



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 10th November 2023

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

I hope you all had a lovely half term and that your children have enjoyed the first few weeks back into Autumn 2. Yet again, there has been lots of fantastic learning going on, with the children all starting their new Autumn 2 topics. Here is an overview of what each year group will be focusing on this half term:

- Nursery will be thinking about how light is used in celebrations
- Early Years are thinking about why animals use shelters and creating a shelter for a small animal
- Y1 will be thinking about which structures are significant to our local area and making a structure inspired by our local history
- Y2 will be turning their focus to the Great Fire of London and thinking about how this significant event has influenced the structures we have today. They will be making a structure inspired by either 1666 London or Modern-day London
- Y3 will be looking at prehistoric Britain and will be creating a wattle and daub structure, as well as a cave painting
- Y4 will be looking at all things Romans! Their structure will be influenced by Roman architecture
- Y5 are focusing on the Ancient Egyptians and will be considering the best mechanical device to move water or a heavy load
- Y6 will be thinking about WW2 and exploring the social impact of it on society. They will then aim to build a bomb shelter that can withstand weight dropped from a height

Thank you to those parents and carers who came to this week's early maths workshop, please see information in this newsletter regarding the KS2 maths workshop on 23rd November. If you were unable to attend, the slides are available on the school website.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported our 'Bags to School' appeal. We sent off over 60 bags! I will let you know how much we raised in due course.

A big thank you also to all of our families who kindly supported our Darwin House charity sponsored walk this week. All of your donations will go directly to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

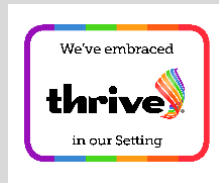
We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Miss Summers

Key Dates:

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzggw2qdmfvcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>



A message from Mrs Pearson.

HELLO! I cannot believe half term is over. I hope you all had a lovely, relaxing time and made many special memories. This week I wanted to talk about “Window of Tolerance”

Have you noticed that sometimes children can manage a task and the next day or time, they cannot?

Do you find yourself telling them this?

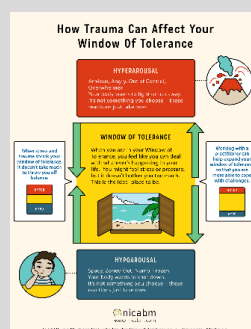
We all have a window of tolerance. Sometimes it is big and we manage difficult things because we have sufficient emotional energy to cope: we are not tired, hungry, feel poorly, lonely or sad.

When we are in our window of tolerance, we feel just right! We are calm but not tired. We are alert but not anxious. We can cope with daily challenges as they happen.

On the day's children “Can't do”, ask yourself if they are feeling hungry, frustrated, lonely or tired.

Here is a link to watch a short video on “Window of Tolerance”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNVlppGz0zM>



[A date to keep in your diary's! Date has changed!](#)

Our next coffee afternoon is Friday 8th December at 2pm. Please come through the carpark.

Computing Update- Primary and Parents - Lego Build and Talk

Lego, makers of those plastic bricks that really hurt when you step on them, have created some wonderful activities for children aged 6-9 years which I think would be very useful for parents and the classroom. There are six different topics which are designed to help children navigate the online world safely, including conversation starters. The topics include cyber bullying, screen time, false information and others. All the activities and resources are free. See [HERE](#) for further information.

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal.

This year, like previous years, Hillcroft are supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal- the opportunity to donate a new gift for a child aged between 0-14 years this Christmas.

The donation trug will be on the playground, the week beginning 20th November to accept donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please see below for ideas.



Be a S*AR and donate a gift to our
Christmas Present Appeal

OUT SHOPPING?
Please help us make Christmas special for those who are struggling this Christmas.

By adding an extra gift

We believe every child deserves **NEW GIFTS** so they are special. So we are unable to take second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal. Stuck for gift ideas? Suggested gifts are:

- **0-5 years: (Baby and Pre School age):** large dolls / dinosaurs, soft toys, mobiles, bath toys, nursery rhyme and story books, large and wood block puzzles, large cars / lorries, crayons, building blocks / Duplo, musical toys, dressing up outfits; wooden train sets
- **5-11: (Primary school age):** family and trivia games, toys, stationery (colouring sets, felt-tip pens, paints), books, puzzles, construction kits / Lego, art & craft activities, Barbie / action dolls, foot or hoops balls, hair accessories, gloves/hats/warm socks, race track sets
- **11-14: (High School age):** £10 "Amazon" or £10 "All store" gift cards, toiletry sets.

PLEASE DONATE NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS BEFORE 3RD DECEMBER.
Collection points are at Caterham Tesco, Morrisons and The Westway Centre.
VOLUNTEERS are needed to help sort, pack and deliver the gifts 4th to 15th December. Do call 01883 330718 for detail of how to help.

 **Christmas Appeal**

 FR REGISTERED WITH THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY
The Salvation Army is a Christian Church & registered Charity No 214779 and in Scotland SC009899; Social Trust Registered Charity No. 215174 and in Scotland SC037691; The Salvation Army Trustee Company, registered number 00259322 (England and Wales).

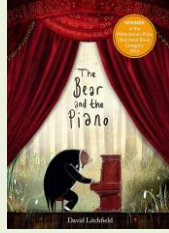
The QR code below links directly to The Caterham Salvation Army Just giving page where you can make a donation to support their Christmas Appeal.



A Reading Community

This week, Miss Moss, one of our year 6 teachers has shared her recommendations.

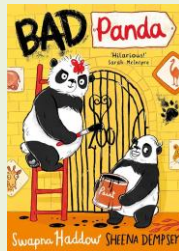
EYFS



The Bear and the Piano

One day, a young bear stumbles upon something he has never seen before in the forest. As time passes, he teaches himself how to play the strange instrument, and eventually the beautiful sounds are heard by a father and son who are picnicking in the woods.

KS1



Bad Panda

Everyone thinks that Lin is the cutest panda in the world. So much so that they ship her off to the local zoo, away from her beloved brother, to be ogled at by the masses. But Lin HATES being cute, and now she will do everything in her power to prove that she's the baddest, meanest, most un-cute animal in the zoo.

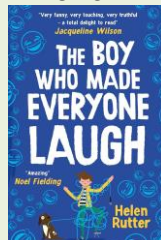
LKS2



Allergic

Her parents are preoccupied with the new baby they're expecting, and her younger brothers are twins and always in their own world.

UKS2



The boy who made everyone laugh

Billy Plimpton is an eleven-year-old boy with a big dream.

He wants to be a stand-up comedian when he grows up: delivering pinpoint punch-lines and having audiences hang on his every hilarious word. A tough career for anyone, but surely impossible for Billy, who has a stammer. How will he find his voice, if his voice won't let him speak?

Our Children's Talents and Interests



Violet, Year 1- has achieved her red belt in Karate. Well done Violet!



Madeline, Year 3- took her brownie promise yesterday. In doing so she commits to serving the King and her community and promises to do a good turn every day.



Thalia, Year 1- was awarded the Chief Scouts Acorn award last week.



Darcie, Year 3- designed a comic. It is about online safety and what to do if someone isn't kind. The advice is to block them.



Henry, Year 5- Made a Lego Technic Snow Plough.



Sophia and Jessica, Year 6- Designed and made a poster about Racism linked to their Black History month learning.



Poppy, Year 4- is "helping" her dad get ready for the boxing match he is having in December to raise funds for Hillcroft.



Phoebe, Year 5- went rock climbing for the first time and reached the top 😊.



Bella, Jessica and Emily, Year 5- These girls worked together in their own time on a presentation about looking after school property. They shared their message in assembly last week.



Neve, Year 5- was awarded her 100m swimming badge and has gained her Brownies baking badge.

Our Children's Talents and Interests, cont..



Charlie, Year 3- has learnt to ride his bike without stabilisers - and it only took him 20mins to learn!! He is very proud.



Chloé, Year 4- is busy poppy selling with the brownies up at Tesco this week.



Fraser, Year 3- climbed the O2 on Sunday with his Dad, Grandpa and my best friend Natalie. He absolutely loved it and wanted me to share it with you.



Ellie, Year 4- is learning to do the hoverboard, which she received for her birthday. We were very impressed with her balance and confidence to do it within 5 minutes of trying for the first time.

In other news...

Attendance Notice:

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Visibility

As Hillcroft is close to a very busy road and the evenings are getting darker and the weather is getting colder. If you are purchasing a new coat, please consider the colour of your child's coat and think about how visible they are when travelling to school.

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers in school to help children read or support on school trips. If you are able to offer any support, however big or small- please email Mrs Page on a.page@hillcroftschoo.org Your time and support is really appreciated.

KS2 maths Parent & Carer Workshop

We warmly invite parents and carers to our KS2 Maths workshop on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 9am. Within the workshop we will provide an overview of how maths is taught within KS2 and give you an opportunity to hear from our Maths Lead, Miss Harborne. As well as providing information on our maths programme, we will also offer advice on encouraging a love of maths and strategies for helping your child at home.

The workshop will be in the school hall and we expect it to last for about 45 minutes. It is aimed at families with children in KS2 but everyone is welcome.

Children in Need- Friday 17th November

This year we will be supporting Children in Need on Friday 17th November. In line with this year's 'SPOTacular' theme we are asking all children to come dressed in something spotty in return for a donation of your choice to Children in Need. This may be spotty socks or even an outfit full of spots! Children do not need to wear school uniforms on this day.

Please hand donations to your class teacher.



Parking in the local community

This is a polite reminder regarding parking in the local area. Please be respectful of other local businesses and do not park on their property / block entrances to their car parks etc. We also ask you not to park on the double yellow lines outside the school. We have had a number of complaints recently about our parents parking in the doctor's surgery and leaving dogs tied up to their railings- please do not do this.