

SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER



Issue 4

April 2025

Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter, packed with exciting news, updates, and celebrations from across the school! We are delighted to share with you all the wonderful things our learners have been achieving, from sporting triumphs and creative endeavours to fascinating learning journeys and projects.

HILL VIEW SCHOOL
WWW.HILLVIEWSCHOOL.CO.UK

THE PTA NEEDS YOU
JOIN TODAY

Open Positions :
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
TREASURER
CHAIR
SECRETARY

Express interest now

ptfa@hv.oak.education

Be the best you.
Build the best us.

The poster features the Hill View School logo at the top left. Below it, the text 'THE PTA NEEDS YOU JOIN TODAY' is prominently displayed. To the right of this text are three small icons: a group of people, a person with a star, and a lightbulb. Below the icons, the 'Open Positions' are listed. A call to action 'Express interest now' is in a white box, and the email address 'ptfa@hv.oak.education' is at the bottom. A small slogan 'Be the best you. Build the best us.' is in the bottom right corner.

JOIN OUR TEAM

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

IT'S GOOD FOR THE SCHOOL

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR KIDS

Research has shown that children whose parents are involved in their school get better results and have fewer issues.

You will play an important role in advocating for our Hill View community, encouraging collaboration & making connections and create positive climate, culture and change.

You'll be in the know, give input and meet like-minded families. Whether you want to organise, help out or chip in when available, you can utilise your skills and likely develop new ones.

Express interest now

Our Email: PTFA@hv.oak.education

The poster has a central banner that says 'JOIN OUR TEAM'. Below the banner are three boxes, each with a benefit: 'IT'S GOOD FOR YOU', 'IT'S GOOD FOR THE SCHOOL', and 'IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR KIDS'. The 'IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR KIDS' box contains a paragraph of text. To the right is a megaphone icon with the school logo. At the bottom left, there is a call to action 'Express interest now' and the email address 'Our Email: PTFA@hv.oak.education'.

DO HEROIC THINGS FOR HILL VIEW

1 Join the PTA

2 Donate

Any amount you can give helps our school and learners

HELP OUT NOW

3 Volunteer

There is lots to do together. Even an hour of time can make a difference

Express interest now

Our Email: PTFA@hv.oak.education

The poster has a yellow background with a grid pattern. At the top is the title 'DO HEROIC THINGS FOR HILL VIEW'. Below it are three numbered items: '1 Join the PTA', '2 Donate' (with a sub-point 'Any amount you can give helps our school and learners'), and '3 Volunteer' (with a sub-point 'There is lots to do together. Even an hour of time can make a difference'). To the left of the 'HELP OUT NOW' text is a thumbs-up icon. At the bottom left is a call to action 'Express interest now' and the email address 'Our Email: PTFA@hv.oak.education'.

A message from the HeadTeacher

A Spring in Our Step and Exciting Times Ahead!

Welcome back to our latest school newsletter! It's certainly been a busy term, buzzing with learning and lots of exciting activities across the school.

We understand that some families have been concerned about the progress of the planned site modifications, and we want to assure you that this remains a high priority for us. As mentioned in previous communications, we are working diligently with the Department for Education and the Local Authority to move these projects forward. A significant portion of this process involves securing sign-off and agreements from various stakeholders, which unfortunately can take time and is often outside of the school and Trust's direct control.

However, we have some fantastic news to share! We are delighted to announce that a substantial amount of work, totalling over £400,000, has now been signed off by the DfE. This includes much-needed improvements to our fencing and the installation of a brand new, more robust sliding gate for the main entrance. We're pleased to say that work on the main gate and fencing will commence over the Easter holidays and is scheduled to be completed during the May half-term break. You can see a sneak peek of our new sliding gate below – we're confident it will serve us well and be much better equipped to handle our blustery weather!

Looking ahead to after Easter, we are thrilled to be welcoming three new Teachers and five new Teaching Assistants to our wonderful team. We know that three of our new TAs are already familiar faces to some of our learners, which will make for a smooth and happy transition.

Our planning for the new academic year in September is also well underway, and we're excited to be preparing for our new intake of learners. This planning will involve careful consideration of class lists and staffing for all our current classes. We understand the importance of this information for our families and are committed to releasing these details to all stakeholders in July. We are aware that some families have expressed understandable anxieties regarding potential growth in September. To clarify, we currently have a maximum of 17 spaces available for learners across various year groups. It's important to note that this doesn't automatically mean we will be welcoming 17 new learners in September, but rather that we have the capacity to grow our learner numbers gradually throughout the Autumn Term and into the new year.

Finally, we're making significant progress in enhancing our outdoor learning environment. We have invited quotes from several specialist companies to provide much-needed outdoor play equipment and engaging floor markings. We recognise that these essential resources were not part of the original school build and are incredibly important for the development and enjoyment of all our learners. While such equipment comes at a significant cost, we are actively working to secure capital funding to begin this exciting project in readiness for September. We will, of course, share the finalised plans with you as soon as they are confirmed. See below some design ideas we have been working on.

We would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to Morrisons, Aldi, Bookers, and Imperial Fire and Security for their incredibly generous donations of an Easter egg for each of our learners! As you can imagine, there has been much excitement and anticipation amongst the children about this wonderful treat.

In the meantime, we wish you all a truly wonderful and restful Easter break filled with joy and sunshine! We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half-term.

Stu Lambert



Sunny Hill Class

What a fabulous half term in Sunny Hill! We have been learning all about the history of English during our Literacy sessions, including learning some words in other languages which has been really fun! In Maths it has been all about addition and subtraction, with some very, very big numbers... In Science we have been exploring animal adaptations, experimenting by making our own Whale blubber and beaks. Life for the Anglo-Saxons has been the focus in Our World- looking at online 3D models of the Sutton Hoo site was a highlight! We have talked about our dreams and goals in PSHE, including what we think the future of the World of work might look like. Cooking has been more and more adventurous- with some of us trying some foods for the first time. Art and LTNA sessions have seen us getting messy and PE has seen us become basketball pros- even beating Teresa on occasions! There have been some very exciting visitors this half term and we have really enjoyed the Science Lab sessions and the bike vet in particular!

There have been many examples this half term of us all being super supportive and thoughtful friends to each other. Our curiosity about what we can do to help each other succeed and our willingness to understand other's points of view and feelings are things that we as class staff are extremely proud of Sunny Hill for and perhaps are our biggest achievements!



Ham Hill Class

Ham had a class water fight which was joined with a learner from another class. Staff also got involved and we used water balloons and water pistols to enjoy the experience. We had a lot of fun!

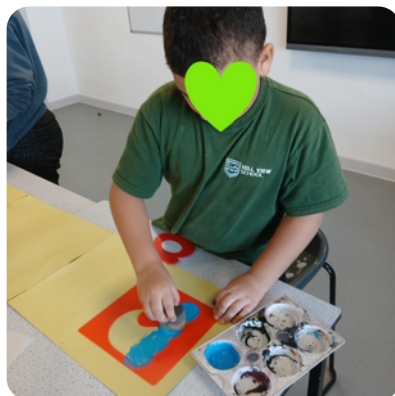
Ham have made good progress with their English work, reading *The Bear and the Piano*. We have looked at nouns, adjectives, verbs and predications throughout this topic. Learners in Ham, Myla and Morgan, have set up their own 'kitchen' which involves them serving food to the older learners in school. They practice their cooking skills, teamwork and understanding of money.

In PE Harrison has shown great resilience in basketball. He has practiced his skills with the teacher and has shown great improvement. Harrison has also shown amazing understanding of the school's therapy dog 'Gus' in which they both practiced phonics, Gus reading his commands!

Ham really enjoyed their dance sessions, choosing their own music and practicing their moves as a team. A dance squad may be on the horizon.

Morgan has been amazing in accepting his lessons, often completing multiple sheets a day of maths and phonics! He also has started his life skills sessions of washing the school van and school windows.

In PSHE we have been looking at what makes a good friend and how we can act like a good friend. We have also been looking at what we think the schools needs and what we love about Hill View.



Stone Hill Class

Stone Hill learners have done lots of reading this term, engrossing themselves in books and practicing our voice acting story reading skills!

Maths has been all about money! We have learnt the important skills of subtracting and adding money. In literacy we have played lots of games to secure our understanding of letter formations, phonics and spellings!

We had a special guest, The Bike Vet, who our learners thoroughly engaged with. Our learners dived into the world of bike mechanics and were fantastic participants, asking questions whilst being respectful and kind to our visitor.

We have particularly enjoyed the beginning to warm days, where we have been able to sit outside and read, watch RC cars be driven speedily around the MUGA and play football outside in the sunshine, building relationships with learners across the school. There are so many options to cater to all of our class' different but wonderful interests!



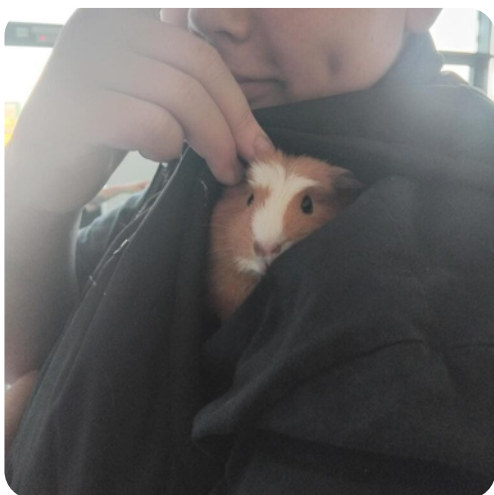
Burrow Hill Class

Burrow Hill have had a fantastic term! We have been so proud of how all of our learners have made such an effort to build strong friendships within class and the wider school community.

As the weather has given us a few days of sunshine, we have been able to get outside on the field to play football, spend time with the chickens and our small animals. They have been role models in showing others how to care for them all.

In class, we have looked at Frankenstein and how Frankenstein's monster handled his anger and the consequences that followed. We then looked at Shaun Tan's incredible story, 'The Lost Thing'. We have enjoyed an animation and creating our own lost things through art and non-fiction writing. Maths we have focused on securing our understanding of number and our formal written method for multiplication, moving on to multiplying decimals. As a class, I have been so proud of that attitude and maturity of learners around the topic of the Holocaust, they were empathetic and had great discussion between them all.

Our hubs have enjoyed looking at place value, formal written methods for the four operations and descriptive writing around a topic of interest. We have enjoyed LTNA, art and PE with our specialist teachers, even taking part in football tournaments where our learners were an asset to the school. Some have taken part in a Lightyear Lab STEM project which they thoroughly enjoyed.

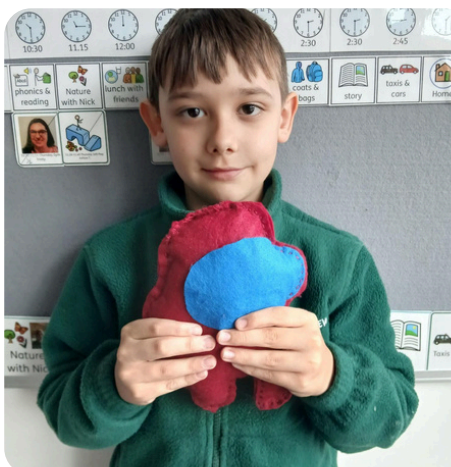


Creative Arts @ Hill View School

Using our grant from The Jerusalem Foundation, students have been creating Easter Bonnets that they have been able to take home.

It has been an exciting half term in Art, with lots of creativity from students across the school. We are beginning to build up lots of artwork that we are displaying in the Art room, and some which has been sent home with students as well. We are looking forward to developing the curriculum further over the next few weeks and months, linking with external professionals such as Luke from Teapot Creative to design and make a large mural and starting to use our 3D printer!

Each class has been undertaking projects this half term based around a particular designer or artist, researching their methods and reviewing what they have produced before working on developing their own version of the artist's work. For example, in Sunny Hill students have been introduced to an artist who makes dioramas. They have had a go at creating a diorama using a step-by-step method, before creating their own using images of their choice (with a surrealist style). In Herne Hill, students have been making their own felt toys, looking at designs, deciding on colours and styles, cutting out their shapes and sewing their toys together before finally stuffing them to make a 3D object.



**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

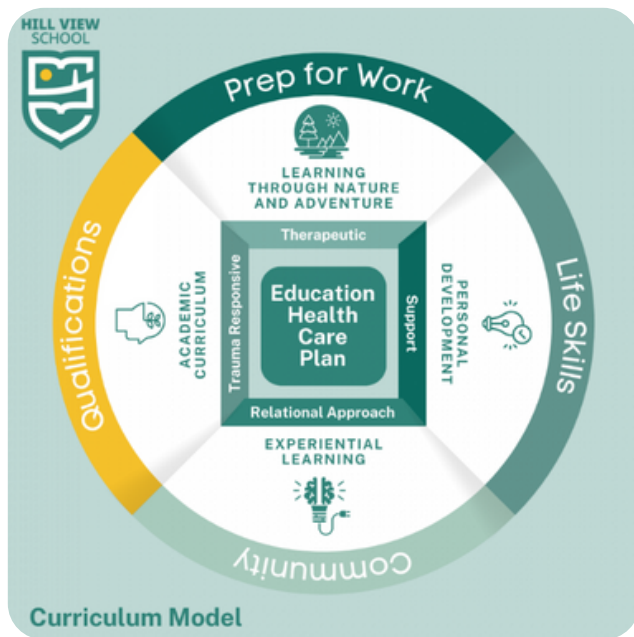
Learning Through Nature & Adventure

This has been a bright and busy term for the LTNA team. The coming of Spring has given us the opportunity to do lots of planting all over our new site. This has included the start of a school orchard, with apple, plum, cherry and pear trees and the building of a new allotment and herb garden, funded in part by a grant from the Somerset Gardens Trust. We have also made some excellent progress with the development of our Primary and Secondary Forest School areas, with the creation of living willow hedges and shelters in both sites to help demarcate the sites and provide shelter that will (hopefully) soon be in full bloom. Our primary site has also seen the addition of a new fire pit and wildlife pond, both built by our learners.

Our class learning opportunities have been exciting and varied, with outdoor cooking, charcoal making, gardening, whittling, woodwork projects and site design all helping to expand our skill base and to foster a sense of pride in our developing school environment. The summer term offers even more opportunities to get outside and enjoy the opportunity to enjoy learning beyond the walls of the classroom. We have big plans for further additions and improvements to our learning environments so watch this space!



Career-related learning at Hill View School



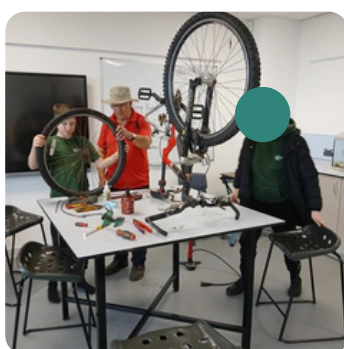
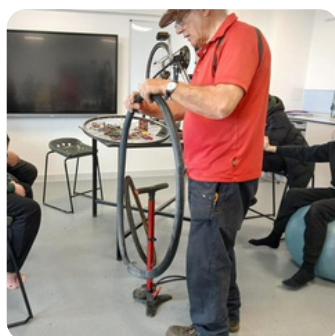
At Hill View School we are committed to equipping our students with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to thrive in their future endeavours outside of school. This is shown in our curriculum model, whereby preparation for work, life skills and experiential learning run alongside our commitment to providing access to qualifications that will open an array of post-16 opportunities for our students.

We are currently developing out career-related learning programme to encompass diverse experiences designed to inspire and inform students as they progress through the school. As part of this we have started inviting guests from different backgrounds and career pathways into school to meet with and talk to our students, as well as provide hands-on experiences within their sectors.

The Bike Vet @ Hill View School

On Friday 21st March we invited Graham, the owner of a local bike repair business ('Bike-Vet') into Hill View. He spent the day with a range of students teaching them basic bike maintenance including how to change an inner tube and adjusting the saddle of a bike. Students really enjoyed their time with Graham, enthusiastically learning practical skills with an excellent and very skilled teacher. All students who attended received a certificate of participation and were able to ask Graham about bike maintenance and his business.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from both students and Graham highlighted the day's success and students' enthusiasm. We extend our gratitude to Graham for generously donating his time to the school and our students. His visit not only equipped them with essential life skills but also inspired potential career interests in the bicycle maintenance sector.



Hill View World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March, students at Hill View enthusiastically participated in World Book Day, joining schools nationwide in celebrating the joy of reading. We were supported by Next Stage Somerset, a charity working to help people make the best of their futures within Somerset, to invite in local businesses as 'story-tellers' to help celebrate the day.



Our first visitor was Luke, Head of Creative at Teapot Creative. He was part of the team who designed and developed the Hill View School branding, logo and visuals, so it was really exciting for us to have him on site to talk to about this. Luke read stories to students and then spent time talking to them about his career and his love of art; students really enjoyed hearing about where creativity and imagination could take them outside of the school building. Luke said of his visit: 'I can't begin to describe the joy of seeing something I created on (students') jumpers. I haven't stopped smiling ... listening to the children read my favourite books and finding ways to connect with them through our shared love of anime and colouring were some of the most rewarding things I have ever done'.



Our second visitor was Victoria, a Business Manager from NatWest Bank. She read stories with a money theme and did some hands-on learning with some of our students, including using fake money to calculate change and talk about spending. With other students Victoria discussed what a bank is and the different types of account, as well as what her job entailed and how she ended up in the world of banking.

We also welcomed in two local Policy Community Support Officers Mandy and Georgia, who read stories linked to staying safe and the police. They then talked to students about their uniforms, explaining what each part was for, and their roles as PCSOs in comparison to Police Officers. Students asked lots of questions to find out more and really enjoyed hearing the stories that PCSO Mandy read to them.



Each of our visitors expressed their enjoyment of the day working with our young people, and have said that they would love to return to provide more career-related activities for our students – so watch this space!

As part of World Book Day, we also held a writing competition for all learners. We were so impressed with the submissions that were made to us, and have awarded prizes to Alfie, Alisha and Bella for their fantastic short stories. These students received a certificate and were awarded a book of their choice as their prize. We were particularly impressed with Zena's submission, and have submitted it to The Oak Partnership Trust as our Hill View School top entry to their writing competition – well done Zena!

Career-related learning at Hill View – Continued

Lightyear lab KS3 STEM workshops

Six of our KS3 students have been taking part in 4x 1 hour online STEM workshops over the past month. The Lightyear Foundation is a charity focussed on breaking down barriers to disabled and neurodivergent children and young people taking part in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). They offer fully funded workshops for small groups of students which promote experimentation and discovery whilst developing critical thinking, decision-making and problem-solving skills, and we are lucky enough to have been selected as one of the schools that they can work with. Each session has been led by a neurodiverse scientist Hannah via Zoom, with support from our staff at Hill View School. The students have enjoyed learning about being electrical, mechanical, marine and structural engineers, looking at the application of their knowledge in a wider context whilst also having fun experimenting!

Future events

As we move towards the summer term, we are looking forward to a number of other career-related learning experiences which we already have scheduled in our calendar. These initiatives aim to provide our students with practical skills and insights into various professions, enhancing their educational journey.

VR welding workshop – thanks to funding from the Somerset 14-19 Partnership, on 22nd April, groups of our older students will participate in a Virtual Reality (VR) welding workshop, offering cutting-edge experience in the field of manufacturing and engineering. This immersive session will allow students to explore welding techniques in a safe and controlled virtual environment, sparking interest in technical careers and highlighting the importance of skilled trades. If your child is scheduled to be involved in this workshop, you will receive an email prior to the Easter break.

NHS Teddy hospital – on 30th April we have invited in Mark, our local NHS schools outreach officer, to the school to run a 'teddy hospital'. Aimed primarily at our younger students, small groups of students will meet with Mark in the library to find out more about working in the NHS. They will also be introduced to his teddies who all have various ailments including broken limbs, and one who has a stoma. Students will be able to have a go at bandaging and using a stethoscope whilst exploring different career pathways with Mark in a very interactive and hands-on workshop. If your child is scheduled to be involved in this workshop you will be emailed prior to the event.



Community Events



Morrisons Donation

In March two of our Secondary learners represented the school at a visit to Morrisons in Yeovil. They met with Kirsty, the 'Morrisons community champion' and picked up a donation of 10 easter eggs from the store. We are immensely proud of our learners for being so polite and for proving to be wonderful role models for our school. We also thank Morrisons for this fantastic donation!

Tesco link – we have met with Jan, the Community Champion at Tesco Yeovil, who is planning on coming into Hill View this summer to make fruit kebabs with groups of students. She will also bring in some unusual fruits for students to try. Jan is also working with us to put in a bid to be part of the blue token scheme in Tesco stores across Yeovil – watch this space for more information!

Young Somerset – Bold and Brave café and gift shop – on 22nd May we have invited in Young Somerset to talk to our Year 9 students about the Supported Internships that they offer through their 'Bold and Brave' venture in Taunton, in partnership with Somerset Skills and Learning (SS&L) (Supported Internships 2024 | Young Somerset). Supported internships are a work-based educational course that present a great opportunity to improve the life chances of young people with SEND, supporting them to obtain the necessary skills to progress onto sustained, paid employment. The Bold & Brave shop is a community hub which works closely with young people, giving them an opportunity to research, design, ethically produce, showcase and sell their own quality products. As part of this, the group also runs the café at Taunton library, serving reasonably priced refreshments.

**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**





FREE

Activity DAY PASSES



**Somerset
Council**

**Community Inclusion
and Activity Team**

Available all year round for ALL families in Somerset with a child or young person with a disability or additional need



HESTERCOMBE
where creative ideas grow

www.hestercombe.com
Hestercombe Road,
Taunton TA2 8LG

FAMILY PASS
2 adults, 5 children



www.puxton.co.uk
Cowslip Lane, Hewish,
BS24 6AH

Tickets are at the reduced cost of £4 per person with a maximum of 5 people. Please email the CIA Team to book tickets,



www.courtfarmcountrypark.co.uk
Court Farm Country Park
Wolvershill Road, Banwell,
BS29 6DL

FAMILY PASS
2 adults, 2 children



www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk
Swannery & Subtropical Gardens
Church Street, Abbotsbury,
Dorset, DT3 4JJ

FAMILY PASS
2 adults, 3 children



www.noahsarkzoofarm.co.uk
Clevedon Road, Wraxall,
Bristol, BS48 1PG

FAMILY PASS
2 adults, 2 children
Please Note: the park is NOT normally open on Sundays



Bringing Conservation to Life

www.wildplace.org.uk
Junction 17, M5 Cribbs
Causeway, BS10 7TP

FAMILY PASS
2 adults, 3 children



FERNE
ANIMAL SANCTUARY

www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org
Wambrook, Chard, TA20 3DH

FAMILY PASS
2 adults, 3 children

How does it work?

1. Choose a place to visit
2. Choose a date
3. Email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk with your child's name, disability, which pass you would like and on what date
4. We will check our diary & if it's free, we will take some details & book you in

Other great deals and discounts you may be interested in...

Max Card

For children and young people aged 0-25 years with a disability or additional need. A **FREE** card for Somerset families which gives access to many discounts and concessionary rates at attractions across the UK. Cards are only available via the Community Inclusion & Activity Team. email: ciateam@somerset.gov.uk All info about places signed up to the Max Card can be found at: www.mymaxcard.co.uk They also have information on: Facebook [mymaxcard](#) Twitter [@mymaxcard](#)



CEA CARD

A national scheme for UK cinemas. The card enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a **FREE** ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema. Participating cinemas also need to ensure they make reasonable adjustments for disabled guests using their cinema. The card costs £6 and is valid for 1 year from the date of purchase. The card can be used by people aged 8 and over. For more information visit: www.ceacard.co.uk



Changing Places

These are accessible toilet facilities which include a height adjustable changing bed, hoist and wheelchair accessible toilet. We are working hard to get more places to register their facilities, please visit the National Changing Places website for more information. www.changing-places.org



Changing Places

Important Information

- | Passes are available on a first come, first served basis.
Please note you may not get your first choice
- | Please give us 5 working days to process your request
- | The carer will need to take proof of the child's disability as they may need to show this to the venue
- | We are only able to offer 1 pass per young person per week

* Information is correct at time of print, please visit website to find details of most up to date prices.