

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

March 7th 2025



Dear parents/carers,

Spring has finally sprung and it has been lovely to see blue skies and sunshine this week.

Year 1 have enjoyed a trip to the library, Year 6 have had 'Baghdad Day' and we have welcomed many of you into school for Parents Evenings. We have also enjoyed a brilliant world book day. Another busy week at Hillcroft!

Please keep an eye on the key dates document for upcoming events including parents evening next term.

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



Parking

Please can we remind families to be considerate when parking near the school, especially during drop-off and collection times. We encourage you to use the local Raglan and CO-OP car parks, which are only a short distance from school. Please avoid parking on the pavement near HSL as it obstructs pedestrian access and can be dangerous for children. For the safety of your children, please do not leave them unattended in cars during collection. Thank you for your cooperation.



INSET DAY

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



**Wear red for Red Nose Day
Friday 21st March**

Nursery

This week in Nursey we have been learning about the term 'Artist' and 'Artwork' and learning that art can take many forms.

We read the story 'The Dot' and it gave us the confidence that 'Everyone can be an Artist'. Then we explored our own transient artwork using a variety of different resources.



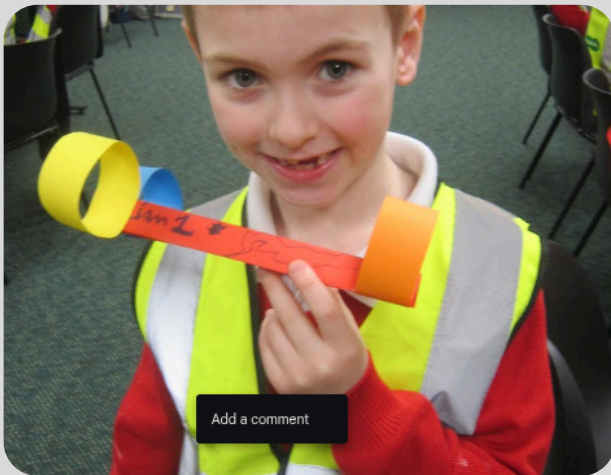
Reception

This week in Reception we have been exploring primary colours and colour mixing . We looked at how we can create a new colour from mixing two colours together.



KS1

Year 2 enjoyed a fun packed day at Brooklands Transport Museum. The children all had the opportunity to make loopy gliders, saw enormous aeroplanes and explored the old buses at the bus museum. Thank you to all the parent helpers - we appreciate your support. Thank you also for those who supported the cake sale - we raised £203.98 towards the cost of the trip.



Year 1 went on a trip to the library and enjoyed looking at lots of different books!

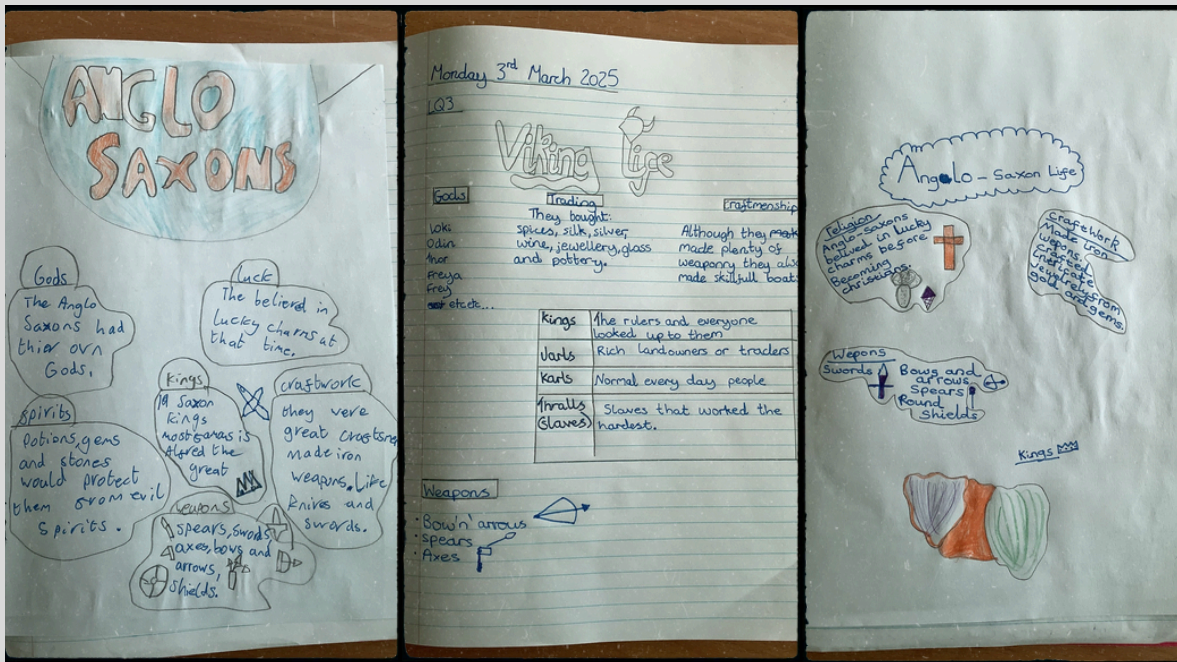


LKS2

Year 3 enjoyed making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.

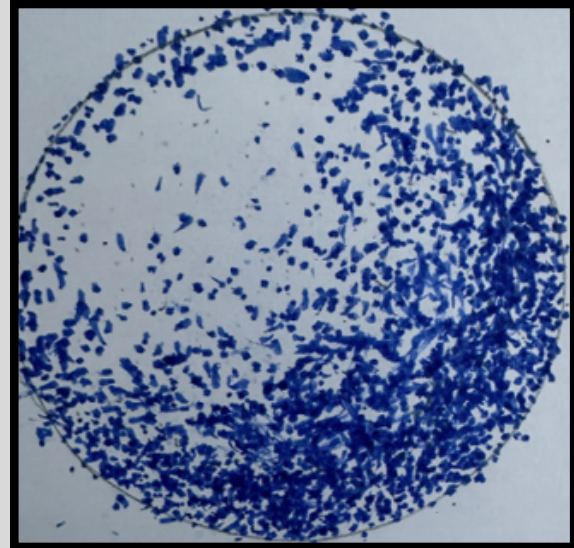
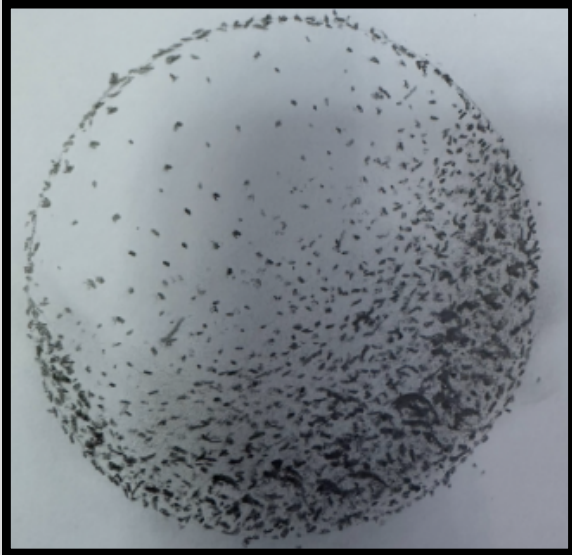


In Year 4 we have been researching both the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in our wider curriculum lessons. We then discussed which of the two groups we thought were more powerful and why.



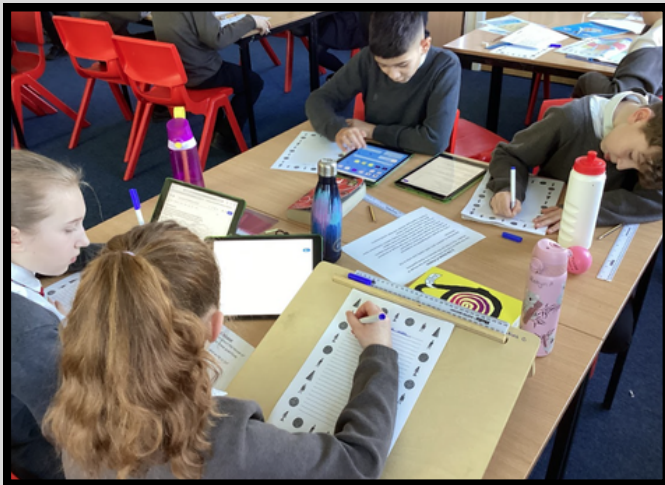
Year 5

This week we have been looking at light and shadow, and have been investigating different shading methods. We focused on stippling and looked at how to show the effect of light on a sphere. We also measured shadows on the playground and looked at how the rotation of the earth caused the sun's position to move, changing the shape and length of the shadows. Even after only five minutes, the shadow had visibly moved.



Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed a day exploring and learning about Baghdad. They have taken part in food tasting, discussed how Baghdad has changed over time and studied Islamic Art.



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.

Isla	Year 2	Swimming
Maisie	Year 2	Rainbow Badges
Ruby	Year 6	Football - player of the match
Ethan	Year 4	Football
Lucy	Year 4	Lego Masterpiece
Carolyn	Year 2	Drawing

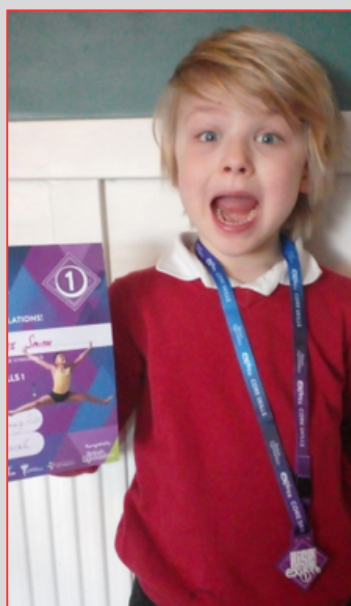


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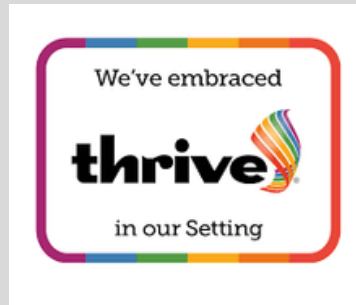


Matthew	Year 1	Taekwondo
Jamie	Year 1	Gymnastics
Neve	Year 6	Football
Mason	Year 6	Art



WORLD BOOK DAY





A message from Mrs Pearson.

Welcome back! Hope you all had a lovely half term and made some lovely memories. The weather was very kind to us. This term in Thrive we are going to look at Validating our Emotions, Feeling Special and Superhero's.

What does it mean to validate feelings?

When children are feeling different emotions, it is good to validate the feelings so that they know you are acknowledging, accepting and respecting the emotions that a child is experiencing. It involves communicating to that child that their feelings are real, understandable and legitimate.

Validation does not necessarily mean that you agree with the content of the feelings but rather you are recognising that the emotions of the child are valid and meaningful for them. I would always say to the child "I can see you are feeling sad/scared/angry" or completely the other way and say "I can see you are happy/excited/thrilled.

Acknowledging Feelings

Acknowledge the child's emotions directly by using phrases like this.

*I am here to support you through this... *I am sorry you are going through this...

*I understand this is difficult for you... *Your feelings matter to me...

*It's ok to feel the way you do...

Empathy

Put yourself in the child's shoes and try to understand their perspective.

Non - Judgement

Avoid passing judgement on the child's feelings and just listen to them/me.

Support

Express your willingness to provide support. You will help them. Let the child know that you are there for them and that their feelings are important to you

Change of Dates for Your Diary's!

Our next Thrive workshop will start in April. We are looking at running them on a Tuesday Night starting on 29th April 13th May 20th May 3rd June 10th June and 17th June. If you would like to book a space, please email me as they will go very quickly. D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org

ALL ABOUT TikTok

TikTok is a video sharing social media platform used to create and share short form videos that allows users to express themselves through singing, dancing, comedy, and lip-synching. It exploded in popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic and has only continued its rise since.

58% of children aged 3-15 use TikTok (alongside other social media).



1 billion global daily users by early 2022.

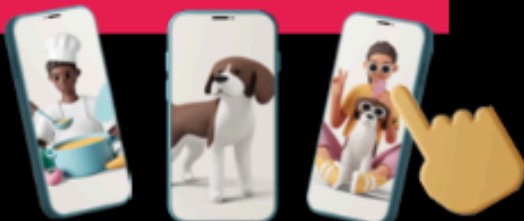
Online Safety Shareable by:
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Version: 1.0.2
Date of Publication: November 22

INEQE
SAFEGUARDING GROUP



THE FYP

TikTok wants users to see the content they want to see – which is where the 'For You Page' comes in. The platform uses algorithms to figure out a completely unique feed for every individual user.



HOW IT WORKS



SHARE

Upload short videos for other users to view, comment, and like.



EDIT

Change or alter videos to include popular filters or themes.



STITCH

Use snippets of existing videos to create a new video or trend.



COLLAB

Add popular music or audio (including from other users) to videos.



DUET

Create a video that is posted directly alongside another user's video.



MESSAGE

Users aged 16+ can send private messages to one another.

RISKS



PUBLIC VIEWS - For users registered as 16 and over, their profile is 'public' by default and their videos can be viewed and downloaded by anyone.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT - Some videos include suggestive language, mature situations, and sexualised content without warning.



SCREENTIME OVERLOAD - The continuous scrolling design of the app makes it harder for users to look away from their screens, and is likely to increase screentime.



PAID ADS - Many brands and companies have taken to TikTok to try and boost product exposure with paid adverts that mix into normal content.



INFLUENCERS - Young people may be 'influenced' by popular creators on TikTok, and could spend time or money following someone or trying to become an influencer.



IN-APP PURCHASES - Users can make in-app purchases to get 'coins', which can buy virtual gifts to send to influencers on the platform.



NOW

The TikTok Now feature prompts users to take an 'in the moment' photo or video at a random time once a day. Make sure the young person in your care knows to check the content before uploading so they're not unknowingly sharing personal details under pressure!

TOP TIPS



KEEP PRIVATE. Ensure your young person's privacy settings are appropriate for their age. Remember – a private profile gives the most control!



TALK IT OUT. 'Digital life' should be as much a part of everyday conversation as every other aspect of a young person's life.



DISCUSS TOGETHER. Find out what videos and influencers they view, what they like, what they dislike – and why!



BE HONEST. Talk about how social media content is often a far from accurate depiction of real life, especially for influencers.



STAY SAFE. Some TikTok challenges could be potentially harmful to young people. Remind them that their safety is #1 always!



GIVE SPACE. Give them room to voice any concerns they might have around harmful or inappropriate content they come across.

WATCH OUT FOR... #TikTokChallenges

Hardly a day passes without a new TikTok Challenge popping up. A 'challenge' is a type of video that is widely shared and copied by others. Many of these can be fun and engaging, incorporating things like dances, songs, and filters.

There are some, however, that can be riskier and potentially harmful - which can make them even more tempting to try! These can include dangerous stunts, mean pranks, or reacting to upsetting content.

ALERT

TikTok says users must be 13+ to use the app, but our research shows that it is extremely popular with younger children.



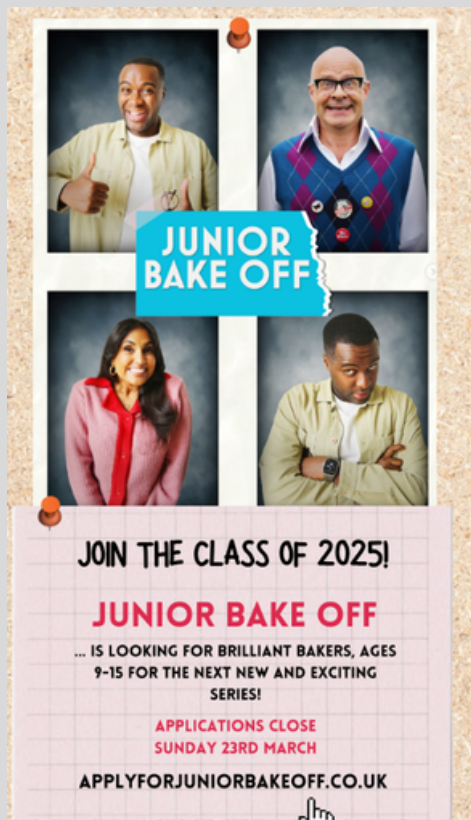
ATTENDANCE

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

JUNIOR BAKE OFF



Interested bakers can apply online at

- www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk



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.

LITTER PICKING

Registered charity no. 1071737



The Great Big School Clean

21 March - 6 April 2025

This Spring, join Keep Britain Tidy as the Great Big School Clean returns!



Since the movement began, millions of #LitterHeroes have pulled on their gloves, grabbed their litter-pickers, and pledged to pick up more than **four million** bags of rubbish.

When we all join forces and show we **love where we live**, the difference we can make is huge, instilling a sense of pride across communities, their desire to live in clean and attractive places and actively contribute to transforming, enhancing and maintaining our streets, parks, coastline waterways and countryside.

Please visit keepbritaintidy.org from 14 February to make your pledge.

As we mark a special milestone in 2025 with the tenth Great British Spring Clean, which the School Clean runs alongside, we're highlighting that **the environment belongs to everyone**, and encouraging everyone to **love where they live**.

We're calling on communities and individuals across the country to join us and take action to protect the neighbourhoods, parks, and open spaces around us, making them places to be proud of.

86% of participants felt they were **part of a national movement**, taking action to tackle litter

81% of participants agreed that taking part **helped to improve their mood**.

78% of participants **felt empowered** to make a change for good.



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Headline partner



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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.

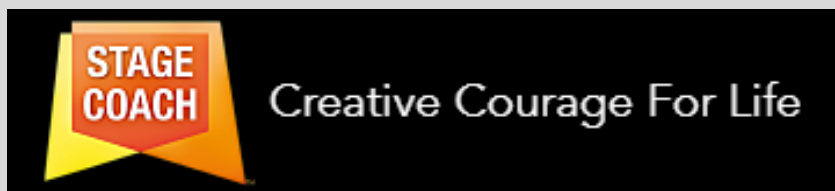
FOREST SCHOOL DONATIONS

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