA). We encourage as many parents as possible to get involved, attending events at the school or simply sharing ideas and experiences with us.

Governorship

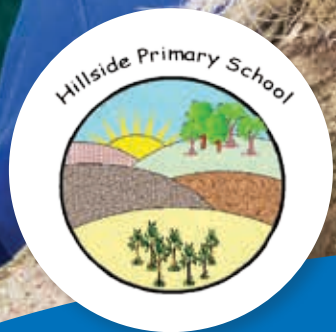
The Governing Body consists of representatives of the Community. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.

Do you want to be a Governor?

If you want to be a school governor, please contact the school office.



How to find us



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