

You Said  
We Did

## Communication is the Key

**Some families asked for School Photos to be taken before Christmas so they could be used as Christmas gifts.**

*"We hope you liked the photos and we know they will make perfect presents!"*

**Some families said they could not see the pupils during the Christmas Performance last year.**

*"We got a stage for the 'Hillside's Got Talent' performance and The Leavers' Assembly and we will have a stage for future performances."*

**Some families said there were not enough car parking spaces.**

*"We are working to increase the parking area for our families"*

***If you have any other ideas or requests please come along to a Headteacher Surgery, or contact us direct at school via the office.***

## HEADTEACHER INSIGHT

by Michelle Kelly

*What a term it has been!*

*We started work on our new BRAVE (Bespoke, Reflective, Aspirational, Valuable and Engaging!) Curriculum.*

*The Work Related Learning module has been very well received by the pupils. The new Themed Curriculum days have also been a huge success, with us welcoming a Gladiator to school for Italian Day and a member of the local Jewish Community for the festival of Hanukkah!*



## Goodbye Harvey

We were all saddened to receive the news that Harvey, one of our pupils, passed away in October.

Harvey had been at Hillside since 2004. He was a much loved member of the community and the words "soldier" and "fighter" when talking about him are repeatedly used, to describe how he overcame adversity again, again and again. Harvey went on to save 2 lives through organ donation and we are so proud of him.



## New Minibus

Hillside were the grateful recipients of a new Minibus donated to us by 'Variety, The Children's Charity' as part of their Sunshine Coach Scheme. The sponsors were 'The Italian Job', a group of enthusiastic Mini-owners who fundraise for causes such as ours during driving tours in Italy. Our new minibus will provide us with greater access to the community and support our new curriculum that focuses on lifelong learning in the community.



## Mental Health Services Suffolk #averydifferentconversation

As you may be aware, this initiative has been happening across East and West Suffolk since May 2018.

During the past six months, the partnership - Suffolk User Forum, Suffolk Parent Carer Network, Suffolk Family Carers and Healthwatch Suffolk, along with the NHS Ipswich & East Suffolk and NHS West Suffolk clinical commissioning groups, the Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust and Suffolk County Council - has had 4,430 direct contacts with members of the public, received 737 online survey responses and held more than 40 workshop sessions across the county.

Between 29th November and 10th January they will be asking you to give feedback via an online survey at [www.healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk)

They really want to hear your views on their work to date, so they can continue having a #averydifferentconversation to help create a very different future for the people of Suffolk.

## Free School Meal for Your Child and Extra Funding for the School

Some pupils may be entitled to receive Free School Meals. To find out if you qualify and to apply please go to [www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) where you will find more information. Need help? Please contact the school office.

**Did you know**, for all those pupils who have applied and are registered as being entitled to Free School Meals **the school is given additional funding known as 'Pupil Premium Grant' funding**. Pupil Premium is given to schools by the Government to help children from lower income families to do well in school. This additional funding enables the school to provide extra support and resources for learning.

Even if you do not wish for your child to have a school meal, and would prefer to send a packed lunch, or if they have a complete liquid feed, please still apply for Free School Meal status, as the school will receive Pupil Premium funding for all pupils who meet the criteria regardless of whether they actually have school meals or not.

If your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal **however**, if you meet the criteria for Pupil Premium Free School Meals, your child would still get the free school dinner **plus** the school would receive additional funding to help your children so please still apply.

## DROP IN SESSIONS



St Elizabeth Hospice in association with East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) are starting a new family drop-in, for young adults 14 years upwards and their families, across East Anglia. The drop-ins will be once a month on a Saturday afternoon at St Elizabeth Hospice, aiming to provide an introduction to the hospice young adult care service, offer peer support and access to inclusive activities.

For more information please contact Helen - [helen.finlinson@stelizabethhospice.org.uk](mailto:helen.finlinson@stelizabethhospice.org.uk)

## Dates for Your Diaries

### January 2019

Wednesday 2nd - Non-Pupil Day (PD Day)  
 Thursday 3rd - Pupils Return To School  
 Friday 11th - Assembly led by Owl Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm  
 Friday 18th - Assembly led by Kestrel Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm  
 Tuesday 22nd - Family Forum 9:00am to 10:00am  
 Friday 25th - Assembly led by Lark Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm

### February 2019

Friday 1st - Assembly led by Fox Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm  
 Thursday 7th - Headteacher Surgery (please contact us for an appointment)  
 Monday 18th to Friday 22nd - February Half Term Holiday

### March 2019

Tuesday 5th - Themed Day: Shrove Tuesday  
 Friday 8th - Assembly led by Badger Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm  
 Friday 15th - Assembly led by Rabbit Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm  
 Monday 18th - Family Forum 1:30pm to 2:30pm  
 Friday 22nd - Assembly led by Hedgehog Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm  
 Thursday 28th - Themed Day: United States of America (USA)  
 Friday 29th - Assembly led by Vole Class 2.15pm to 2.30pm

### April 2019

Wednesday 3rd - Headteacher Surgery (please contact us for an appointment)  
 Thursday 4th - 'Hillside's Got Talent' 1.30pm to 2.30pm  
 Friday 5th - Last Day of Term



## Parents and Friends Of Hillside

The Parents & Friends of Hillside Special School organisation is a registered charity. By having a child at the school, you automatically become a member. The Parents & Friends organises fundraising and social events. We hope that as many parents and carers as possible will actively support these events, which not only raise money for resources at the school but also provide an excellent way to meet new friends for companionship and mutual support.

Through the work of The Parents & Friends, the school has benefited from:

- A hydrotherapy pool
- A minibus
- Outside play equipment
- Many other items that enrich the teaching and learning environment

If you would like to be more actively involved in the planning of events, and joining the committee when they meet, please contact the school office and someone from The Parents and Friends will get back to you.