



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 8th December 2023

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

Dear Parents & Carers,

I can't quite believe I am writing our last whole school newsletter of 2023!! We have had an amazing year filled with lots of achievements. It has been lovely to wrap up the year watching our KS1 Christmas performances this week, and be part of the festive fun events in Early Years. I look forward to being part of the KS2 Christmas assemblies and the Autumn term prize giving assemblies next week.

Over the past few weeks the children across the school have been busy as always:

- Nursery have been creating their own lanterns
- Reception have been building a shelter for a small world animal
- Y1 have been creating a free-standing model created out of paper and card inspired by a historically significant local structure
- Y2 have been creating a model inspired by either a historic (1666) building or a modern-day building
- Y3 have been building a wattle and daub structure inspired by the structures of prehistoric Britain
- Y4 have been building a model inspired by a structure that the Roman Empire brought to Britain
- Y5 have been making a mechanical device which will move water, or a heavy load, inspired by the Ancient Egyptians
- Y6 have been designing and building an air raid precaution shelter.

A reminder that next week on Wednesday 13th we have our Christmas lunch, open to all children and our Christmas jumper day, in return for a donation to Save the Children. On Thursday 14th we have our Secret Santa event, led by our PTA, where children can bring up to £6 to buy up to 2 gifts for loved ones this Christmas. All money raised goes directly to support the school.

Term ends on Friday 15th at the normal time. Wednesday 3rd January is an INSET day so the children will return to school for the spring term on Thursday 4th. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and thank you all again for your support and commitment to the school this year.

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.

WOW! I cannot believe this is going to be the last newsletter of the year. Where has 2023 gone! May the gift of love, peace and happiness be with you all. I hope you all have A Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. Let 2024 bring lots of happy memories.

Christmas can be a time of happiness, excitement, and fun, so maybe you will need something fun for the children to do to help them with their stress levels. Here is a fun activity, why not do it with the children too.

Belly Breathing with Stuffed Animals



Does your child have a favourite stuffed animal? This game is one of the best ways to help children lower their stress levels. Try it with them!

Let your child lie on his or her back and put a stuffed animal/toy on belly. Have them breathe in and move the stuffed animal up, then breathe out and bring the stuffed animal back down. This helps teach children to use their belly to take big deep breaths. Do this with some relaxing music! When the music starts breathe in, hold (for a count of 5) breathe out slowly.

Some lovely Mindfulness is also good for relaxing and chilling, here are some links.

<https://youtu.be/70j3xyu7OGw> (THOUGHT BUBBLES)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiMb2Bw4Ae8> (BELLY BREATHING)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf5K3pP2IUQ> (BE THE POND)

Have a great Christmas and make lots of memories. Send me your photos to go onto our photo wall. The children love walking past going to the dining hall, looking at these wonderful photos.

A Reading Community

This week, Mrs Page, one of our year 6 teacher's, shares her recommendations:

EYFS

Do you love Bugs? by Matt Robinson

The book includes 14 hilarious globally inclusive, bug-tastic spreads, featuring worms, bees, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, spiders, ants, snails and stick insects. Find out how honey bees make their honey, why moths always fly around lamps and how bombardier beetles protect themselves from hungry predators. There's something new to learn about each bug. Did you know that stick insects can dance? Or that butterflies can smell like cake? And guess what? A grasshopper will spit on you if it gets angry!

KS1

The Invisible by Tom Percival

The Invisible is the story of a young girl called Isabel and her family. They don't have much, but they have what they need to get by. Until one day, there isn't enough money to pay their rent and bills and they have to leave their home full of happy memories and move to the other side of the city. It is the story of a girl who goes on to make one of the hardest things anyone can ever make...a difference. And it is the story of those who are overlooked in our society - who are made to feel invisible - and why everyone has a place here. We all belong.

LKS2

Agent Zaiba Investigates by Annabell Sami

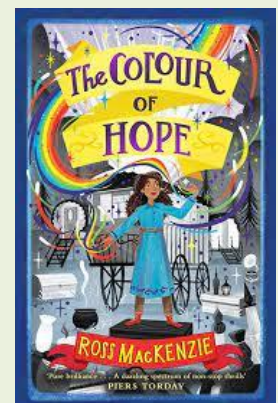
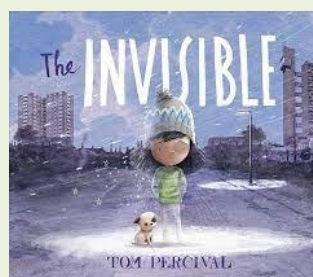
Determined to be the world's greatest detective, Zaiba is always on the lookout for a crime to solve. She knows everything there is to know about running an investigation – in theory...

At her cousin's Mehndi party, Zaiba gets her first challenge: to discover the identity of the VIP staying at the same hotel. With the help of her best friend Poppy and brother Ali, Zaiba puts her sleuthing skills to the test. And when the celebrity's precious dog disappears, along with its priceless diamond collar, it's up to the trio to save the day!

UKS2

The Colour of Hope by Ross MacKenzie

Years ago, the Emperor used dark magic to steal all the colour from the world. Now he keeps it for himself, enjoying its life-giving power while everyone else must exist in cold shades of grey. That is, until a miracle baby is born – everything she touches turns to colour. But the child's life is in danger from her very first breath. Soon the Emperor's murderous Ripper Dogs and Black Coats come hunting. Can the girl and her adopted father survive in the forest – and what will it take to return colour and hope to the world?



Our Children's Talents and Interests



Rae, Year 3- Built a light up stage using Lego.



Lilly, Year 2- Lilly had an amazing 12 inches of her beautiful long hair cut for the Princess Trust to enable a child who has lost their hair to be able to have a wig made. Well done Lilly, we are all super proud of you!



Louie, Year 3- went Team Sport Karting for his birthday last week.



Tyler, Year 5- Has written out the 466 bus route, including the recent diversions.



Neve, Year 5- completed her first Gymnastics showcase. Demonstrating to a small crowd what she had learnt in Gymnastics that term. We are very proud of her.



Bella, Year 4- In the freezing cold, Bella and her friends; special mention to Lyra, Olivia (4), Imogen (3) and Elowen (2) and Bella's sister Alana (1) were able to raise what currently stands at £309 for the Charity, Save the Children.



Melissa, Year 5- has gone up to stage 5 in swimming.



Sophie, Year 5- has made a Skulduggery Pleasant out of modelling clay.



Arthur, Year 2- has been awarded his 10 metres swimming badge.



Olivia, Year 4- was selected to be a mascot for her favourite team on Sunday, Chelsea FC...& they won!



Beau, Year 2- has been awarded his 10 metres swimming badge.

In other news...

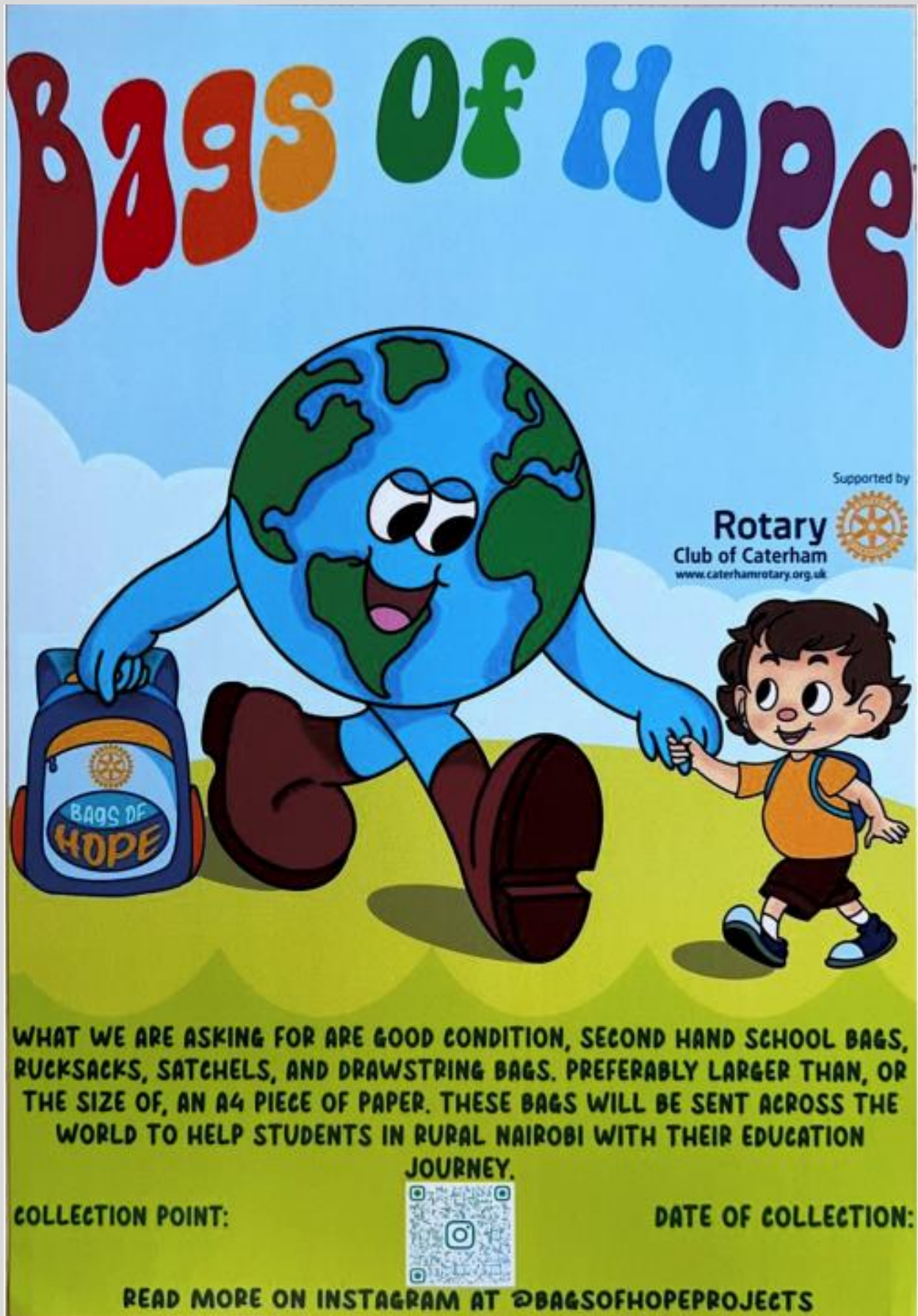
Attendance Notice:

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.

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers in school to hear 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@hillcroftschoool.org. Your time and support is really appreciated.

We will be collecting donations for Bags of Hope in the New Year in partnership with Caterham Rotary Club. Please see the poster below for further information. Our first collection date will be January 26th 2024.




Bags Of Hope

Supported by

Rotary
Club of Caterham
www.caterhamrotary.org.uk

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR ARE GOOD CONDITION, SECOND HAND SCHOOL BAGS, RUCKSACKS, SACHELS, AND DRAWSTRING BAGS. PREFERABLY LARGER THAN, OR THE SIZE OF, AN A4 PIECE OF PAPER. THESE BAGS WILL BE SENT ACROSS THE WORLD TO HELP STUDENTS IN RURAL NAIROBI WITH THEIR EDUCATION JOURNEY.

COLLECTION POINT:



DATE OF COLLECTION:

READ MORE ON INSTAGRAM AT @BAGSOFHOPEPROJECTS