

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

January 31st 2025



Dear parents/carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks and it is wonderful to see children settling into the spring term and embracing their learning. Our Year 5 trip to the British Museum was a real success and I think the children were as excited to travel there by bus, train and tube as they were about the actual museum. Thank you to all teachers and parent helpers for their support with ensuring this trip could go ahead. Before the end of this half term we have open classrooms, the Year 6 residential and Year 4 class assemblies. Please keep an eye on the key dates documents for upcoming 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



INSET DAY

Our Inset day in the summer has changed from Friday 27th June to **Friday July 11th**

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2025 is taking place from 3-9 February 2025.

This year it is exploring the theme Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.

In school our pastoral lead, Mrs Pearson has put together some specific Thrive lessons and resources to support raising awareness of this important topic. Our KS2 pupils will be taking part in a mindfulness workshop to support them in taking control of their own mental well being through exercises and games.

The following website provides some great information on how you can support your child's mental health at home:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February

Nursery

In Nursery we have been learning about buses this week. We set up our own Nursery bus and went on a journey to the beach via London Zoo.

We made sure everyone waiting at the Bus Stop had tickets and we all took turns pressing the 'button' when we wanted the bus to stop.

We had great fun being passengers and singing 'Wheels on the bus' whilst we drove!



Reception

Reception have been birdwatching this week. The children have loved it and have been excited to go and spot their feathered friends.

If anyone has any spare binoculars at home that you could donate to Reception for their bird watching, we would be very grateful.



KS1

In Year 1 we have had a visit from Saleem. Saleem came to talk to the children about Islam and what the five pillars looks like in his daily life.



As part of Year 1's wider curriculum learning, we were excited to welcome Dolly and Delilah into class to talk about the cars they drive.



Year 2 will be holding a cake sale to raise money for the Loopy Gliders workshop at our trip to Brooklands on **Monday 3rd February**. We will be needing donations of cakes to sell on this day. Please bring them to the school office on the morning of Monday 3rd February. The cakes will be available to sell on the playground at the end of the day. We are asking for donations to buy the cakes. Thank you in advance.





Chinese New Year

Year 1 loved learning all about Chinese New Year.



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.

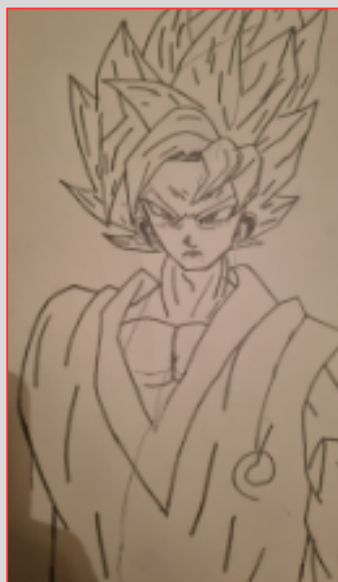
Cody	Year 2	Football
Florence	Year 2	25 m backstroke
Cameron	Year 2	Drawing
Lilliwen	Year 2	Skipping and Counting



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Daniel	Year 4	Drawing
Sophie	Year 4	Drawing
Madeline	Year 4	Bronze award and 600m





VIRTUAL FRIENDSHIPS

Why Do Young People Make Friends Online?

57%

of teens have met a new friend online. Social media and games are the most common places to meet friends.

In today's digital culture, becoming friends with people online is as natural as becoming friends with people in the same class at school. Although this might seem strange to certain generations, the concept of making friends with someone you've never met isn't anything new: organised pen pal services have been around for nearly 100 years!

⚠️ RISKS

CYBERBULLYING AND TROLLING



It is not unusual to hear young people talking about how their school friendship group has fallen out or the mean words said behind their back by their best friend. However, these types of disagreements and fights can take on a different form when they play out online, especially if there is a core group or community (such as a fandom) that all become involved, and one person becomes a target. Unlike in a school, a victim who is targeted online can be harassed 24/7 by their bullies, who are often without the limitations of worrying that a parent, carer or teacher might be a witness to their actions.

FAKE PROFILES AND CATFISHING



Unless apps and platforms implement the use of age verification and facial recognition tools and software, there will always be a risk that users aren't who they portray themselves to be. There's an almost endless list of why someone might create a fake profile - from seeking financial gain through fraud or with the intention of grooming, through to boredom or being unhappy with their appearance and for real-life circumstances.

GROOMING



Building a friendship with someone online can be a tactic used as a part of grooming. A young person may feel they can trust this person and therefore might tell them personal information that will put them at risk, such as what school they go to. If a young person believes they are talking to a real friend or an online romantic partner, there is the potential to be convinced, tricked or bribed into sending self-generated child sexual abuse materials.

SCREEN TIME AND ISOLATION



If a young person is feeling lonely and isolated in 'real life', they may turn to the digital world to find friendships and a community. Although this may bring a lot of positives, for some young people there could be risks associated with this such as:

- **Too much screen time.** There is no definitive answer to 'how much screen time is too much?' although studies have shown effects include shrinkage in parts of the brain needed for executive function, and some psychologists have expressed concern.
- **Exposure to extremism and radicalisation.** People who are isolated, unhappy, feeling angry and 'different' are some of the factors that might make a young person vulnerable to being targeted by extremist groups.

HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE MEET ONLINE FRIENDS?

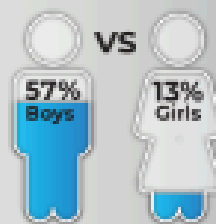
- SPECIFIC INTEREST WEBSITES
- FRIEND FINDING APPS
- SOCIAL MEDIA SITES
- ONLINE GAMING
- FANDOMS

WHY MAKE FRIENDS ONLINE?

There are many reasons why young people make friends online, including feeling socially isolated in 'real life' or living far away from others in their peer group.

Making friends online is not always born out of responding to a negative situation, of course! In fact, most young people will make friends online as a positive addition to their lives, alongside friends they make through school and hobbies.

Boys are substantially more likely to meet new friends while playing games online.



TOP TIPS!



TALK ABOUT WHAT FRIENDSHIP MEANS. Ask the young person in your life about what friendship looks like to them - how does a friend act? How does a friend make you feel? Discuss together what a 'warning sign' might be that someone may not be a real friend, such as pressuring you for your time, money or photos.



ASK ABOUT THEIR ONLINE FRIENDS. Just as you would discuss their friends from school or sports club, make talking about online friends just as part of the norm. This way, if something happens with an online friend that upsets or worries them, the young person in your life will feel safe to come to you as you've a ready-established rapport about online friends.



KEEP CALM! Don't jump to conclusions that all online friends are potential 'predators' or have nefarious purposes - even if the concept of online friendships is unusual to you. Remember that it's quite normal in today's culture for young people to have friends online that they've never met.



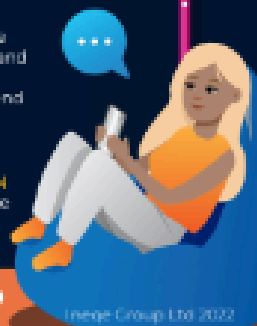
TALK ABOUT CATFISHING AND FAKE PROFILES. Learn together some of the tell-tale signs that a profile might not be real, such as a lack of photos or other people interacting with their profile.



HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PERSONAL INFORMATION. Encourage the young person in your care to stop and think before posting photos and posts online or discussing with an online friend anything that may give away personal information.



CHECK SAFETY SETTINGS AND LEARN HOW TO BLOCK AND REPORT. Double check your safety settings together to help keep them safer online.



A message from Mrs Pearson.

January is a traditional time for resolutions and a fresh start, but we do this everyday. We talk to children about their bad days and always remind them that it's a fresh day tomorrow. In every day there are good and happy moments to celebrate and appreciate too and sometimes we need a little help to realise this. Talk to your children daily to find out what sort of day they have had and then let them know about your day too. Talking is good but sometimes we say we haven't got time, so make time.

When we are struggling to see the good in a day and find happiness, we just have to look harder. Good mental health and well-being starts within and we need the care and support of others to sustain it.

So if you are struggling or find it hard to talk, pick up the telephone and talk to someone.

If you need any help or support this year please email us at:

D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org or tcopard1@glfschools.org

Reflecting on the good, forgetting the bad, and looking forward to a brighter 2025.

New Dates for Your Diary's!

Our next Thrive workshop will start in April. We are looking at running them on a Monday Night starting on 28th April, 12th May, 19th May, 2nd June, 9th June and 16th June.

If you would like to book a space, please email me as they will go very quickly.

D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org



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

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS SUMMER SHOW

The Royal Academy of Arts is running a summer show for young artists aged 4-18 years.

Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks being displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. For any budding artist, this is a wonderful opportunity for them to express themselves and share their artwork with the world. Last year, more than 21,000 students participated.

To enter, all you need to do is register and submit your child's artwork by 5th March 2025. You can do this via the link here [Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](#) and register as a parent/guardian.

You will be able to select Hillcroft Primary School once you have created an account. All artwork is to be submitted online and for further information you can look at the FAQs here [Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](#).

We hope that this will interest many of the students at Hillcroft Primary School and look forward to hearing about any artwork that is submitted.

To clarify, this is not being run by the school and artwork should be completed and submitted independently. Best of luck to all who enter.

CATERHAM ON THE HILL LIBRARY

Our local library has lots of fun activities going on each week:



Rhymetime (0 - 5 years):
Fridays 10:30 - 11:00
Free

Lego club (0 - 14 years):
Friday 15:00 - 16:30
£1 per person



Booktrust Storytime and Social (0 - 5 years):
1st Saturday of the month
11:30 - 12:00
Nov. 2024 - March 2025
Free (donation optional.)

Retro Game Week 3 (Children 7 - 15 & Adults)
Tuesday 21st - Saturday 25th February
10:00 - 16:00

Free (donation optional.) Book in advance, must have library card to book

INSET DAY

Change to School Calendar for Summer term

Please note that, due to circumstances out of our and the Trust's control, the INSET day on Friday 27th June will now take place on Friday 11th July.

This day is an annual opportunity for staff across the Trust to come together, and our venue is no longer able to accommodate us on 27th June.

We apologise to families for any inconvenience caused but hope that this amount of notice allows you to make appropriate arrangements.

All children will be expected in school as normal on Friday 27th June.

SEND UPDATES

family
voice surrey



Additional Needs Service showcase

**Thursday
27th February
10.30am -3.30pm**

The Jam Place
Hamilton House
Regent's Park 299 Kingston Road
Leatherhead, KT22 7FP

Free parking onsite and public transport nearby.

- ✦ Come and find out about local and national services!
- ✦ Age range 0-25 years for Children and Young People with Additional Needs
- ✦ For Families and Practitioners

If you would further details please scan the QR code or email localoffer@surreycc.gov.uk



No need to book, just drop in!



SEND UPDATES



Tandridge Family Centre

**The last Friday of
each month
10.30-12.00**

Connect Café Coffee Morning for SEN Parents

Come along to the Tandridge Family Centre and meet other parents and carers with SEN children. Share your experiences, struggles, ideas and tips in a supportive environment.

2025 Dates

31st Jan, 28th Feb, 28th March, 25th April, 30th May, 27th June
this is not a playgroup, but young children are welcome.

For more
information scan
the QR code or
call: 01883
723496



**Tandridge Family Centre, Wolf's Wood,
Oxted, Surrey
RH8 0HJ**

BARNARD'S

**Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.**

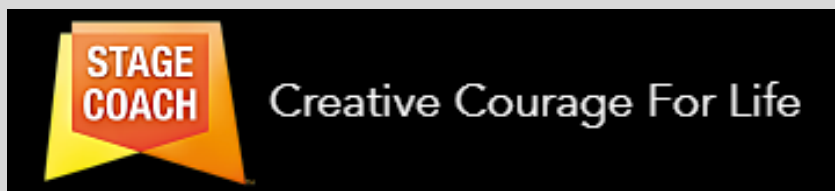
FOREST SCHOOL DONATIONS

As we develop our Forest School Provision we are keen to gather donations of the following items. Please can any items be passed on to Mrs Winsor (Year 3 teacher).

- Sticks, any shape and size, bundled and put in a bag.
- Wood from tree cuttings.
- Old metal buckets- even if it has holes! Old metal cake tins.
- Old cuts of carpet too so I can make a home for mini beasts.
- Old string/ rope/ wool.



STAGECOACH



Did you know that Stagecoach run their dance, acting and singing classes every week from Hillcroft Primary School?

Check out the website for more information:

[Stagecoach Coulsdon Parent Portal](#)



Stagecoach Performing Arts Coulsdon
Hillcroft Primary School, Chaldon Road, Caterham CR3 5PG