

# Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

# TLC

Hillcrest Primary School

**Headteacher:** Mr Matthew Try

Hillcrest Downham Market

Norfolk

PE38 9ND

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3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE 13: Looking Forward to the Transition Days

Alongside teaching the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils and the Key Worker pupils, staff have also been busily preparing their classrooms in order to welcome all of the children back for the forthcoming Transition Days.

Year 1 pupils will meet their new Year 2 teachers on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Current Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will meet their new teachers on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July whilst the current Year 5 pupils will meet their new Year 6 teachers on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Can parents please ensure that they have carefully read the letters that were emailed out last week regarding the Transition Days as different children in the same class will have different times for attending school on those days. As with the children who have been coming into school over the past few weeks, the children coming in for the Transition Days are also attending in small 'bubbles' so that we can limit their interaction with people.

Please note that those children already in school because they are in Reception, Year 1, Year 6 or the Emergency Childcare Provision, will still get the opportunity to meet their new teacher at the time specified on the letters. We will take them to those sessions.

Although we have specified that the children should attend in school uniform because we want the Transition Day to feel as much like normal school as possible at this strange time, we are also aware that the usual issues that arise in the Summer Term will rear their heads. For instance, since lockdown, the children may have grown out of their school shoes. Please don't feel the pressure to go out and get new school shoes just for the Transition Day, especially when they may have a further growth spurt over the Summer. They are perfectly welcome to wear a different pair of shoes or trainers for that day.

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## Complicated Return in September

Now that the government have confirmed that the expectation is for all primary aged pupils to return in September and each class of 30 is to be treated as a 'bubble' and not mix with any other children, we can now start preparing a timetable for the new school year.

Although the return to school for all children may feel like the new year will start as normal, it will be far from normal within the school.

Our plan is to issue parents with a timetable before the Summer break so that you are aware of what your children will be returning to.

Because of the ongoing need to socially distance the adults, there will need to be a massive stagger of start and finish times across the school. Some classes will start as early as 8.15am with a 2.50pm finish whilst, at the other end, some classes will not begin until 9.30am and finish at 4.05pm. As with the stagger that parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 have experienced since 1<sup>st</sup> June, this may involve parents having multiple drop-off times for different children. This will be inconvenient for some for which we apologise in advance of that timetable being shared. However, with such complex safety considerations to make and so many children and classes to cater for, it is impossible to make this work to the satisfaction of all parents and there will undoubtedly be some parents who are inconvenienced by the new timetable. We will NOT be able to accept children into the school at any other point in time other than the official start time they are given and we cannot take individual requests to swap start and finish times for a particular child.

We will also be treating the typical classes of 30 pupils as larger 'bubbles' and each 'bubble' will not mix with any other. Therefore morning breaks and lunch will also be heavily staggered. It will take over three hours to get all of the children through the dinner hall from September. This will mean that those pupils who have an extremely early lunch are most likely to need to save their snack for an afternoon break to help see them through the day.

The other big news from the recent government announcement has been that from September, attendance at school is mandatory once again and that this temporary period of choosing to keep children at home will no longer continue. The usual process of fining parents who keep their children at home will also return.

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## 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.

***In the time since the lockdown started, around 20 new families have now successfully claimed for Free School Meals and will receive the additional FSM Summer Vouchers.***

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)

Therefore, we would encourage those parents who think that they may qualify for Free School Meals to register with Norfolk County Council via [www.norfolk.gov.uk/neo](http://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](http://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.

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## End of Term Dates

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

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

## New Classes for 2020/21

Year Group	Class	Teacher
Reception	Suns	Mrs Fysh
Reception	Asteroids	Mrs Tempestini
Year 1	Nebulas	Mrs Harris
Year 1	Meteors	Mr Chalkley
Year 2	Comets	Miss Longworth
Year 2	Planets	Ms King
Year 3	Pluto	Mrs Sivell/Mrs Farr
Year 3	Mercury	Mrs Mather
Year 3	Tethys	Mrs Williams
Year 4	Mars	Miss Smith
Year 4	Saturn	Mrs Freeman
Year 4	Titan	Mrs Wardle
Year 5	Jupiter	Mrs Muskett
Year 5	Venus	Mr Frost
Year 5	Europa	Miss Benefer
Year 6	Proteus	Mr Martin
Year 6	Neptune	Mrs Cawley
Year 6	Earth	Mr Steel

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## Staggered Start for Reception

Now that we know the government plans are for a full return as normal in September, we can confirm to those parents with children joining us in Reception in September, that we will be operating the staggered start to the term that was referred to in their initial 'welcome' letter. ***Although please note that start and finish times to the day slightly differ from the original letters and are different for Suns compared to Asteroids.***

This measure is not unusual in schools and many schools do not accept Reception pupils full-time for the first few weeks.

The first three weeks of schooling for the new Reception pupils will be part-time in order to develop their stamina and ensure that the start to their schooling includes short bursts of learning which are positive as opposed to throwing them in to a full timetable from the start.

Therefore, the time that the new Reception children will spend in school will build up gradually over the three weeks as follows...

**Week Beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September** – Children in school up until the end of morning break between 8.45am and 11.30am (for children in Suns) and 9.00am – 11.45am (for children in Asteroids)

**Week Beginning 14<sup>th</sup> September** – Children in school up until the beginning of lunch break (the children WILL NOT eat at school during this week) between 8.45am and 12.10pm (for children in Suns) and 9.00am – 12.25pm (for children in Asteroids)

**Week Beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Children will experience the school dinner routine in school and go home AFTER eating with us. They will be in school between 8.45am and 1.15pm (for children in Suns) and 9.00am – 1.30pm (for children in Asteroids).

**Week Beginning 28<sup>th</sup> September** – Children attend full-time and experience a normal school day between 8.45am and 3.20pm (for children in Suns) and 9.00am – 3.35pm (for children in Asteroids).

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## Car Park Resurfacing

Please do not be alarmed when you come to school on Monday morning and see what will resemble a building site again.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, the turning circle should be fenced off so that no one can walk on the car park as work begins to start tearing it up so that new drainage channels and a new surface can be laid.

This will NOT affect the one-way route that has been set up for the parents and the children to access the site and all access will continue as normal.

The work is expected to continue throughout the summer holidays. However, the work should have been completed upon the children's return to school on 7<sup>th</sup> September with the old barrier back in place at the front gate and hopefully in working order.

## Learning is Everywhere

- The Department for Education's Hungry Little Minds campaign which can be found at <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/> features tips and practical activities that parents can do at home with children aged 0 to 5 to support their early learning;
- There are many simple ways to help children learn and it does not have to feel like 'learning'. Having everyday conversations, make-believe play and reading together all make a big difference to children's development. The BBC's Tiny Happy People website (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>) has a wealth of information;
- For those with older primary-aged children, The National Literacy Trust's Family Zone (<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>) is available for ideas and content;
- The Oak National Academy continues to be a great source of education with children engaging in lessons delivered, in person, by a teacher broadcasting online. The website is <https://www.thenational.academy/>

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## Breakfast Club and After-School Childcare

I'm afraid that there isn't any good news to report on the before and after-school childcare in the absence of Gingerbreads who stopped operating at the start of the lockdown.

Other providers have been approached to no avail and although we aren't giving up hope of finding an alternative in the long-term, the immediate prospects of filling that void by the beginning of the Autumn Term are not good.

## 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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> July***

***The last day of the Emergency Childcare Provision will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.***

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## 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.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

## School Dinners

Norse will return to serving hot dinners as normal upon our return in September. A menu will hopefully appear on WisePay prior to the start of the new school year and we will return to taking payment only through the WisePay system.

However, because of restrictions imposed by the current health crisis, Norse will no longer be offering Pick 'n' Mix as an option.

## And Finally...

After today's pleasing news that we will see all of the children return in the Autumn Term, we now continue to plough on with plans that had already begun to ensure that we can accommodate all of the children on site safely. Final plans will be shared with parents before the end of term and this information will include the different start and finish times for the various classes.

Although normal on the surface, school will be far from normal next year and we will continue to live under the shadow of the prospect that individual classes, year groups, or indeed, the whole school, may have to close at relatively short notice if outbreaks of the virus occur.

We hope that you continue to stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you soon.

**Mr Try**