



# Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

**Nurture Inspire Strive**

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and that the start of 2024 has been kind to you.

A new term at Hillcroft means a new project! The enquiry questions for each year group for Spring 1 are:

- Nursery - Can I design and construct a bridge for the Three Billy Goats Gruff?
- Reception- How can you design and make a boat for the Gingerbread Man to cross a river safely?
- Y1 - How has the invention of cars changed our lives?
- Y2 - How did the development of flight impact the life of individuals in the UK?
- Y3 - How have engineers found solutions to geographical challenges?
- Y4 - Development in technology made Britain more powerful. Support or challenge?
- Y5 - How has knowledge of light been used to impact humanity?
- Y6 - How has the "current" industrial revolution impacted the solutions to engineering problems in the modern day?

Please do reach out if you are able to support us with the delivery of these topics in any way.

If you haven't already responded then please take a look at the Nursery consultation letter that was sent out to all parents on Monday. This is a consultation for Hillcroft to take 2 year olds in our Nursery. If you have any comments to make regarding the consultation then please either complete the google form online or print out the response form and drop it into the white box in the front reception. As always, your views are greatly appreciated.

A reminder also to parents regarding safe parking when dropping off and collect your children. A number of cars are seen parking on double yellow lines at the start and end of the day. Not only is this illegal (unless you have an exemption), it is also dangerous for our families and a traffic issue. The doctors also report on a regular basis that parents are using their car park as a pick up and drop off point. Please park responsibly- there are a number of free car parks in the local area and parking in most of the roads surrounding the school is free. I appreciate your support in this.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and that the weather starts to warm up soon!

Miss Summers

## **Key Dates:**

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzgw2qdmfvcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>



### **A message from Mrs Pearson.**

***Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and made lots of lovely memories. 2024 is going to be a good year for everyone.***

***January is a traditional time for resolutions and a fresh start, but we do this every day. We talk to children about their bad days and always remind them that it's a fresh day tomorrow. 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.***

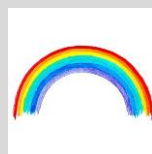
***When we are struggling to see the good in a day and find happiness, we just have to look harder. Good mental health and well-being starts within and we need the care and support of others to sustain it.***

***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](mailto:D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org) or [tcopard1@gfsschools.org](mailto:tcopard1@gfsschools.org)***

***Reflecting on the good, forgetting the bad, and looking forward to a brighter 2024.***



***It is also Parent Mental Health Day on 27th January, which is free and encourages understanding and awareness of the importance of parents' mental health and its impact overall on the family system. With this year's theme being 'Creating Positive Relationships', the day aims to get parents and carers to take a moment to reflect on the balance they have in their lives and to take positive steps to make change.***

***Stem4 are inviting parents to join their webinar on Tuesday 25th January at 7pm***

***<https://stem4.org.uk/parentmentalhealthday/>***

**Next Coffee Afternoon is:**

***Friday 10th February at 2pm, pop along for a chat and meet other parents.***

## A Reading Community

This week, Mrs Scott, one of our Reception teachers, shares her recommendations:

### EYFS

#### **The Storm Whale by Benji Davies**

The stunning bestseller by Benji Davies, winner of the inaugural Oscar's First Book Prize.

Noi and his father live in a house by the sea, his father works hard as a fisherman and Noi often has only their six cats for company. So when, one day, he finds a baby whale washed up on the beach after a storm, Noi is excited and takes it home to care for it. He tries to keep his new friend a secret, but there's only so long you can keep a whale in the bath without your dad finding out. Noi is eventually persuaded that the whale has to go back to the sea where it belongs. For Noi, even though he can't keep it, the arrival of the whale changes his life for the better - the perfect gift from one friend to another.

### KS1

#### **Dinosaurs in the Supermarket by Timothy Knapman & Sarah Warburton**

Who is hiding in the supermarket shelves and why can't the grown-ups see them? The dinosaurs are having a high old time, sneaking about the aisles and having a massive food fight in this lively picture book from an experienced writer and illustrator team. There are plenty of amusing dinosaur hiding places to spot in the bright and visually-entertaining page spreads. Young children will especially enjoy the familiarity of the supermarket setting, with its opportunities for identifying and naming fruits, vegetables and more. Combining this with dinosaurs will ensure this book is popular with young readers - and the denouement, in which the dinosaurs are seen cleaning up after themselves (and having fun doing it) is sure to please parents too!

### LKS2

#### **The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith**

The story begins with a mysterious egg washed up on a Scottish beach, the morning after a great storm. Kirstie and her brother Angus find the egg and take it home. The next day it has hatched into a tiny greeny-grey creature with a horse's head, warty skin, four flippers and a crocodile's tail. The baby sea monster soon becomes the family pet - but the trouble is, it just doesn't stop growing!

### UKS2

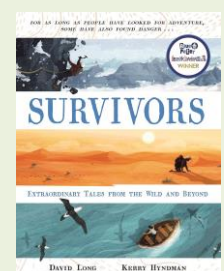
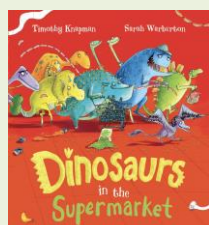
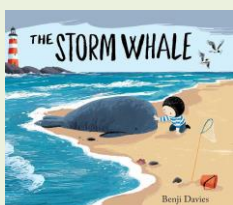
#### **Survivors by David Long & Kerry Hyndman**

Beautifully presented in a large, paperback format, and fully illustrated in colour throughout, this wonderful anthology is a treat for all the family. Be shocked and amazed by these incredible real-life stories of extreme survival, including . . .

The Man Who Sucked Blood from a Shark, a sailor who survived for 133 days on a raft in the Atlantic when his ship was torpedoed, using shark's blood in place of fresh water.

The Girl Who Fell from the Sky, a teenager who fell 2 miles from an aeroplane and trekked through the Amazon jungle to safety. The Woman Who Froze to Death - Yet Lived, a woman who was trapped under freezing water for so long her heart stopped. Four hours later, medics managed to warm her blood enough to revive her.

Combining classic tales such as Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic voyage, as well as more modern exploits such as the adventurer who inspired the movie *127 Hours*, these astonishing stories will be retold by young readers to all of their friends.



## Our Children's Talents and Interests



Tommy, Year 5- Played Shrek in SHREK the Musical Jr. He also directed part of the production.



Isabella, Year 6- plays for Caterham Pumas football team and they won their first match at the weekend.



Tad, Year 2- has achieved his 15m swimming certificate.



William, Year 2- he built a Lego Millennium Falcon over the Christmas holiday. He worked very hard on it and is really proud of himself.



Nathan, Year 3- he had an exciting arrival in the post - his Blue Peter badge. He got it for sending in his creative story 'Imagine If...'.  
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Roman, Year R- he got his 5m front crawl badge in swimming last term. He has been doing so well as he struggles so much with his confidence. Big milestone for him.



Daniel, Year 3- took part in a squash tournament. He had to play a 17 and 14 year old and his brother James (who he managed to get 9 points off!). One of his games was an epic 19-21 score! He won one of his matches and got to play some great squash.

## In other news...

### EYFS / KS1 Parent Writing Workshop

We warmly invite parents/carers to our Writing workshop on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9am. Within the workshop we will provide an overview of how writing is taught within EYFS & KS1 and give you an opportunity to hear from our Writing Lead, Mrs Page. As well as providing information on our writing programme, we will also offer advice on encouraging a love of writing 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 EYFS & KS1 but everyone is welcome.

### 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](mailto:a.page@hillcroftschoool.org). Your time and support is really appreciated.



**Amplify** Surrey presents...

# Young People, Big Voices

Have your voice heard!

## Surrey Wellbeing Festival

Join us for...

- Treasure Hunt
- Focus Groups
- Arts and Crafts
- Stalls run by Mindworks wellbeing services
- Giveaways
- Performances
- ...And so much more!

**Thursday 15th February 2024**  
**10am – 4pm**  
(10am–11am quiet hour for those with sensory sensitivities)  
**Rosebery School, Epsom, KT18 7NQ**  
**A FREE family friendly event!**

Tell us what you'd like to see by filling in our survey. Just scan our QR code:




For more info: please email [amplify.mindworks@sabp.nhs.uk](mailto:amplify.mindworks@sabp.nhs.uk)


Find us on social media: @amplifysurrey @mindworksurrey



We will be collecting donations for Bags of Hope later this month in partnership with Caterham Rotary Club. Please see the poster below for further information. Our first collection date will be January 26<sup>th</sup> 2024. Please drop any donations to the school office.



**TERRORFOOT'S REVENGE**



An exciting sequel to the Jack and the Beanstalk Story. Jack has a son Jim, almost grown up and longing for an adventure of his own. Thunderlip, the giant killed by Jack on the Beanstalk so many years before, also had a son, Terrorfoot. And Terrorfoot is out for Revenge.

**2 hour Drama Workshop**  
**Monday February 12th**

The Arc, 39 Weston Drive, Caterham, CR3 5XY

**11am-1pm - 2 hour session for SEN Adults**  
**2pm-4pm - 2 hour session for young people aged 11 years and over**

**Cost - £2.50**

To book email Tina Slaughter on [tinaslaughter@prosperotheatre.com](mailto:tinaslaughter@prosperotheatre.com)