

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

Hillcrest Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Try

Hillcrest Downham Market

Norfolk

PE38 9ND

Telephone: 01366 388191

E-mail: office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk

Fax: 01366 384286

29th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE 8: We are back – sort of!

The long awaited partial reopening of schools begins on Monday 1st June, with Hillcrest opening its doors to Asteroids in Reception, Meteors in Year 1 and all of the Year 6 classes. Pupils in Asteroids and Meteors will be in school on a Monday and Tuesday each week whilst the Year 6 pupils attending school will be in school from Monday to Thursday.

Pupils in Suns and Nebulas classes return for the first time on Wednesday 3rd June and will be in school on a Wednesday and Thursday each week.

School will be closed to all except the Key Worker children who form part of the Emergency Childcare Provision every Friday to ensure that there is sufficient time to keep on top of the increased hygiene demands.

At present we are anticipating that fewer than 30% of parents will send their children back to school on that first day. As I have said in these newsletters before, we completely understand the decision of those who are choosing not to send their children back. In these difficult times, when the evidence put in front of us appears to change daily and also depends on which group of scientists or politicians you are listening to, everyone must take the decisions for their children that they feel is best. There are no fines for parents who choose not to send their children back to school before the Summer.

There may also be parents out there who would prefer not to be sending their children back but with work commitments calling, feel they have little choice but to do so. To those of you in that position, we will take good care of your children and we have implemented a number of measures to keep everyone, children and staff, at school as safe as possible.

Those children returning need to be prepared for the realities of life at a school where social distancing measures have to be made a top priority. They will be taught in small 'bubbles' with no one 'bubble' of children mixing with any other throughout the day, including during breaks and lunch. Therefore, contact with other children will be limited.

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Whilst in their 'bubbles' they will remain seated at their individual desk and will not be involved in any collaborative work with others, even within their own 'bubble.'

The Reception children will be amongst those who find this the biggest change as they are used to a play-based curriculum and fairly free movement around the classroom.

There will also be limited academic benefit of this partial reopening as a number of the curriculum subjects will be difficult to cover in terms of both time, with the children only in school for two days per week (or four days in Year 6) and also the inability to work collaboratively or creatively due to the social distancing restrictions. Therefore, expectations for what will be realistically achieved with the children over the next 7 weeks need to be lowered significantly.

School Uniform, Snacks and Lunch

Those children returning in Years R, 1 & 6 need to attend school in normal school uniform.

We will not be providing fruit during this period as we normally would. Therefore, if you would like to send your child in with an extra snack or their own piece of fruit you are more than welcome.

Norse will be running the school kitchen from 1st June and Universal Infant Free School Meals will return for all children in Reception and Year 1. However, the kitchen will NOT be providing hot dinners with all meals provided issued as packed lunches.

Free School Meals

We will continue to issue the Free School Meal vouchers to those who are entitled to them until the point where the government end the scheme which will presumably be once all year groups are back in school.

However, if you have received a Free School Meal voucher for the week beginning 1st June and then choose to send your children back to school, you will need to ensure that you have sent them with a packed lunch as they will then NOT be able to claim a second dinner from the kitchen.

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Returning on 1st June

Can parents please refer to Newsletter 7 that was emailed out to everyone on Friday 22nd May as it was individually tailored for every parent to show them who would be teaching their children and when.

It is extremely important to help maintain the safety of the parents coming on to site as well as the children, that they are aware of the time that they need to drop off and collect their children and on what days, as these measures have been put in place to reduce the number of parents on site during this period.

However, on some of the letters sent out last week, the name of the class base in which some of the 'bubbles' were being taught was missed off. Therefore, please find all of the classes returning on Monday 1st June listed below and, more importantly, the class you will take your child to in order to drop them off and pick them up.

Bubble	Teacher	Days of Week	Class Base	Drop-Off Point
Asteroids	Mrs Tempestini	Mon & Tue	Asteroids	Asteroids 8.35am
Asteroids	Mrs Fysh	Mon & Tue	Suns	Suns 8.50am
Asteroids	Mrs Pepper/Poynter	Mon & Tue	Moons	Moons 9.05am
Meteors	Mrs Sivell	Mon & Tue	Meteors	Meteors 8.35am
Meteors	Mrs Farmer	Mon & Tue	Nebulas	Nebulas 8.50am
Meteors	Mrs Matthews/Miss Longworth	Mon & Tue	Comets	Comets 9.05am
Proteus	Mr Martin	Mon – Thurs	Proteus	Outside front entrance to 'i' Building 8.35am
Proteus	Mrs Hobbs/Birt	Mon – Thurs	Europa	Outside front entrance to 'i' Building 8.35am
Neptune	Mrs Cawley	Mon – Thurs	Neptune	Outside front entrance to 'i' Building 8.50am

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Neptune	Mrs Golding/Perillo & Passmore	Mon – Thurs	Earth	Outside front entrance to 'i' Building 8.50am
Earth	Mr Steel	Mon – Thurs	Venus	Outside front entrance to 'i' Building 9.05am
Earth	Mrs Wakely/Beeby	Mon – Thurs	Mars	Outside front entrance to 'i' Building 9.05am
Suns	Mrs Fysh	Wed & Thurs	Suns	Suns 8.35am
Suns	Mrs Tempestini	Wed & Thurs	Asteroids	Asteroids 8.50am
Suns	Mrs Pepper/Poynter	Wed & Thurs	Moons	Moons 9.05am
Nebulas	Mrs Farr	Wed & Thurs	Nebulas	Nebulas 8.35am
Nebulas	Mrs Sivell	Wed & Thurs	Meteors	Meteors 8.50am
Nebulas	Ms King/Mrs Farmer	Wed & Thurs	Comets	Comets 9.05am

Car Parking

Please note that the gates to the main school car park will be closed from Monday 1st June. All parents dropping children off should return to parking in the road as was always the expectation before this lockdown began.

Restricted Access Points to School

Please note that both the access gates off Civray Avenue and Sandringham Drive will remain CLOSED until the end of term.

All access on to the school site will be via the front gate, off Hillcrest.

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When will Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 Return to School?

We have paused planning for a wider reopening of Hillcrest as we want to let the current changes settle in and see what lessons can be learnt after bringing Years R, 1 & 6 back.

Despite yesterday's announcement by the government confirming the partial reopening of schools from 1st June, they have temporarily dropped the date of 22nd June for a wider reopening of primary schools.

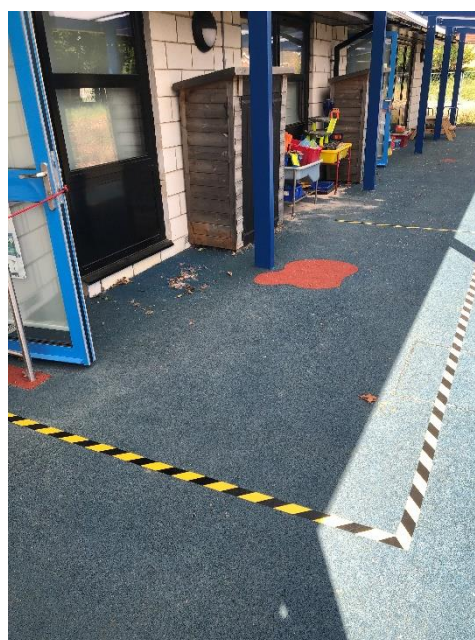
I can confirm that whatever decision the government reaches over this wider reopening during the coming weeks, Hillcrest WILL NOT be opening to any more pupils during the week beginning 22nd June.

The earliest that school will reopen to Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 will be the week beginning 29th June and even that date is not set in stone. However, staff at school will be reviewing the success of the partial reopening over the next few days and weeks, including looking at the success and practicality of the steps we are taking to keep everyone safe. Parents of children in the other year groups will be kept well informed and as soon as we have a date for a wider return, we will let you know.

Social Distancing

Because of the need to ensure that the children, parents and staff are safe and do not spread Covid-19 amongst one another, there are lots of social distancing measures in place.

These include parents dropping their children off two metres from the classroom door. Parents SHOULD NOT attempt to step beyond the yellow and black hazard tape outside each classroom.



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Communication Between Home and School

The social distancing measures that have been touched upon above will dramatically change the way that parents interact with the school going forwards. Please note the points below...

- Communication Books WILL NOT be used to share queries or concerns for the remainder of the year and should NOT be sent into school – their smooth surface can hold the virus for several days and by coming in and out of school each day they can be a source of infection at both home as well as in school;
- Parents SHOULD NOT approach staff to talk to them in the mornings or during the afternoon collection;
- Staff will not hold any face-to-face meetings with parents in school;
- ALL communications between home and school to go via email wherever possible – staff check their emails before 8.30am;
- Any matters that cannot be dealt with through an email exchange can be discussed by arranging a telephone meeting at a convenient point;
- The front office will be CLOSED to parents for the remainder of the year. All queries should come into the office by emailing office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk or by telephone on 01366 388191.

One Way System

As parents enter the school site via the main school gate, they will encounter a one-way system which directs them anti-clockwise around the car park and through the black gate immediately outside the 'i' Building. They will then walk around the outside of the main school building in an anti-clockwise direction, until they reach the class outside which they will drop the children off.

Parents should remain behind the yellow/black line which will be marked on the ground approximately two metres away from the classroom door.

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Keeping Classes Open

Although the NHS Track & Trace system is a welcome step forwards to getting the country back on its feet and identifying exactly where the virus is prevalent, it will also potentially have a negative effect on our ability to maintain a service at school.

Our staff, like everyone else, will be open to receiving calls telling them that they have to self-isolate for 14 days if they have come into contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19.

We have already stated that we will not be covering staff absence with supply teachers and therefore, in the event that a staff member does have to go into self-isolation, or gets ill themselves, we may have to close their particular 'bubble' and not be able to provide a service to the children within it for a period of time.

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF...

- *...they display a temperature of 37.6 degrees or higher;*
- *...they have a persistent cough (regardless of whether you believe this to be caused by something else);*
- *---they complain of a sudden and extreme loss of taste or smell.*

In the event that they are displaying these symptoms, you MUST get your child tested as they will NOT be accepted back into school until we see evidence of a NEGATIVE Covid-19 test and their symptoms have subsided.

If your child develops any of these symptoms whilst at school, we will isolate them and then ask you to come and collect them.

Getting Tested for Covid-19

If a child is off school or has been sent home because they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms, they will NOT be allowed to return to school unless we have confirmation they have been tested and that we have seen confirmation that the test result is negative.

Covid-19 tests can be booked through the NHS and are available to all who display symptoms at the website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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Learning is Everywhere

Although we are closing the Google Classrooms for those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 now that the staff are back at school, it does not mean that there are no resources available for those who are choosing not to send their children to school.

Please find below a comprehensive list of online educational resources that, at the time of compiling the list, did not require parents to subscribe or pay to register.

Resource	Age Range	Description
https://stories.audible.com/start-listen	EYFS to KS2	All children's audiobooks are available for free while schools are closed

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/	EYFS to KS2	A site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, including fiction and non-fiction. Family activities are included in the 'Home Time' section
https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/	KS2	One free audio book reading is available to listen to every day
https://www.englishmastery.org/	KS1/KS2	Downloadable resource books providing 8 weeks of activities
https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/	EYFS to KS2	A site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, covering fiction and non-fiction
https://www.pobble365.com/	KS1/KS2	A new image is published each day as a basis for creative writing. Story starters, questions and drawing ideas are provided

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https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDe74j1F52zQ51fqNpKV07E71knN18HFfn	EYFS/KS1	Films of well-loved stories read by Nick Cannon, a trained actor, teacher and trainer available Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2pm
https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/	KS1/KS2	Downloadable resource packs with teacher guidance. A week's worth of resources is provided for each year group

https://www.mathematicsmastery.org/free-resources	EYFS to KS2	Downloadable guidance and resource packs for parents and pupils
https://rich.maths.org/	EYFS to KS2	A range of activities. Some are interactive and some are to be completed offline. Activities are categorised by age range
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths	EYFS/KS1	Videos for numeracy development designed for children aged 0 to 6. There are fun activities that can be applied to everyday life and play
https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/	EYFS to KS2	Presentations and downloadable workbooks which are easy to use for parents. New material is being released each week
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary	KS1/KS2	Interactive resources covering the primary science curriculum
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvsc	EYFS	Videos that get younger children up and dancing with CBeebies presenters
https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups	EYFS to KS2	10-minute activities based on Disney films that count towards a child's 60 active minutes per day

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https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers	KS1/KS2	Videos which help children move while they learn. They support curriculum subjects, including Maths and English
https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/	KS1/KS2	Videos delivered by teachers focusing on the PE curriculum which are accessible on YouTube

Back to School Tips for Parents

In a post-lockdown world, school won't look anything like normal.

Here's what our kids can expect:

- Social distancing
- Different start and finish times
- Areas out of bounds
- Being taught by a different teacher

These can all be causes of anxiety and worry for kids of any age.

So what can we do to help them return to school successfully?

Here are some ideas to use that will help your children feel ready to go back to school.

1. Explain that there will be new routines and rules

It's important our children don't go into school expecting everything to look like normal - only to get a huge shock when they walk through the door.

Explain things will look different - but tell your child not to worry, because the teachers have been thinking about how to make the school safe and will help you get used to the new layouts and routines.

If schools have made photos of classrooms available, share them with your child so they know what the layout will look like.



And it can also be reassuring to talk about the things that haven't changed.

For instance:

- They'll be dropped off on the same playground
- They'll see the same adults around school
- They'll be wearing the same uniform
- You'll be taking the same route to school

And remember to tell them who will drop them off and who will pick them up. Even if this seems obvious to us as adults, it helps give kids reassurance and a sense of security.

2. Talk about worries or fears

In the run-up to returning, make time for little conversations about how they're feeling about going back to school.

Be careful how you do this - the aim is to see if they do have concerns, not to plant new ones!

If your child does have worries, acknowledge their concerns first before offering reassurance.

For example:

- It's normal to feel worried about the virus, but here's what you can do to stay safe in school
- I bet other children will feel worried about having a new teacher, too. That's why Mr. Smith will spend lots of time explaining how everything will work.

And a good way of turning a negative into a positive is using the phrase, "At least..."

As in:

- I know we can't spend time together today, but at least we can have some time straight after school
- I know you're in a different class from your best friend, but at least the teachers are going to make sure everyone makes new friends

And don't be surprised if children want to talk about the same issue a number of times. Kids often need to (repeatedly!) revisit an idea with an adult to get reassurance nothing has changed.



3. Convey calm

It's natural for all parents to have some level of anxiety about returning their child to school.

But however you feel on the inside, it's important to convey calm to your child.

Kids pick up on lots of little clues about how their parents are feeling - and they use this information to inform how they should be feeling. If we look worried, they pick up on this and start worrying too!

So, if you do have concerns, it's time to be an actor. However you feel on the inside, aim to convey calm on the outside.

To do this, we need to think about:

- What we say (and what they overhear)
- Our tone of voice
- Our body language

4. Routines for sleep

In most families, routines around kids' sleep have become more... flexible!

Bedtimes have drifted until later in the evening... and kids are getting up later in the morning as a result.

To move immediately from these routines to 'normal running' and getting into school for an early start could be tricky.

So start moving your child's bedtime back towards normality now. Do this gradually, before they get back to school.

Because if we leave it to the last minute, it's likely our kids won't have time to adjust, and won't be able to get to sleep at the earlier time.

And then your child won't only have to cope with going back to school on the first day back - they'll be managing exhaustion too.

5. Be kind to yourself

Everyone has been through an emotional rollercoaster over the last few months - that includes **you** and your child.

And if you've felt overwhelmed or worried about sending your child back to school, that's okay. It's entirely normal.

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So be kind to yourself.

Make sure you:

- Build in time for activities you find de-stressing
- Get some exercise (even if that's just walking)
- Take some time alone, if you need it

All of these activities will help make sure you're in an emotionally strong place - so you can support your child with their emotions too.

Key takeaways

Lockdown was a massive change for all of us - including our kids. And now they're going back to school, we need to help them prepare for another big change.

So:

- Talk through what school will be like - and what will happen during the day - so your child knows what to expect
- Make time to talk about any worries they may have
- Let them see you looking calm and in control (even if you feel differently on the inside)
- Ease them back towards normal bedtimes (so they're not exhausted on their first day back)
- Take care of yourself (so you can take care of your child)

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Emergency Childcare Provision

We will continue to support the children of Key Workers across Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 throughout the remainder of the year between 8.55am and 3.30pm with the drop-off and collection point for these children continuing to be at the front entrance to the school.

Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who are Key Workers can also access this service on those days when their 'bubbles' are not in school.

Those children attending the Emergency Childcare Provision DO NOT have to attend in school uniform.

We still have the list of 55 children that was drawn up at the beginning of the school closure period and who qualify for the Emergency Childcare Provision.

All parents wishing to continue to make use of the Emergency Childcare Provision from 1st June need to email office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk by 1pm on the Friday prior to the following week starting.

Please note that if there is a parent/responsible adult at home, children should NOT be taking up spaces in the Emergency Childcare Provision as this will become unmanageable if numbers grow too high.

Please note that the Emergency Childcare Provision will be CLOSED to all on Friday 19th June.

And Finally...

We look forward to the day when we can see all of our pupils back in school in an environment where staff, pupils and parents are no longer in the shadow of the virus and we can operate normally.

Until then, we have this rather unusual situation where everything we are asking of the children feels 'anti-school' and alien to them. No collaborative working, no socialising within normal friendship groups, no creative activities. Normal communication channels for parents have also been temporarily restricted. We are telling families that it is ok to keep your children off school when under normal circumstances we are encouraging the children into school.

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It is a strange world that doesn't sit comfortably for any of us who work at Hillcrest.

We look positively however, towards returning in September to something that possibly resembles normality. For now, we will continue to do the best we can to care for those children we see, to educate those children we are supporting online and to keep everyone around us as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Try