HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rushey Way
Lower Earley, Reading
Berkshire RG6 4HQ

Headteacher: Mr D.Pearman

25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5,

We are delighted to be writing to you about an exciting project for Hillside School. We have joined up with some of the other schools in the Orchard Learning Alliance to take part in the OLA Challenge. This joint enterprise is a fantastic way for us to collaborate with other schools, but more importantly it is a great opportunity for your child.

Through the OLA Challenge pupils will be able to try new things and develop their character. The challenges fall into the following categories:

'Our Community'
'Our Skills'
'Our Health'
'Our Environment'

Within each section there is a range of tasks for pupils to complete. Once completed they can get these signed off by a Year 5 teacher on Friday's in order to achieve milestones. These are as follows:

- If a pupil completes 8 tasks they will receive a Bronze award, given by their class teacher
- If a pupil completes 16 tasks they will receive a Silver award, given by the Head Teacher
- If a pupil completes 20 tasks they will receive a Gold award, which will be awarded to them in an award ceremony hosted by Waingels School in May/June.

Through these goals we want to support pupils with their personal development. These goals value the whole child and develop key life skills, which will one day lead to them being an active citizen. They are designed to be achievable, but also to develop their skills and confidence. Whilst we encourage parents and carers to support their child in completing some of the tasks, we want the children to complete each task for themselves. There will also be opportunities in lessons to complete some of the tasks outlined.

In order to get tasks signed off by the classroom teacher we will ask the pupils to bring evidence (paper copies or digital on their Teams account) to show the teacher on Friday mornings so that your evidence can be reviewed.

Evidence may include photographs, certificates, posters, written notes eg thank you card, reflections etc.

Some tasks will be completed in school and therefore the teacher will tick off challenges relating to group activities.

Where there is a symbol over a task these will be ‘unlocked’ in the spring/summer term when content around this is covered in the personal development curriculum.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of the amazing things that your child will get involved in this year. We will launch this on Friday 25th September to the pupils so we would encourage you to talk to them when they get home about this.

If you have any questions about the OLA Challenge please contact Year 5 teachers.

Kind Regards

Mrs L Yarrow & Miss Hart
Year 5 Teachers