

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

September 27th 2024



Dear Parents & Carers,

The first weeks of school are flying by with the summer holiday feeling like a distant memory! Children across the school are settling into their classes and the corridors are buzzing with the sound of learning (or perhaps that's Year 6 building circuits in their science lessons!)

In this fortnight's newsletter you will find updates from Phase Leaders about what has been happening in each key stage as well as reminders about key dates and useful information.

Mrs Pearson and the Thrive team are running family workshops this term. Please go to the end of the newsletter for more information.

Key Dates:

Please click in the link below to access our key dates document. This is updated throughout the year and we encourage you all to check it regularly to ensure you have up to date information about the key events happening in school.

[Key Dates Document](#)



Virtual Early Reading Workshop



On Thursday 3rd October at 9:15am, we will be running a virtual parent workshop. This is an opportunity for you to hear from our Reading Lead, Mrs Gear, who will talk to you about how Early Reading is taught at Hillcroft and what you can do to support you children on their reading journey.

Mrs Gear will introduce our RWInc Phonics Scheme and answer any questions you have about early reading. This virtual workshop is open for all our families, but we find it is most useful for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

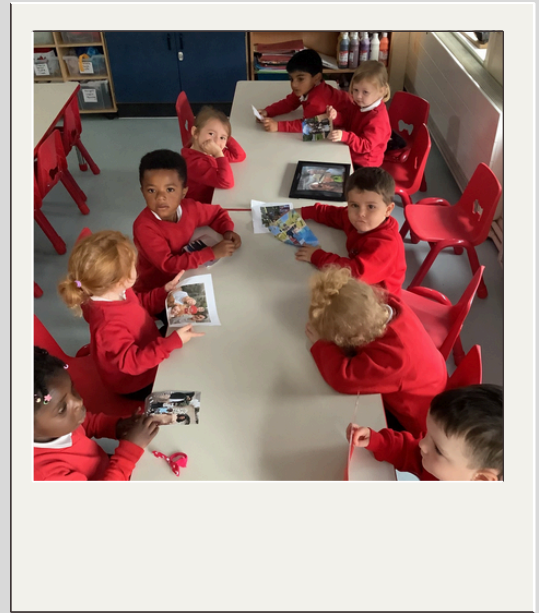


If you are accessing the meeting from a mobile phone you will need to download the Microsoft Teams App.

[Meeting Link](#)

Early Years

In Nursery we have been learning about ourselves and our families. We enjoyed sharing our family photos with our friends and discussing what is the 'same' and 'different' about our families.



In Reception, children have had their first PE lesson this week. They had lots of fun exploring the hall and using different movements.

KS1

Year 1 went on an Autumn walk. They explored their surroundings and looked at how things are changing with the season.

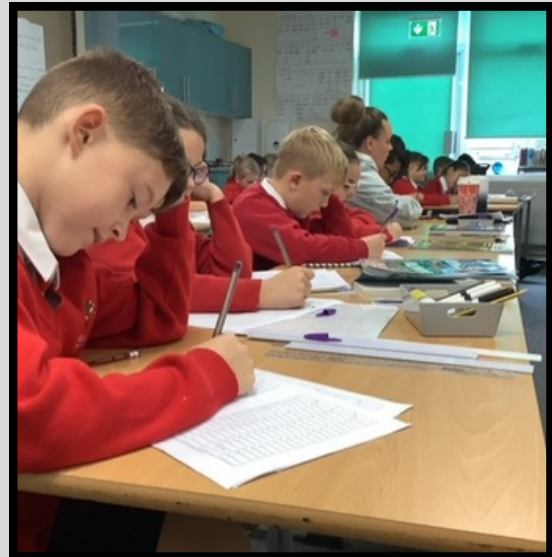
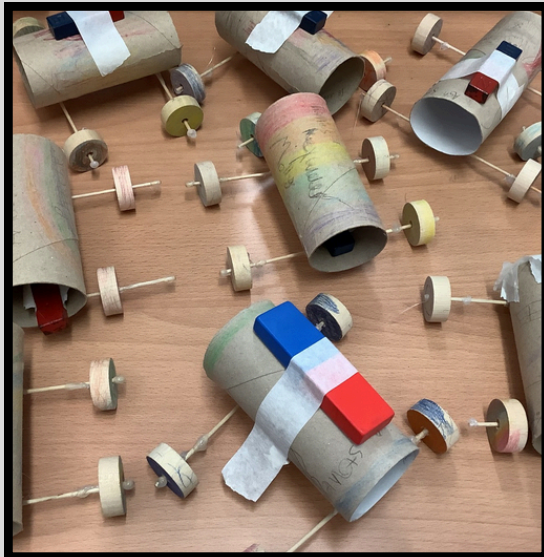
Year 2 have started investigating what type of materials are best to use for a waterproof coat in Wider Curriculum. They carried out an experiment to see which materials would be waterproof.



LKS2

Year 3 have been making wheel and axle prototypes, to inform their design of a magnet powered car!

Year 4 have been focusing on their Times Tables and setting some great scores on TT Rockstars. Speak to your child's class teacher if they need a login.



UKS2

Year 5 are reading Shackleton's Journey as part of our new CUSP Reading curriculum. This beautifully illustrated book tells of Ernest Shackleton's incredible expedition as he attempted to cross Antarctica.

Year 6 have started investigating different ways to collect litter in preparation for when we start making our Vacuum cleaners. We had a lot of fun throwing rubbish all over the floor in our classrooms and then using litter pickers and dustpan and brushes to pick it up!



Online Safety

At Hillcroft, we are committed to ensuring children stay safe online. Children are taught about online safety through our Life Skills and Computing curriculum. Parents and carers can play a big part in helping their children to be empowered and safer online. Here are some top tips that can support your child to be safer online.

1. Explore together. Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
2. Chat little and often about online safety. If you're introducing them to new websites and apps, talk to them about how to stay safe on these services and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them whilst online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
3. Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried. This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
4. Be non-judgemental. Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
5. Supervise their online activity. Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult is able to supervise. Children of this age should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.
6. Talk about how their online actions affect others. If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
7. Use 'SafeSearch'. Most search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, allowing you to limit the content your child can access online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, often shaped like a small cog.
8. Parental controls. Use the parental controls available on your home broadband and all internet enabled devices in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

A message from Mrs Pearson

WOW! I cannot believe the summer holidays are over and we have been back in school for a few weeks all ready. I would like to welcome all our parents and carers. So far, we have started whole-class Thrive with teachers supporting emotional development in class. Some children have started coming out for small groups and/or 1:1 sessions with Miss McNeill, Mrs Painter and myself. We are looking forward to working alongside the children as well as the adults.

If you feel your child would benefit from seeing our Thrive Team, please get in touch with Miss McNeill / Mrs Painter (KS1) or Mrs Pearson (KS2) at:

D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org

S.Mcneill@hillcroftschoo.org

D.Painter@hillcroftschoo.org

Hillcroft are very lucky to have a Thrive Team that grows every year. They are:

Nursery ~Mrs Cooper-Beirne and Mrs Mitchell

Reception~ Miss Matthews

KS1 ~ Miss McNeill and Mrs Painter

KS2 ~ Mrs Pearson (Lead Thrive Practitioner)

Mrs Copard (Family Link Worker & Family Thrive Practitioner)

Miss Summers (Head)

Miss Harborne & Miss Mayhew (Teachers)

This term we are welcoming the children back in true Thrive style; an emphasis on emotions/feelings and making sure children feel safe and secure in school. Over the next few weeks all the children at Hillcroft will be able to talk more freely about how they are feeling and why everyone is special.

Also, if during the summer holidays, you took some amazing photos of your family making memories, please send them to me for our wonderful display. The children love walking up to the dinner hall and looking at the display.

Important news

We are also running a Family Thrive Workshop in November. This will run for 6 weeks starting on Monday 4th November to Monday 9th December.

Times will be 5:30pm – 7:00pm. If you are interested in coming, please email

D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org or t.copard1@gfschools.org

HILLCROFT NUT SAFETY STATEMENT

Hillcroft school has a NO NUTS policy to protect the health and wellbeing of staff members, children and volunteers who suffer with nut allergies.

Many nut allergies are serious and so we ask that both staff and child lunches and snacks do not contain nuts of any kind and that products with nuts in the ingredients are not used. This includes items like peanut butter, Nutella spread and snacks, certain cakes and cereal bars among others.



Please always check the ingredients of a food if you are unsure before sending it in with your child. Any nut products found in snacks or lunches will be confiscated and will be unable to be consumed. The school office should be informed immediately if a child has an allergy to nuts.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



In October we celebrate Black History Month, focusing on some of the key figures and moments from the Civil Rights movement both in Britain and abroad. We will be introducing this with an assembly, and there will be themes running through our life skills lessons.

Towards the end of the half term, every year group will have the opportunity to watch a film or TV series bringing to life some of the issues which we will then be examining in class. Hopefully this will then feed into discussions both at home and in school around racism and equality.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

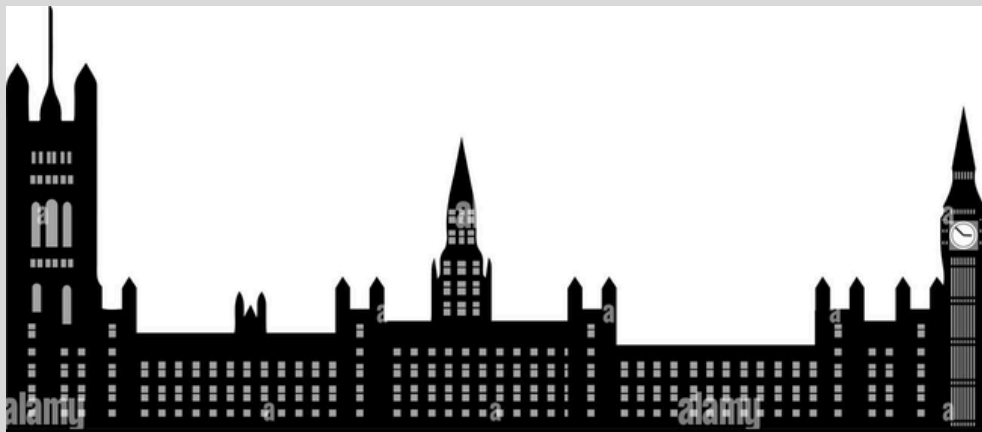
Following a gruelling election process, where all prospective candidates prepared speeches, our new Pupil Parliament have all been elected by their peers. Congratulations!

Please see the details below of our Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers and House Captains. Further details of the elected ambassadors across the school will follow in the next newsletter.

Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Deputy Prime Minister	Deputy Prime Minister
Bradley	Melissa	Logan	Ava

House Captains

Lovelace	Brunel	Newton	Darwin
Archie & Emily	James & Neve	Henry & Robyn	Jamie & Jess



ATTENDANCE

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of the receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
1. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 9 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at a flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you NOT receive a third penalty notice - Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer, in the Magistrates Court under Section 444 Education Act 1996