



Ashbourne Hilltop Primary

Hilltop News – 08.06.21

Positive changes at Hilltop

What an exciting time it is here at Hilltop! The first five months of my time here have seen schools face many challenges, but the Hilltop community has come together and shown its strength. It has taken true resilience and determination from pupils, families and staff for us to emerge from such an unsettled and uncertain period with an incredibly positive school that is in a great position to move forwards.

During the last 5 months we have spent valuable time consulting with families, pupils, staff and governors on a range of topics. This information has already fed into our ongoing improvement planning. We have been able to receive valuable feedback on the curriculum, our school aims and vision, wellbeing and behaviour, all from a range of different viewpoints.

As a result of this we have begun planning our next positive steps in improvement. We have already made significant amendments to our school behaviour management system. We have now implemented a simple positive behaviour policy that is based on sound research and designed to encourage long lasting positive behaviour through the use of good relationships and restorative practices. The aim of this policy is to promote positive behaviour for learning, enabling all students to engage in learning, make good academic progress and sustain good relationships with both adults and peers.

The school now has 3 simple rules,

We are ready
We are respectful
We are safe

These rules are displayed prominently in each classroom and are designed to be easily understood by all children. The staff in school will be using this vocabulary a lot to reinforce our very high expectations of behaviour and engagement.

We will be rewarding these positive behaviours using Class Dojo points, as well as using a range of other strategies in the classroom. We are celebrating our “Growth Mindset Champions”, our “Role Models”, a range of positive learning behaviours and all other behaviours that go above and beyond our high expectations in any area of school life.

In addition to this, we have used our detailed and extensive consultation process to support the development of a fantastic new school mission statement, with associated vision, aims and values. Our new vision and values will form the basis of our continual drive for improvement and so having the views of the entire Hilltop Community represented at its core was an important part of the process for us.

We hope to soon be in a position to share our new vision and values with the entire Hilltop community, a prospect that I am really excited about!

I am proud of our pupils, I am proud of our school and I am proud to be part of such a supportive community. Let's end this turbulent year with a flourish of positive energy!

Yours Sincerely
Darren Hooley

School Uniform

Over the next 2 weeks we will be consulting with the Hilltop community to gather views on the current school uniform and how we can improve. We do not plan to make significant changes to the uniform, rather refine what is available and give greater clarity around expectations. As part of this we will be working with pupils, but would appreciate input from families. There is a short questionnaire live now that we will use to feed into our decision making process. If you can, please take the time to complete the survey using the link below. Many thanks!

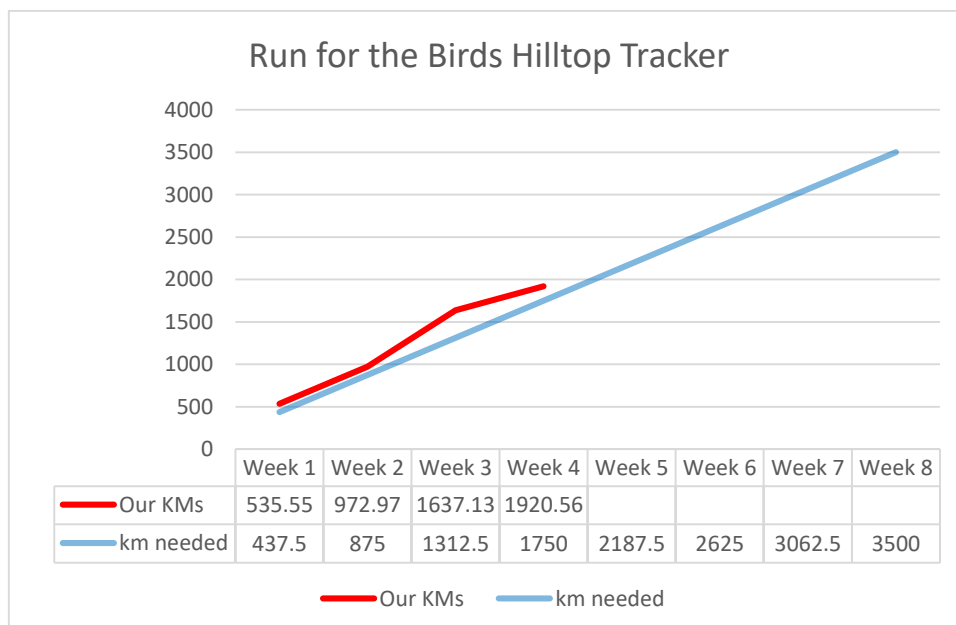
[School Uniform Survey Link](#)

September 2021 and the New School Year

This academic year will soon be drawing to a close and so plans for next year are well underway. Lots of families have been asking about the next academic year and where pupils will be. Our plans are in the process of being finalised and when all plans are confirmed we will communicate with everyone. We are looking forward to offering all children an effective transition program that will enable a smooth movement into the next year.

Run for the Birds!

At the end of week 4 the children have put themselves into a very strong position. We are well on track to reach our target of 3500km by 25th June, despite the rain stalling our progress in the weeks before half term. The chart below shows our progress (red) against our target progress (blue). We have been asked how families can support the challenge and so if you would like to make a donation, we are suggesting £3 can be brought into school and delivered in the classroom. We will combine the funds raised by all classes and use this to help with our entry costs. All funds raised will be going to support the great work of the Peak District as they strive to improve habitats for endangered birds. There is more information on this work shared on our Facebook page.



Bikeability

It was absolutely fabulous to witness our year 6 pupils accessing their Bikeability training sessions before half term. It was amazing to see less confident riders grow as they tackled the challenge and went out on the roads as part of a group. Those that could already ride a bike learned valuable lessons on road safety and how to negotiate different situations on local roads.

The team from Cycle Derby also lent us a wheelchair bicycle for three days and this was a big hit with our wheel chair users.