



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 10th May 2024

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Bank Holiday weekend last week and are looking forward to the lovely weather we are due this weekend. As always, we have had lots of fantastic learning taking place across the whole school with the children all enjoying their Summer 1 topics. Our next Open classrooms are 20-23rd May- we hope to see you there!

Thank you to those parents who attended our THRIVE parent workshop earlier this week. For those of you who were unable to attend, the presentation slides are available on the school website.

Next week is KS2 SAT's week. We know that despite the reassurance from staff, this is a worrying and anxious time for the children and we want them to feel as relaxed as possible about these tests. The children have already sat a number of practise SATs so have a good understanding of the format of them. It is imperative that year 6 children arrive on time next week so that the tests can be administered as smoothly as possible. We offer all Year 6 children a breakfast before school and we encourage all families to take this up. Good luck to all the children involved next week- you have worked so hard this year and next week is an opportunity to showcase what you know!

As a school we have an open-door policy and encourage parents to speak to us regarding matters that concern them, whether that be via phone / email or face to face. Below is a link to our annual parent survey. We encourage all parents to complete this as we value your opinions and feedback. The survey will be live until 12pm on Friday 17th May.

<https://forms.gle/bXekXRP6sUm3vJZR6>

Finally, I would like to apologise again for those parents who have had difficulty contacting the school office over the past weeks / months. On occasions, problems with the service has meant that we have been unable to hear callers- we understand how frustrating this can be. We have raised this within the Trust and to our service provider and ongoing support is being put in to try and rectify the problem.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Miss Summers

Key Dates:

Open Classrooms- 20th-23rd May- please see Key Dates calendar for dates and times

Class Photos- Wednesday 22nd May- ALL children to wear full school uniform

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzggw2qdmfvcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>



A message from Mrs Pearson.

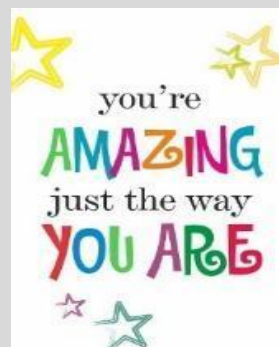
Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week. Hillcroft will be celebrating this as a whole school.

What is Mental Health?

Mental Health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions, and our moods. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Every May, we bring together communities across the UK to improve public understanding of mental health and share advice on some of the things that can help prevent poor mental health. The theme for Mental Health Awareness Week this year is "Movement". During the week, the children will do movement through their PE lesson and as a whole class activity they will design a poster for Mental Health and show different types of movements you can do to help.

Over the years we have celebrated Mental Health with the children so that they fully understand that even though they may have a problem there is always someone out there waiting to help. In 2023 it was Anxiety, 2022 was loneliness, 2021 was nurture, 2020 was kindness and in 2019 was body image. All these emotions and feelings are all linked in with our Mental Health. If you would like to know more about this topic, then please go onto the link.

<https://mentalhealth-uk.org/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-days/>



Date to remember!

Our next Thrive workshop will start in the Summer Term. We are looking at running this on a Tuesday Night starting on 4th June to 9th July. If you would like to book a space, please email me as they will go very quickly. D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org

A Reading Community

This week, Mrs Jaitly, a Year 1 teacher, shares her recommendations:

EYFS

The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammed

It's Faizah's first day of school, and her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab – made of a beautiful blue fabric. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. This is a story about new experiences and two sisters who love each other very much.

KS1

Ossiri and the Bala Mengro by Katharine Quarmby

A Traveller girl creates her own musical instrument from a willow branch and lots of recycled objects. She plays it enthusiastically, but it sounds terrible! Ignoring warnings not to awaken the ogre in the hills, Ossiri goes there to practise playing her instrument. Will she wake the ogre, and will it appreciate her playing?

LKS2

The Minute Minders by Mary Murphy

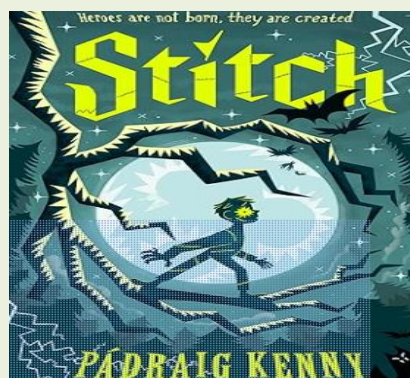
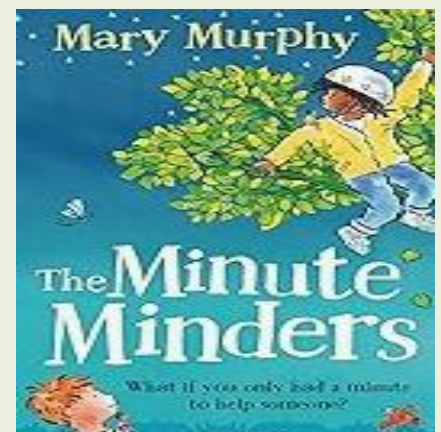
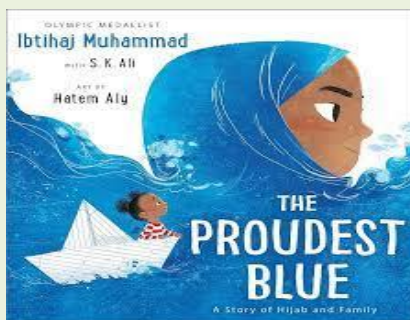
Stevie Clipper and his Dad are Fidders which are tiny people. It is their job to help humans. The rule is that they cannot be seen by humans. However Stevie isn't very good at remembering the rules..... A funny book.

UKS2

Stitch by Padraig Kenny

Stitch is not a monster – he's a creation.

He and his friend Henry Oaf were brought to life by the genius Professor Hardacre, and have spent all their days in a castle deep in the woods, far from humankind. But when the Professor dies and his pompous nephew comes to take over the laboratory, they soon find out that his sights are set not on scientific discovery, but personal glory. And Henry is his next experiment.



Our Children's Talents and Interests



Lyra Latham Year 4 - Did a fabulous job of planting 64 new plants in our garden last weekend. She prepared and planted each one (which took two days!) and has been studiously checking and watering them ever since.



Liliwen Year 1-Over Easter Liliwen learnt two new skills: French knitting and Technical drawing. Both required very precise work, attention and practice. Well done Liliwen!



Lucas Year 4 - Achieved his Brown belt in Karate at the weekend after lots of hard work and practice learning both a kata and nun-chuck routine!

Well Done Lucas!



Stanley Year 1 - Got a medal from Rugby for training with them all season. Keep up the good work!



Daisy Year 1 - Got a medal from Rugby for training with them all season. Keep up the good work!



Laila, Abbie and Amelia - Year 4 had their 1st ever football tournament on Sunday, they played amazingly. The team came 2nd in the tournament and got a medal and trophy.

Well done Girls!

Our Children's Talents and Interests



Ruby Year 5 - Played in her first football tournament at the weekend. She played in goal and up front. Well Done!



Louie Year 2 - has earned 5 Beaver badges this term including 'Cycling', 'Building' and 'Personal Challenge' Keep up the good work!



Neve Year 5 - has gained 6 certificates in gymnastics throughout the term across 6 of the disciplines.



Lilly Year 2 - has made homemade jam and crumbles from fruits she has grown in the garden. Well done Lilly!

Attendance Notice

A reminder to parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers in school to hear children read or support on school trips. If you are able to offer any support, however big or small- please email Mrs Page on a.page@hillcroftschoo.org. Your time and support is really appreciated.