

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

January 17th 2025



Happy New Year! Already this year has started with plenty of excitement as the first week brought the arrival of some snow. Luckily it didn't cause too many problems.

Our STRONG values this half term focus on Respect and Reflects on Learning. We will be reinforcing these values through class assemblies and life skills lessons.

We have a busy half term ahead with a Virtual Spelling Workshop, Year 4 class assemblies and Year 6 Residential. Please keep an eye out for more information on these events.

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



Internet Safety

Please see pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter for information on two free Internet Safety events happening this month.

Spelling Workshop

Come along to find out how Spelling is taught at Hillcroft, understand more about Spelling Shed and ideas of how to support your child at home.

Please join Mrs Page for a Zoom Workshop that will help you support your child with spellings.

Thursday 23rd January at 9:15am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81287084050?pwd=54Ouxb0hTV8ShofvB5ZDx3lEh88i8t.1>

Meeting ID: 812 8708 4050

Passcode: hillcroft



**Virtual Spelling Workshop
23rd January**

Nursery

In Nursery we explored a very strange bag full of maps as we started our 'Transport' topic. We all looked at the maps together and learnt the sign for 'map'. Some of the maps were huge! We talked about what the different colours meant, what we could see and then used our fingers to follow the roads across the maps!



Reception

This week we read the story of Anasi and the golden pot, we learnt all about Ghana, where the book is set. After reading the story we had a go at weaving some of our own 'Kente Patterns.'



LKS2

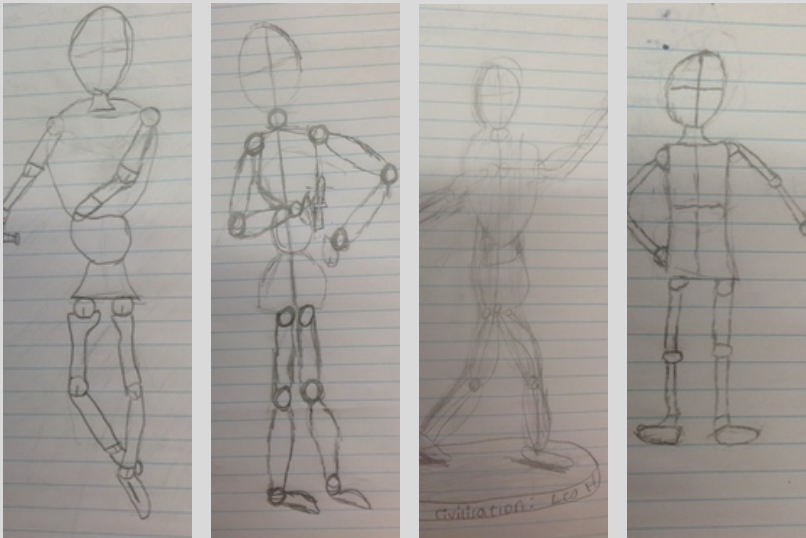


Year 3 have been taking part in Forest school activities. For their second session of Forest school children were set challenges with sticks. They had to be able to balance the stick on their finger and head, make a bridge from the stick and then use the stick to create a letter. Children then put their noses to test to describe what natural objects smelt like.



Year 5

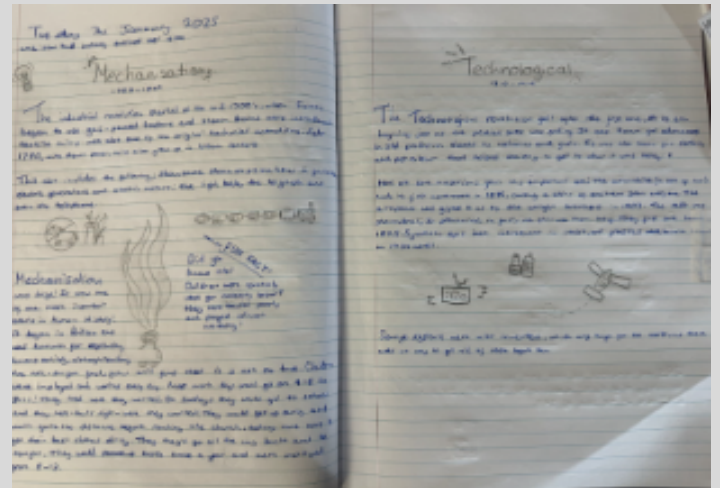
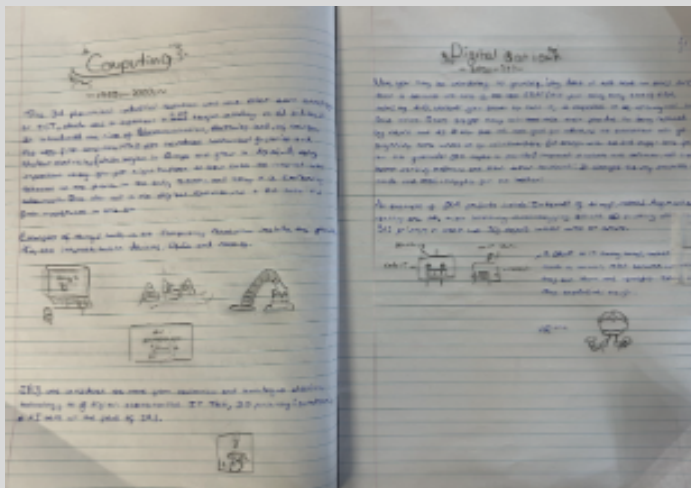
This week Year 5 have recreated Aristotle's proof that the Earth is a sphere, using a ball to represent the Earth and a book to represent a ship going over the horizon. Aristotle noticed that the hull of the ship disappeared first, which he said would only happen if the surface of the planet was curved. We placed a book on top of the ball, and observed how it disappeared as the ball rotated.



In art, we used mannequins to help us to draw humans with correct proportions, and we thought about different poses linked to the legacy of the ancient Greeks (democracy, astronomy and the Olympics).

Year 6

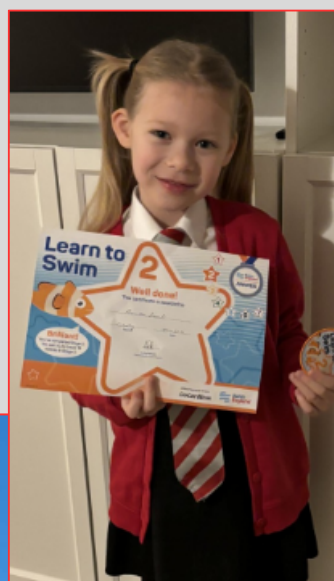
As part of their curriculum topic, Year 6 have started learning all about the Industrial Revolutions and the impact they have had on the world. The children worked collaboratively to research and create a fact file with all the information they could find about the Industrial Revolutions. They have produced some beautiful work.



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.

Sena	Year 2	Karate
Thomas	Year 3	Rugby
Brooke	Year 3	Swimming
Harry	Year 5	Martial Arts



KEEPING SAFE ONLINE CATERHAM PREP

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, blue jeans, and a black backpack with red straps, is sitting on the floor and looking at a laptop. The scene is surrounded by several blue, 3D-rendered shields of various sizes, some of which are partially overlapping the boy and the laptop. The background is a light blue gradient.

Internet Safety Talk Karl Hopwood

Monday 20 January, 6.30pm
Humphreys Theatre, Caterham School

Karl is a former headmaster and now an online safety expert with over 15 years' experience working with schools, teachers, pupils and other professionals to address the challenges posed by modern technology. He is a member of the UK Council for Internet Safety and sits on X's (formerly known as Twitter) Trust and Safety Council and the Roblox Trust and Safety Advisory Board. His talk will cover advertising, scams, videos, influencers, AI and ways we can remain vigilant when online.

Scan the QR code to register your place.

www.caterhamprep.co.uk



FREE PARENT SEND WEBINAR

Free parent SEND webinar being run by Roblox, Ambitious about Autism and Internet Matters on **January 29th, 7.30pm.**

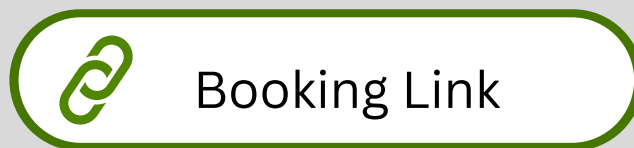
In this live session, you'll hear from a diverse panel of experts including online safety professionals, autism specialists, and a fellow parent sharing their personal experience.

The webinar will cover a range of important topics, such as:

- **Understanding life online for neurodivergent children and young people**
- Insights from the **online gaming research project**
- Practical **tools and resources** to help you support your neurodivergent child in the online gaming world
- **Tips** to help your child stay safe online
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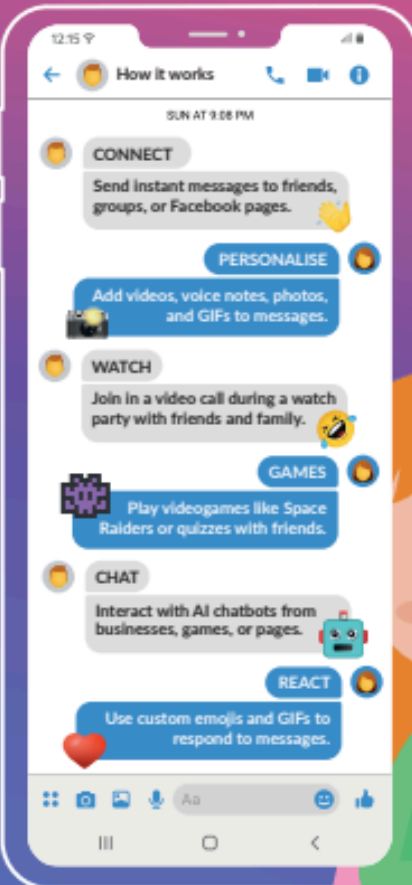
This session is interactive, with time set aside for questions.

Game on: Supporting neurodivergent children in the online world Tickets, Wed 29 Jan 2025 at 19:30 | Eventbrite



All About... Messenger

Messenger is a free instant messaging app owned by Meta. It launched in 2011 to replace Facebook Chat as a separate, complimentary app that lets users phone and video call other users, as well as add short videos, voice messages, and GIFs to instant messages.



Did you know Messenger...



Is the 3rd most popular app worldwide.



Is the second most used messenger app in the UK.



Has over 1 billion messages sent on it every month.



Sees more than 18 billion GIFs shared every single day.

Not for just anyone!

Users must have a Facebook account in order to use Messenger. Facebook requires users to be 13 or older to have an account.



End-to-end Encryption

In 2023, Meta announced they were rolling out encryption on Facebook and Messenger. This means messages can only be read by the sender and recipient. Not even Meta can view the messages, unless they are directly reported to the platform.



Although users on Messenger could previously opt in to this, it will now be the default setting, making it more difficult to detect potentially harmful materials and communications.

RISKS

Disappearing Messages

Users can send 'secret conversations' (messages timed to disappear) to others. They may be used to send bullying or sexual messages, and could cause distress or anxiety.

Message Requests

Users who are not friends on Facebook can still message other Messenger users through the 'Message Requests' folder. This could open up opportunities for scams, bullying and contact from strangers.



Live Location

Users are able to share their live location with friends in Messenger via Google or Apple Maps, which could be used to pressure a young person into sharing where they are.

Inappropriate Behaviour

Users may be encouraged by others to engage in uncharacteristic or inappropriate behaviour via video or text chat. This could result in losing control of intimate images, messages or videos.



TOP TIPS

Use Safety Settings

Encourage your young person to use security options, such as two-factor authentication and the ability to choose who can message them.



Turn off Message Requests

Ensure only Facebook friends can keep in contact by switching off the message requests section, which is 'on' by default.

Don't receive requests

Keep Personal Details Private

Explain why it's important not to share personal details like addresses and phone numbers with others over Messenger.



Talk to Your Young Person

Engage in discussion with those in your care about their online life and remind them that you are always there to support them.

A message from Mrs Pearson.

WOW! The children have been very busy in Thrive by looking at anti – bullying week and working on the theme “Choose Respect”.

We talked about “what respect means: Respect means being kind, listening to others and treating everyone the way you want to be treated. We talked about listening first, speak second, think before you act, be kind in little ways, be a friend to someone who needs one and celebrate differences.

So, remember “Respects starts with you!” After our weekly video I got every child at Hillcroft to make a graffiti brick with images or messages on ready for our display outside the Treehouse. The display looks amazing, and the children love looking at their wonderful work as they are going up to the lunch hall.



I would like to say thank you so much to everyone who donated to the “Salvation Army Appeal”, they were blown away with the generosity from our wonderful parents.



Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and may 2025 bring only happiness and joy to you and your family.

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

LATE COLLECTION



A polite reminder that if you are late to collect your child, they will be taken to our Acorns after school care at 15:35. This will incur a late collection fee from Acorns.

Please let us know if you are going to be late collecting your child.

SICKNESS AND MEDICATIONS

Sickness & Medications/ Common childhood illnesses

When should I keep my child off school?

The Following NHS guidelines state;

- Chicken pox; for at least 5 days from the onset of rash and until all blisters have crusted over
- Diarrhoea and vomiting; return 48 hours after last episode of either
- Cold and flu like illnesses; if your child has no temperature then minor symptoms can be managed at school. With a temperature, keep them home until this has subsided and they are feeling well enough.
- Impetigo; Keep your child home until all sores have crusted and healed or 48 hours after they have started antibiotics.
- Measles; Keep your child home until at least 4 days after the rash first appeared.
- Mumps; keep your child home for 5 days after the swelling started
- Scarlet Fever; keep your child home until 24 hours after starting antibiotics
- Whooping Cough; keep your child home until 48 hours after starting antibiotics.

Children can attend school with;

- Hand Foot and Mouth, if they are well enough.
- Head Lice; Please ensure you treat the child/family according to the treatment, and repeat as instructed. Also, please let school know as soon as you are aware.
- Threadworms; Please treat accordingly and ensure hand hygiene is practiced often.
- Slapped Cheek
- Tonsillitis

Calpol may be administered in school if you feel there is a need for your child throughout the school day. Please speak to office staff who will provide a medication form to be completed. Where possible please supply the Calpol/paracetamol as we have only limited emergency supply.

Antibiotics can be administered again with a medication form, however only if the medication is needed 3 or more times a day.

A high temperature is classified as 38 degrees. If your child has a temperature during the school day, we will contact you to come and collect them. Please do not send your child/Children into school with a high temperature. Always seek medical advice from your GP.