



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 2nd February 2024

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had another busy and exciting fortnight in school with some fantastic learning from all. This week the children across the school have been focusing on the following:

- Nursery – the children have been exploring a range of nursery rhymes and considering various aspects of the stories and how they work
- Reception - the children have been exploring water and its importance
- Y1 – the children have been exploring the features of a car and considering what makes these features effective
- Y2 – the children have been beginning to design their own aviation invention
- Y3 – the children have been turning their focus to the features and functions of bridges
- Y4 – the children have been focusing on designing their own cam toy with a motorised element
- Y5 – the children have been thinking about their design criteria, ready to begin making their final products which will allow them to look over/around something without moving
- Y6 – the children have been thinking about their design criteria, ready to begin making their final products which will allow them to safely transport an item into space and back again

Last Friday we welcomed Saltmine theatre company to the school, with the children from Years 1-6 taking part in their online safety production and workshop 'Blast off'. The feedback from staff and children has been overwhelmingly positive, with the children taking away the 4 key 'Space Code' messages:

1. Stay in the safe zone: Only use age appropriate games, apps and websites. Don't meet up with strangers you have met online.
2. Protect your identity: keep your profile privacy settings secure. Don't share personal details.
3. Be kind: Think before you post. Report online bullying.
4. Call for help: If you feel scared or worried, talk to a trusted adult or call Childline on 0800 1111.

We look forward to see of many of you as possible at next week's open classrooms.

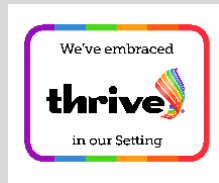
Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Summers

Key Dates:

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzgww2qdmfwcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>



A message from Mrs Pearson.

WOW! I cannot believe it's nearly half term. We have covered so much in the last 5 weeks at school. This half term we have looked at self-esteem and superheroes. February is Children's Mental Health Week and I wanted the children to think about themselves. What are they thinking, what's on their mind and how can they help themselves?

Are you a parent who...

- * Is worried their child might be sad, angry and struggling to talk***
- *Is struggling to communicate to others about how they are feeling***
- *Doesn't know what to do to help themselves***

By helping children to develop self-esteem we can give them:

- *confidence to face challenges.***
- *confidence to ask for help if they need it.***
- *confidence to understand that mistakes help you grow.***
- *ability to take responsibility for their actions and to form healthy relationships.***

We want to avoid our children feeling:

- *feeling like they can't succeed in school or at home.***
- *feeling frustrated, angry, anxious or defeated.***
- *having a hard time making and keeping friends.***
- *becoming withdrawn or giving into peer pressure.***

I know that children are learning new things constantly, but they also need the confidence to use all these valuable new skills and that's where self-esteem comes in.

Try some of these at home to build your child's confidence and self-esteem.

5 things you as a parent can do to raise confidence and self-esteem in your child:

- *Ensure your child knows they have your unconditional love.***
- *Ask your child for their opinion on decision making.***
- *Stop comparing your children to others.***
- *Give lots of love and hugs.***

****Praise the effort, not the outcome.***

Encouraging words, you can use to your children:

**** You are loved***

****You make me smile, I believe in you.***

****Your choices matter to me***

**** You are gifted and unique!***

****I love spending time with you.***

These encouraging words will help your child develop a positive mindset, help build a safe and supportive home life, boost self-esteem and help your child to believe in themselves. Lastly, don't give too much praise- giving undeserved praise can also result in negative effects. Research shows that overpraising decreases motivation and can result in narcissistic behaviour.

Activities to do at home as a family

****Exercise outside, like a walk with the dog, walk through the woods.***

****Keep a self-esteem journal for all the family. Each member of the family writes or draws a picture then talks about it.***

****Cooking together at meal times.***

****Movie night (once a week)***

****Set a goal together for home and work towards it.***

****Do some mindfulness together. This will help you as much as it will help your children.***

Everybody deserves to feel good about themselves and take pride in themselves. Although it may take a little while and a bit of work, the rewards are worth it - not only will you feel better about yourself, you'll also live a better and more fulfilled life. If that is not a goal worth THRIVING for, then I don't know what is.

If there are any questions about this or you need help at home, please contact me:

D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org

Next Coffee Afternoon is:

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



A Reading Community

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

EYFS

Hamilton's Hats by Martine Osborne & Axel Scheffler

Hamilton the Pig loves hats. He has big hats, small hats, floppy hats and feathery hats. He has so many hats that his mum is worried he is a very vain little pig. Little does she know that Hamilton's favourite hats are about to teach him some very important lessons . . .

What will Hamilton do when he meets a cheeky giraffe, a hungry crocodile and some mischievous monkeys who each want to keep one of his hats for themselves?

KS1

Billy & The Beast by Nadia Shireen

While out on a lovely walk in the woods, Billy and her trusty sidekick Fatcat hear a terrible rumble... a terrible rumble coming from a Terrible Beast!

He's making a Terrible Soup out of all of Billy and Fatcat's friends!

Luckily, our brave heroine Billy has a trick or two up her sleeve (or in her hair)... Join quick-thinking Billy on her mission to defeat the Terrible Beast (and save those adorable little bunny rabbits too).

LKS2

The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo

Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veld. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus. Bertie swears that one day they will see one another again, but it is the butterfly lion which ensures that their friendship will never be forgotten.

UKS2

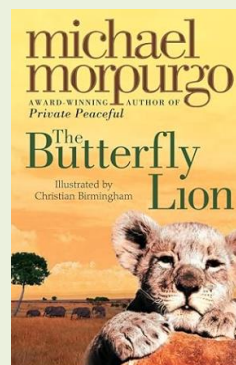
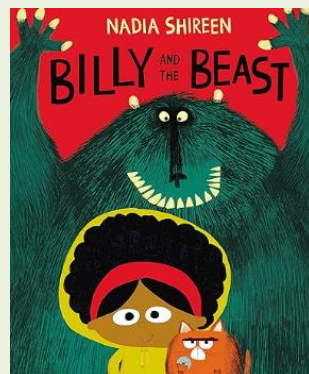
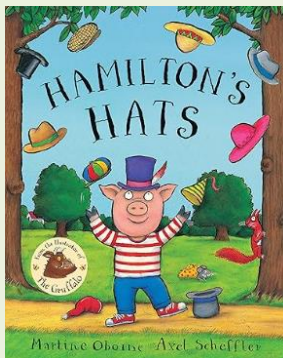
The Secret Lake by Karen Inglis

When Stella and her younger brother, Tom, move to their new London home, they become mystified by the disappearances of Harry, their elderly neighbour's small dog. Where does he go? And why does he keep reappearing wet-through?

Their quest to solve the riddle over the summer holidays leads to a boat buried under a grassy mound, and a tunnel that takes them to a secret lake.

Who is the boy rowing towards them who looks so terrified? And whose are those children's voices carried on the wind from beyond the woods?

Stella and Tom soon discover that they have travelled back in time to their home and its gardens almost 100 years earlier. Here they make both friends and enemies, and uncover startling connections between the past and present.



Our Children's Talents and Interests



Thea, Year 2- has now been moved up to stage 3 in her swimming lessons.



Emily, Year 5- took part in her first squash competition. It was very brave of her to take part, there were only two children in her age group in the competition so most of the people she played were quite a bit older and more experienced than her.



Diego, Year 3- Designed and decorated his own book cover and back cover. His friend helped him too.

Well done Diego.



Lucy, Year 3- has made a rainbow out of arts and crafts which she is very proud of and wanted to show her friends.



Blake, Year 5- his team Whyteleafe U10 got their first win as a team this weekend.



Amelia, Year 4- Attended the South Eastern Entertainment Awards with her dance school on Sunday. Amelia was nominated for best solo dancer in the under 10's category. She had a fantastic day with her dance school. What an amazing achievement!



Chloé and Ellie, Year 4- last week, the girls worked together to tackle the high ropes and zip wire at Woldingham Adventure.



Ellie, Year 1- has been very busy after school each day this week, using Papier Mache to make pots for her pens at home. She is very proud of how they have come out.

In other news...

Open Classrooms

As per the whole school calendar, please see below the dates and times for next week's open classrooms:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| 5th February | 2:30-3pm | Year 5 & 6 Open Classroom - entry through Main Doors (2 people max per child) |
| 6th February | 2.15- 2.45pm | Year 1 & 2 Open Classroom - entry through Nursery doors (2 people max per child) |
| 7th February | 2.30-3pm | Year 3 & 4 Open Classroom - entry through Main doors (2 people max per child) |
| 8th February | 2.15- 2.45pm | Reception Open Classroom - entry through main doors (2 people max per child) |

A big thank you...

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the PTA and Caterham Community Church for funding a whole school Esafety production and KS2 workshop last Friday. The children (and adults) were engaged and joining in with the show and have all come away with a new understanding of Esafety which follows with the SMART rules we learn in our weekly computing lessons. Many thanks also to the Saltmine company.



KS2 Parent Writing Workshop

We warmly invite parents/carers to our Writing workshop on Thursday 8th February at 9am. Within the workshop we will provide an overview of how writing is taught across KS2 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 KS2 but everyone is welcome.

Computing Update from Mrs Winsor

For Parents - Social Media Influencers

The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. But we know that isn't the case, sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to and much more.

Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them guide their children to think critically about social media influencers.

You can find the article [HERE](#).

Sals shoes Collection



Children tend to outgrow their shoes before they outwear them and feet in shoes are protected feet. Feet protected from injury and infection; and in areas of low sanitation the spread of infection.

Shoes are relatively difficult to recycle because of all the different components they are made up of. So Sals shoes find your preloved children's shoes new feet.

In their first year Sals shoes collected just under 5,000 pairs of shoes. 10 years on, they have now found new feet for over 5,000,000 pairs of Sal's Shoes in 61 countries around the world, including increasingly here in the UK.

At Hillcroft we would like to collect your preloved children's shoes and donate them to Sals shoes for them to find new feet. We will have a collection box labelled in the reception area starting on Monday 5th February. Let's see how many pairs of shoes we can collect!

If you would like to find out more information about Sals shoes, please visit their website at www.salsshoes.com

Attendance Notice

A reminder to 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@hillcroftschoo.org. Your time and support is really appreciated.