

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Try
Hillcrest Primary School Hillcrest Downham Market Norfolk PE38 9ND
Telephone: 01366 388191 **E-mail:** office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk **Fax:** 01366 384286

26th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE 12: A Full Return in September Now Likely...but restrictions remain

I haven't held back from sharing concerns over the ability to fit 509 children into the school buildings whilst keeping them 1 metre apart.

It would appear that the government are soon to confirm that the children within each 'bubble' will not need to social distance from one another. This means that schools will be able to ensure that all 30 children in a class can return in September. However, it is expected that these classes of 30 children will still be treated as 'bubbles' and therefore not be able to mix with any other 'bubble' throughout the course of the day.

Of course, we have to wait to see whether this is what the government confirms. If it is, then it will see a welcome return to school for all pupils and another step towards the school getting back to normal.

However, if the virus is still in general circulation, it is anticipated that many of the restrictions that are currently in place will continue to be necessary throughout the Autumn Term. These include a huge stagger at the start and the end of each day to limit the amount of adults walking around the site, the continuation of the one way system around school, a continuation of no face-to-face meetings between staff and parents and separate break and lunch times for each 'bubble.'

End of Term Dates

The final day of term for those children in **Asteroids, Meteors and Year 6** will be **Tuesday 21st July**.

The final day of term for those children in **Suns and Nebulas** will be **Thursday 16th July**.

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Emergency Childcare Provision for Key Workers

Can parents on the Key Worker list for the Emergency Childcare Provision please continue to contact the school via office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk by 1pm every Friday to inform us of which days you would require the service for the following week.

Please note that the school will be completely CLOSED to all children and that there will be no Emergency Childcare Provision available on Friday 17th July

The last day of the Emergency Childcare Provision will be on Tuesday 21st July after which point Hillcrest closes for the Summer

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/>

There is also a new telephone service. You can dial 119 to book a test.

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New Classes for 2020/21 and Transition Days

All parents should have now received an email confirming which classes their children are going in to next year.

As you may have already figured out by talking to other parents, no classes have been mixed this year unlike in recent years. With all of the issues around the school closure followed by the partial school reopening in June, to have then mixed classes up for September when next year continues to be filled with uncertainty, would have been an added complication that isn't necessary at this stage.

The only exception to this is where we have siblings in the same year group and who are not currently in the same class. In these instances, the parents have been given the option of placing them together for next year in order to reduce the amount of children that their children mix with during the course of the day.

Clearly, this option is not feasible for parents who have more than one child in different year groups.

Can all parents please look closely at the time we require your child to be in school on the Transition Day. With tight restrictions still in place for the remainder of the year, we will only be giving the children the opportunity to meet their new teachers in small 'bubbles.' Therefore, some children within the same class may be coming in on the Transition Day at different times from their friends. It is important that parents stick to the times on the letters as the classes will only contain enough furniture to accommodate the small numbers that we have planned for.

Each child will get between 90 and 105 minutes in the class with their new teacher depending upon which year group they are moving into.

Children moving up to Year 2 in September will meet their teachers on Thursday 9th July. Children moving up to Years 1, 3, 4 & 5 will come in on Friday 10th July whilst those moving up to Year 6 will have their Transition Day on Monday 13th July.

The children will be expected to attend school in their uniform for the Transition Days. They will not require lunch or snacks. However, a water bottle may be useful, especially if it continues to be extremely hot.

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Paper Based Resources

The deadline has now passed for parents from Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 to request the latest Paper-Based Resource Pack.

However, we would like to remind parents that they can collect these from the main school hall, on **Tuesday 30th June**. Parents of children in Years 2 or 3 should drop by between 10am and 10.45am to collect their packs whilst parents of those in Years 4 or 5 should drop by between 10.45 and 11.30am.

Those parents requesting a pack by email should already have received these whilst those requesting a pack in the post should have received it by next Tuesday.

Applying for Free School Meals

Following Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford's well-publicised intervention recently, you may be aware that the government are to provide Free School Meals over the Summer Holidays to those who qualify.

This is expected to take the form of a one-off voucher covering the six-week break to the value of £15 per week per qualifying child.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you claim any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

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Therefore, we would encourage those parents who think that they may qualify for Free School Meals to register with Norfolk County Council via the following website...

www.norfolk.gov.uk/neo

Please note that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will NOT automatically be entitled to receive these Free School Meal National Vouchers over the Summer, even though they receive Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 who think that they would qualify for Free School Meals after looking at the qualifying list above, should still register through the www.norfolk.gov.uk/neo website as you may continue to be able to get the support throughout the Summer break. Similarly, parents of children in Key Stage 2 should also register if their employment circumstances have changed over the past few weeks because of the lockdown.

Midday Supervisors WANTED

We need Midday Supervisors to work each school day from 12.15pm until 1.30pm (times may change during the 2020 Autumn Term depending upon the revised plans that we may need to implement due to the restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic)

The rate of pay is £9.00 per hour

If this interests you and you would like to know more, please come and have a chat with us and collect an application form from the school office

The closing date for this opportunity is...

Friday 10th July 2020

In the event that we get enough candidates, we will arrange an interview by phone during the week beginning 13th July

We look forward to hearing from you

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And Finally...

The move to a full return in September for all the children is a positive step forwards even though the coming year will still be far from normal and with a great deal of uncertainty.

Staff have enjoyed seeing more faces return to school as families either experience a greater pressure to return to work or a greater sense of peace with the situation and confidence in the measures that the school have put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

I am incredibly proud of the efforts that my colleagues have gone to make sure that the children are not only re-establishing the old learning routines from before lockdown but that they are also going home with a smile on their face and are comfortable in the environment that they find themselves in at school.

The staff are also incredibly grateful to the parents who have persisted with, and continue to persist with in many cases, the online learning that has kept the children as focused as possible up until their return.

We continue to wish you well and hope that everyone is staying safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Try