

Start of Year Newsletter

8th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to this new academic year, I hope everyone had a wonderful Summer and are as excited as we are for the new year ahead. A warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception children and their families to Hillcroft too.

We have had a very successful and enjoyable start to the term where the children have thoroughly thrown themselves into their learning. It has been lovely to see and hear the children back in the classrooms and on the playground.

Staffing

This academic year we are very pleased to welcome Mrs Parker, our new Assistant Head to the team. We also welcome Mrs Alemdaroglu to our support staff.

Meet the teacher session

We will be holding our Meet the Teacher Session for each year group on Wednesday 13th September from 3.25-3.50pm. This session is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet the class teacher and ask any questions you may have. If you wish to attend these sessions, there is no booking required, however we ask that you report to reception to sign in. The sessions will take place in the following classrooms:

Year 1	Beech classroom
Year 2	Chestnut classroom
Year 3	Maple classroom
Year 4	Birch classroom
Year 5	Larch classroom
Year 6	Oak classroom

If you are unable to attend these sessions and you have a question for your child's class teacher then please email them (email addresses available on the school website) or speak to them on the playground at the end of the day.

Start of the day procedures

A reminder that, following the consultation in the summer term, the school day starts 5 minutes earlier from September 2023. The school gates onto the playground will now open at 8.25am and the school doors open at 8.30am. Children have between **8.30-8.40am** to come into school via the following entrances:

Year groups	Entrance
Nursery	Nursery entrance door.
Reception	Shelter on the front playground.
Year 1	Year 1 door
Year 2	Nursery entrance door
KS2 (Year 3-6)	Main entrance

The gates will close promptly at 8.40am, after which the class registers will be taken and your child will be recorded as late.

End of the day procedures

At the end of the day, KS1 and KS2 children come onto the front playground and are dismissed by the class teacher. Reception children are dismissed from the shelter and Nursery children are dismissed from the Nursery entrance door.

The timings for the end of the day are as follows:

Year groups	Time
EYFS & KS1	3.00pm
Year 3 & 4	3.10pm
Year 5 & 6	3.15pm

If you have children finishing at different times of the afternoon, then it is expected that you will pick up at their allotted times. If your child has not been collected by 3.20pm then they will be sent to the office. Please see Late Collection Policy available on the website for more information.

Communication

We pride ourselves on having an open door policy and therefore we encourage parents to discuss any aspect of your child's experiences with us. In the first instance this communication should take place with your child's class teacher. We prefer to do this face to face if possible, however we appreciate this can be difficult for some parents and therefore email correspondence is also acceptable. Teachers' email addresses are available on the school website.

In order to ensure anything that arises for your child/children can be dealt with in a professional and productive manner, we appreciate parents speaking directly to the school, rather than over social media. As a school, we appreciate that social media is part of everyday life however it is not an appropriate platform for any concerns or worries you have about the school or your child. In many instances, it can be upsetting and offensive to others which in turn can be damaging. Therefore again, we would appreciate any concerns being discussed directly with us.

If any of your or your child's personal details, including contact details, of your child/children have changed over the Summer break then please ensure you inform the office as soon as possible. It is our expectation that we have **at least three** contact numbers for each child. This is a safeguarding requirement which is set out to ensure we can make contact with the family in the event of an emergency.

School Uniform

It is a pleasure to see the children looking so smart at the start of the new academic year. It is expected that all children are adhering to the correct school uniform and wearing this on a daily basis. A list of the correct school uniform your child should wear can be found on the website: [School Uniform](#) .We believe uniform is an important aspect to a child's education, giving them pride about their appearance and the school and therefore we appreciate your ongoing support with this. If you are having financial difficulties buying your child the correct uniform then please contact the school office.

Children's Birthdays / handing out sweets

As a school we have a large number of children with a range of allergies, we are also a nut free and healthy eating school and therefore are unable to hand out sweets / gifts to other children. If your child wishes to hand out treats on their birthday then this must be organised outside of school.

GDPR

For GDPR reasons we are unable to hand out classlists with the children's names on them. This includes a list of first names.

Breaktime fruit

As part of the Governments School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme, EYFS and KS1 children are provided with free fruit every day. Children in KS2 are welcome to bring in their own fruit for breaktime if they wish.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miss Summers', written in a cursive style.

Miss Summers
Headteacher