

# HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Nurturing children to achieve their personal best*

**December 13th 2024**



Dear Parents & Carers,  
It is hard to believe that we are nearly at Christmas. This term has been incredibly busy. The last few weeks have seen our choir performing to different audiences including at a local care home, the Memory Tree and at the Christingle service. Year 5 visited De Stafford for their Christmas Production and so many of our families came into school to watch Christmas productions. Next week sees Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday as well as a delicious Christmas Dinner. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to lots of festive fun in our final week.

## **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**



**Christmas Jumper day on  
Wednesday!**

## **Caterham Food Bank**

Over the past few weeks we have been collecting donations for Caterham Food Bank. This is the nominated charity for Darwin and Lovelace house. The food bank rely on donations in order to stop hunger in our local area. The house captains helped to pack up all your donations and they were collected on Thursday ready to be distributed to those in need. Thank you.



## **Parking**

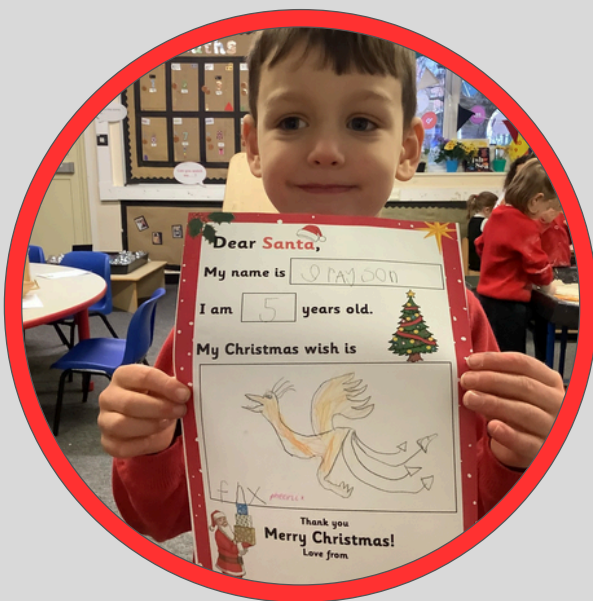
A friendly reminder to please park considerately when dropping off your children in the morning. We kindly ask that you avoid blocking driveways or causing any obstruction. There are nearby car parks at the Co-op and Raglan, which are available for use and help ensure safer access for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

## Early Years

In Nursery we have been getting festive as we learn about 'Winter' and 'Christmas'. We have enjoyed lots of festive activities including making food for reindeer and decorating our Christmas tree.



This week in Reception we have been thinking about our Christmas celebrations and writing our own letters to Santa. We have also been preparing for a visit from the Fire Brigade next week, and have been exploring the different things that firefighters wear and use as part of their jobs.

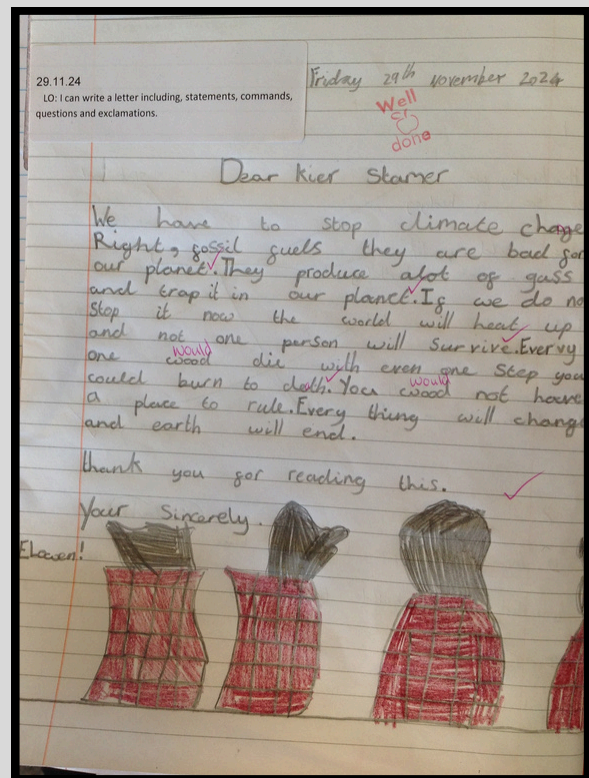
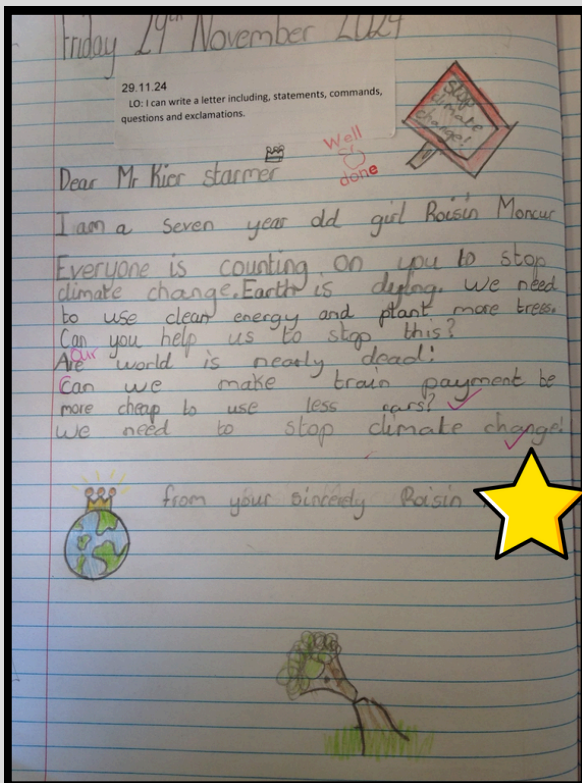


## LKS2

In Science this week Year 3 were identifying different soils and finding ways to describe it. We have learnt about 3 different types.

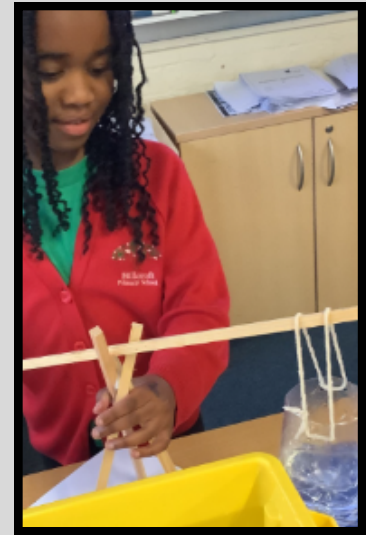
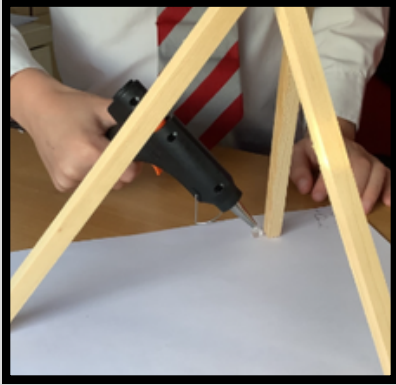


Year 3 have also been writing letters to our Prime Minister concerning climate change.



## UKS2

Year 5 have also been using the saws and glue guns this week as part of their DT project.



This week, Year 6 used saws, nails and hammers to make WW2 air raid shelters.





# PHASE NEWS

## UKS2

This half term Year 6 have been writing formal persuasive letters. They were absolutely delighted to get this response regarding their thoughts on climate change and plastic pollution.



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA  
[www.gov.uk/Number10](http://www.gov.uk/Number10)

From the Direct Communications Unit

26 November 2024

The Year 6 Pupils  
Hillcroft School  
Chaldon Road  
Caterham  
CR3 5PG

Dear Pupils,

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your excellent letters about climate change and plastic pollution.

It was very good of you to get in touch, and for taking the time and trouble to share your thoughts about these important matters.

As the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero are the parts of the Government responsible for the matters you raise, I have sent your letters to them so that they are made aware of your views.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I am".

Correspondence Officer



# SPECIAL MENTIONS



## Choir

Congratulations to our choir, led by Mrs Page and Mrs Scott who have been performing across Caterham to a range of audiences. This will continue into next week for our Prize Giving Assemblies. Well done to all of you.





# SPECIAL MENTIONS



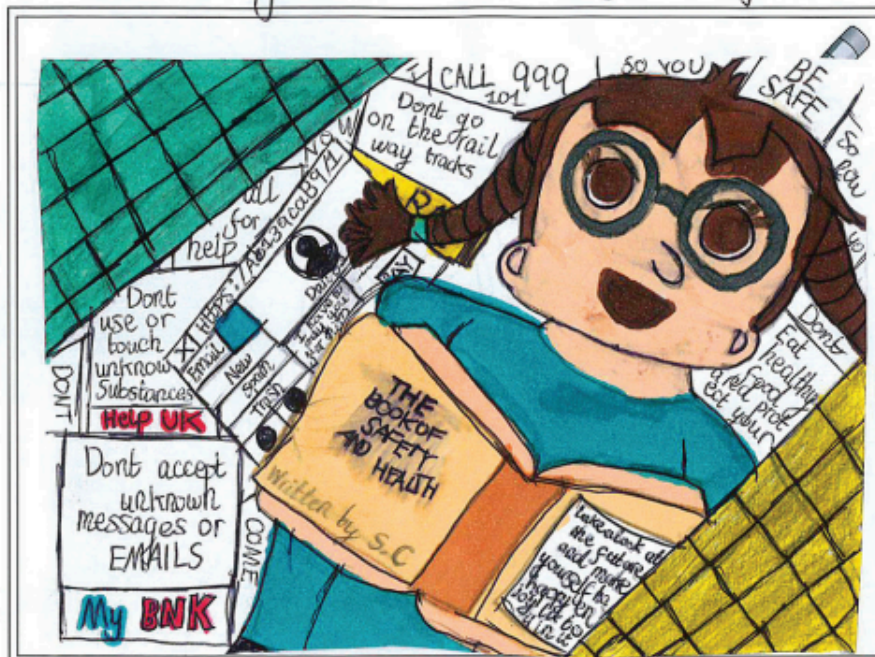
## Tandridge 'Junior Citizen' event

Congratulations go to one of Year 6 pupils - Tommy!

Tommy entered a picture competition following this child safety event which we attended and won! he has been awarded £50 in vouchers. Well done Tommy. This is his winning entry.

### **Tandridge Junior Citizen 2024 Picture Competition**

First Name: Tommy School: Hillcroft Primary school



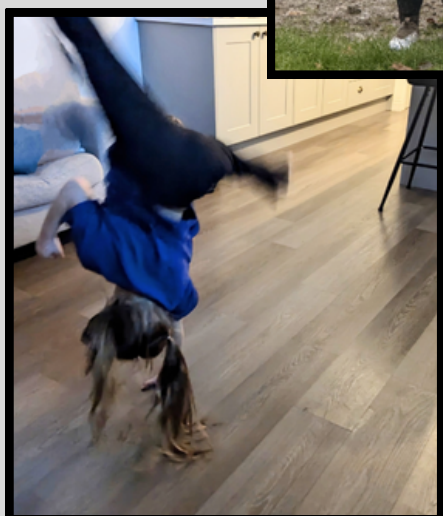
Because I went to Junior Citizen I:

Learnt about not accepting or believing scams and about drugs and the dangers of using them, how to check if someones breathing, railway safety and how to take care of yourself and your body.

# TALENTS AND INTERESTS

Every week in our Friday assembly we celebrate the talents and interests of our children. See the superstars we have celebrated over the last two weeks. If your child has a special achievement they would like to share please send some details and a photo to [l.bonnell@hillcroftschool.org](mailto:l.bonnell@hillcroftschool.org).

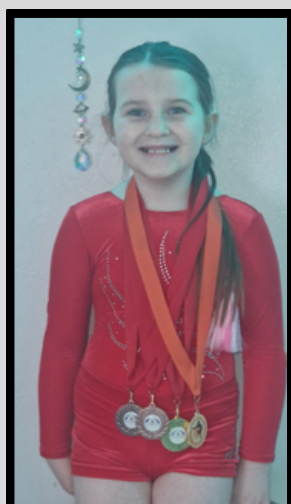
Ivy	Year 2	One handed Cartwheel
Otilie	Year 1	Gymnastics
Jamie	Year 2	Football
Ruby	Year 6	Football





# TALENTS AND INTERESTS

Amelia	Year 3	Gymnastics
Poppy	Year 5	Swimming
Lydia	Year 2	Gymnastics
Zach	Year 1	Karate
Florence and Madeline	Y2 and Y4	Special visit to Downing Street
Sophie and Melissa	Y6	Swimming



## SOCIAL MEDIA 101

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Social media platforms constantly evolve, with even the most popular platforms seeing fluctuations in engagement. Whether the child in your care uses Instagram, TikTok, or any new platform, understanding the key features will help you grasp the appeal and recognise associated risks.

### 10 FEATURES OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- User Hashtags & Trends**: Hashtags help categorise and organise content, making it discoverable by users interested in specific topics.
- User Profiles**: Personal profiles are online identities, with usernames, bios, profile pics, and optional details.
- Interactions & Engagement**: Interactions between users such as likes, reactions, comments, shares or reposts.
- Search & Discovery**: Search finds accounts, hashtags, topics, and trending content. Discovery suggests new content based on interests.
- Notifications**: Alerts users about profile activities such as mentions, comments, likes, friend requests.
- Newsfeeds/Timelines**: Displays content shared by users and the accounts they follow, tailored to user preferences, connections, and interactions.
- Posting & Sharing**: Text, photos, videos, links, and articles shared with online connections or publicly.
- Privacy & Security Settings**: Options to control privacy, audiences, viewing permissions, and account security.
- Connecting & Following**: Connections through friend/follow requests keep users updated on activities and content. Connections may be mutual (both users follow each other) or one-sided (one user follows another without reciprocation).
- Messaging & Communications**: Direct messages, group chats, voice/video calls facilitate communication between users.

Something we are starting to see more of is the integration of AI as a more visible feature on social media platforms.

**NO AGE RATING**

## ! RISKS AND TOP TIPS ✓

<h3>Age Verification</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most platforms have age ratings to stop users viewing age-inappropriate content.</li> <li>Not all platforms have robust verification methods.</li> <li>Ensure young people are registered as the correct age (a 12 year old who registers as 16 will see content designed for an adult after two years)</li> <li>Look for platforms using YOTI as their age verification method. This facial scanning technology is harder to get around than most other methods.</li> </ul>	<h3>Digital Footprint</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whatever a young person posts online leaves a digital footprint that could impact their future.</li> <li>Universities, friends, and even employers might come across their previous online activity.</li> <li>Help your child set up their accounts so that posts are visible only to friends and not the public.</li> <li>Make sure a young person only posts content they would be comfortable with anyone seeing.</li> </ul>	<h3>Persuasive Design</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clever design features keep users engaged on social media platforms for longer, through things like the endless scroll or push notifications.</li> <li>This can lead to excessive screen-time and in some cases, addiction.</li> <li>Agree screentime limits with young people to promote a healthy balance between offline and online activities.</li> <li>Encourage them to recognise when they are being influenced to stay online.</li> </ul>
<h3>End-to-End Encryption</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This ensures a message between the sender and recipient can't be viewed by anyone else - even the police or hackers!</li> <li>Encryption provides an opportunity for predators to groom young users without detection.</li> <li>Make sure they understand what to do if someone is making them feel uncomfortable.</li> <li>Talk to young people about accepting requests or adding people they don't know.</li> </ul>	<h3>Algorithms</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The content a user interacts with or searches for influences what they will see next.</li> <li>This may affect an impressionable young person's thoughts and actions.</li> <li>Understand that one piece of harmful content can lead to the algorithm showing you more.</li> <li>Keep in mind the negativity bias. Just like staring at a car crash on the road, it doesn't imply a desire for more or an enjoyment of it, but rather reflects how our brains tend to focus on the negative for longer.</li> </ul>	<h3>Personal Information</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information such as full names, locations, or other platform usernames are frequently shared on social media.</li> <li>Sharing this information may seem harmless to young people, but can be exploited by predators and cybercriminals for harmful purposes.</li> <li>Ensure children know what is appropriate to share online and what isn't.</li> <li>Make sure they know that bios can be seen by everyone, even with a private account.</li> <li>Remind them to scan their photos for anything that could identify them before they are posted.</li> </ul>

# 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