

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

October 25th 2024



Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a busy half term and I know the children are all looking forward to a well deserved break. It was wonderful to see so many of you in school this week to share in our Open Classroom sessions. The children love to share their learning - we hope you enjoyed it too.

Please ensure you sign up for a Parents Evening appointment (see separate email).

Have a lovely half term break.

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](#)



**Bags to School Collection
6th November**



Early Maths Workshop

We will be running a virtual maths workshop on Tuesday 12th November. The purpose of this workshop is to share with you how we teach maths at Hillcroft and share practical advice on how you can support your child at home.

Please join the [Teams Link](#) at 9:15am.



SPORTS NEWS



PE Spotlight

This half term our PE spotlight has been on Reception. They have been practising their co-ordination and balance through the use of different equipment. Ash and Elm classes enjoyed rolling the ball to a partner from different distances.



Sporting Results

Our football and netball teams have both enjoyed varied success this half term representing the school with pride. A huge well done to all those who have been selected so far. There will be more opportunities as the year progresses.

Vs Hamsey Green - Football won 4-2, Netball won 7-2

Vs St Francis - Football drew 2-2, Netball lost 0-4

Vs Waringham Village - Football lost 0-3, Netball lost 1 - 9



GLF STAKEHOLDER VOICE



Our Trust, GLF Schools, are conducting Stakeholder Voice surveys this November for pupils, parents and staff.

Your children will be taking part in the pupil survey between 18-29 November. Surveys will take place online, in the classroom, facilitated by your class teacher. Please talk to your children and encourage them to share their honest views when the time comes. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

After half term we will also be sending you a link to a Parent/Carer Survey. We hope you will participate in the survey, share your views and have a say in how our schools support your children. Thank you in advance for your support!



Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 1999 it has now paid out over £48 million.

As well as raising vitally needed funds for Hillcroft School, it also helps the environment by helping to divert good quality unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However, it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our Bag2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate good quality unwanted textiles in the bag provided – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts and handbags, (please refer to <https://bag2school.com> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other large bags to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

Bag2School will be collecting from Hillcroft School on Wednesday 6th November 2024. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the front playground and help us have a really good collection.

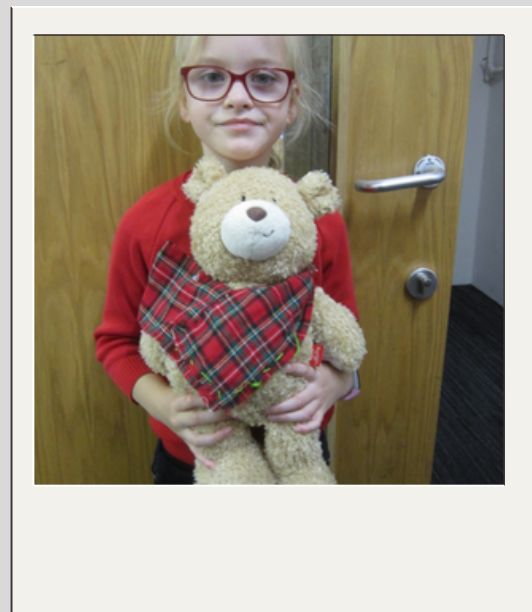
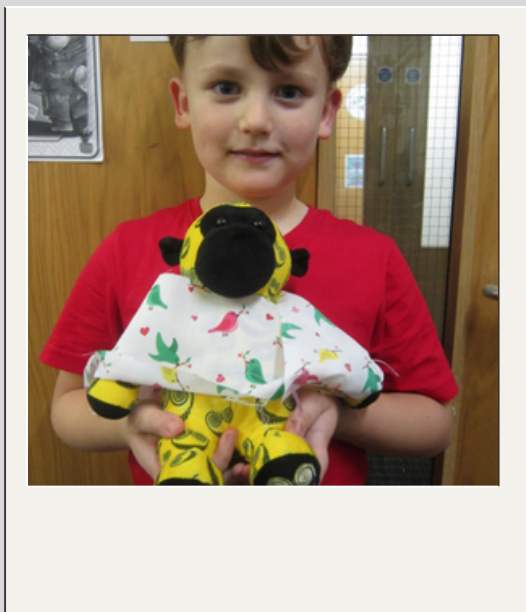
Early Years

In Nursery we have been exploring different fruit and vegetables and learning about 'healthy eating'. We talked about what we liked using full sentences and then tasted a variety of different fruits and vegetables. We also had lots of fun with a big tray of glittery peas, where we had to use our fine motor skills to squeeze and squash the individual peas! It was harder than it looked!



KS1

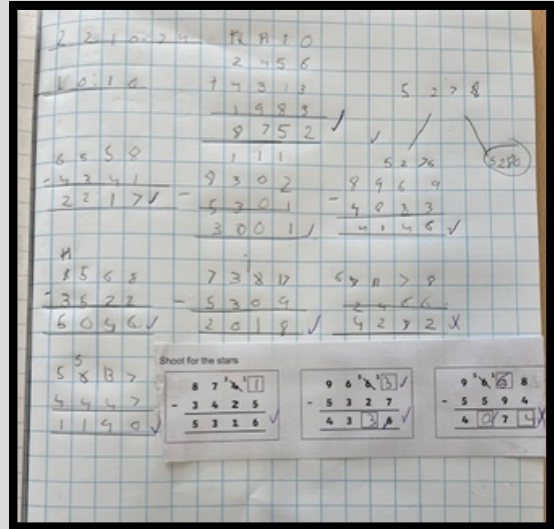
Year 1 and Year 2 have been busy with their wider curriculum projects. In Year 2 the children have all been so proud of the lovely coats they have made for their teddies. Well done and thank you to all those family members who helped out.



LKS2

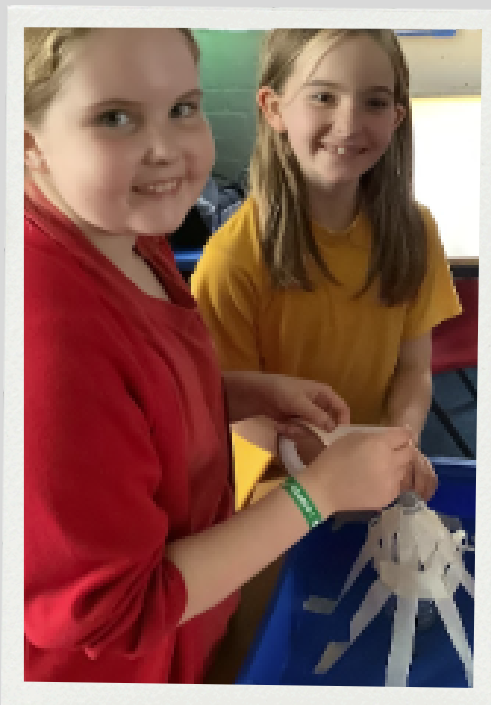
As part of their learning about Black History, Year 3 have created some lovely art work inspired by the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. They have turned out so well!

Year 4 have been working hard on their maths. Adding and subtracting four digit numbers and remembering to lay out their calculations correctly. Well done Year 4!



UKS2

As part of their wider curriculum topic, Year 5 have been making volcanoes!



UKS2

On Monday 14 October 2024, Year 6 attended a child safety event which aims to provide children with the skills and knowledge that they need to keep safe including: railways, fraud, home security, emergency care, sugar intake and drugs.



Password 101

ineqe.com Online Safety Shareable by INEQE

Children and young people may not understand the value of their personal information once they begin to interact with others in the online world. This could make them more vulnerable to scams, hackers, and malware attacks. It's important to remind those in your care that passwords are the gatekeepers to our private data.

They make sure these details remain secure and keep them from getting into the wrong hands as long as they are used properly.

DOs

- * **Think unique.** Create a different password for every account - longer is stronger!
- * **Change your passwords regularly.** Once every season is good practice.
- * **Disable help.** Delete any stored password extensions on your devices.
- * **Be creative.** Use a mixture of numbers, symbols, and Cap1t@Le#Er5.
- * **Secure them.** Install a verified password manager app to your devices.

DON'Ts

- * **Reuse.** This makes it easier for hackers to get into multiple accounts.
- * **Click 'yes'.** If a website or app offers to 'Remember your Password', say no.
- * **Be personal.** No password should use birthdays, pet names, or other personal details.
- * **Write it down.** If you are able to find it easily, so can someone else.
- * **Share it.** No one else should know your password - unless it's your parent or carer!

Facts

- **90% of internet users** worry about their online information getting hacked.
- **51% of people** use the same password for work and personal accounts.
- The password '**123456**' is used by nearly 23 million account holders.
- '**Eva**' and '**Alex**' are the most commonly used names in passwords.
- The average password contains eight characters or less.

Password Checker

Worried about not being able to remember a long string of numbers and symbols? It's important to choose random words that are easy for you to remember and harder for others to guess, alongside a mixture of numbers and symbols.

This can be anything from your favourite food to your best friend's favourite city!

PizzaBlueM@ngo35	● Strong
Alex123456	● Weak
ChocolatEPinkComputer19	● Strong
password	● Weak

It would take a computer about **19 septillion years** to crack your password

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CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL

Be a STAR and donate a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal

OUT SHOPPING?

Please help us make Christmas special for those who are struggling this Christmas.



By adding an extra gift to support Caterham Salvation Army

We believe every child deserves **NEW GIFTS** so they are special. So we are unable to take second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal. Stuck for gift ideas? Suggested gifts are:

- **0-5 years: (Baby and Pre School age):** large dolls / dinosaurs, soft toys, mobiles, bath toys, nursery rhyme and story books, large and wood block puzzles, large cars / lorries, crayons, building blocks / Duplo, musical toys, dressing up outfits; wooden train sets
- **5-11: (Primary school age):** family and trivia games, toys, stationery (colouring sets, felt-tip pens, paints), books, puzzles, construction kits / Lego, art & craft activities, Barbie / action dolls, foot or hoops balls, hair accessories, gloves/hats/warm socks, race track sets
- **11-14: (High School age):** £10 "Amazon" or £10 "One4All" gift cards, toiletry sets or make up.

PLEASE DONATE NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS BEFORE 1st DECEMBER.

Collection points are at Caterham Tesco, Morrisons and The Westway Centre.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help sort, pack and deliver the gifts between 2nd and to 13th December. Do call 01883 330718 for detail of how to get involved.



Christmas
Appeal



The Salvation Army is a Christian Church & registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009959; Social Trust Registered Charity No. 215174 and in Scotland SC037691; The Salvation Army Trustee Company, registered number 00259322 (England and Wales).



SOUTH EAST SURREY DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association

SESDA Reg. Charity no.281076

Teachers, Parents and Carers

New venue for SESDA meetings

Canada Hall, All Saints Church, Battlebridge Lane, Merstham RH1 3HA

Parking outside Church or in adjoining roads

Tuesday 12th November 2024

8pm to 10pm

SEND Advice Surrey

SEND Advice Surrey provides impartial, confidential and free advice to parents and carers.

Two members of the team will tell us how they can advise and support parents who are concerned about the progress their children are making at school.

See website: www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk

and

A chance for parents and carers to meet Committee members to talk about any concerns they have about dyslexia at home or in school.

It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand.

Contact sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

**Canada Hall, All Saints Church,
Battlebridge Lane, Merstham RH1 3HA**

SESDA Helpline: 01737 556173

E-mail: sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

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



When children first started getting smartphones a decade ago, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it's overwhelming. Exposing children to things their brains aren't yet developed enough to deal with can cause a whole host of problems, from triggering anxiety and eating disorders, to opening the door to cyberbullying or sexual predators, according to the latest research.

When we give our children access to the whole world in their pocket, we give the whole world access to our children.

For more information on this please visit:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem>

