

# 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](mailto:office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk) **Fax:** 01366 384286

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE 14: Closing in on the Year End

After this weekend there are just 7 school days left of the term and indeed, the academic year.

Most pupils have taken up the opportunity to meet their new teachers during the Transition Days this week and it was pleasing to see so many happy faces coming through the school gate, many for the first time since 20<sup>th</sup> March.

We still have the Year 5 pupils to come into school next Monday where they will meet their new Year 6 teachers. The current Year 6 pupils, who have been in school since 1<sup>st</sup> June, will still be able to attend school on Monday. However, they will be taught in a different room within the 'i' Building for that day only so that the current Year 5 pupils can experience their new classrooms.

Preparations for a full return in September are ongoing and a timetable will be emailed to all homes next Friday so that parents can plan drop-offs and pick-ups ahead of the restart in the new school year. As previously reported, there will be a massive stagger of start and finish times with the earliest classes starting at 8.15am and finishing at 2.50pm whilst the last classes will begin at 9.30am, finishing at 4.05pm. There will be other start and finish times at 15 minute intervals in between. All children will get the same amount of teaching time and breaks as they do at present. We do acknowledge that the staggered start times will be awkward for some families and apologise for that. However, with over 500 children and 18 classes to accommodate, it is not possible to create a timetable that will satisfy everyone. We will also not have the space or the staff to be able to accommodate individual requests to take some children in before their scheduled start time.

We should also stress again that from September, school attendance is once again compulsory with the normal system of fines back in place for those not sending their children to school.

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## Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Provided that the technology works in our favour, our plan is to stream the Year 6 Leavers Assembly live to the parents at home via the Facebook page set up by the school at the start of the lockdown so that we could share stories with the children. Please search Facebook for 'Hillcrest Primary School Story-telling'

The ceremony will begin at 10am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and will last approximately 30 minutes.

All aspects of normal school life have been affected by the pandemic and the Year 6s end to their Hillcrest experience is no different. Whilst incredibly sad that they cannot share this moment with their parents watching close by as Year 6s in years gone past would have done, this at least will allow the children to share the moment with one another and in the knowledge that their parents can still watch, even if it is from the comfort of their home or workplace.

The vast majority of Year 6 pupils have now returned to school and it would be great to see ALL of the pupils back for this day in particular. Therefore, provided you feel happy with your child attending school on that day, we would ask that, if possible, all Year 6 pupils return for that ceremony.

## Time Capsule

One of the Year 6 pupils' main tasks this week has been considering what items should go into a Hillcrest Time Capsule.

With all of the bizarre events of recent times, it has been hard to remember that we are still in Hillcrest's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday year. In order to mark our birthday, it seems fitting that the pupils who know the school best having spent the past 7 years here, create the contents for the Hillcrest Time Capsule.

This will be buried as part of a ceremony in school with the Year 6 pupils on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

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## School Dinners

Hot school dinners return in September!!!

Week One	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Option 1</b>	Margherita Pizza with Potato Wedges and Rainbow Salad (v)	Oriental Beef Meatballs with Noodles, Green Beans and Sweetcorn	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Garden Peas and Gravy	Jacket Potato with Beef Bolognese, Grated Cheese and Broccoli	Fish Fingers with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans
<b>Option 2</b>	Jacket Potato with Veggie Mince Bolognese and Vegetable Medley (v)	Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese, Beans and Rainbow Salad (v)	Lentil Roast with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Garden Peas and Gravy (v)	Sweet Potato and Lentil Curry with Steamed Rice and Broccoli (v)	Vegetable Goujons with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans (v)
<b>Dessert of the Day</b>	Ice Cream Tub	Beetroot Brownie	Apple Flapjack	Berry Muffin	Bitesize Cocoa Oatcake with Orange Wedges
<b>Packed Lunch Option</b>	Cheese or Ham Sandwich, Carrot Batons, Popcorn, Orange Wedges and Ice Cream Tub	Cheese or Egg Mayo Sandwich, Cucumber Sticks, Sultana Bag, Melon Wedge and Beetroot Brownie	Cheese or Tuna Mayo Roll, Carrot Batons, Popcorn, Orange Wedges and Apple Flapjack	Cheese or Ham Sandwich, Cucumber Sticks, Sultana Bag, Orange Wedges and Berry Muffin	Cheese and Tomato Pasta Pot, Carrot Batons, Popcorn, Orange Wedges and Bitesize Cocoa Oatcake
Week One: 7 Sept / 21 Sept / 5 Oct / 19 Oct / 9 Nov / 23 Nov / 7 Dec / 4 Jan / 18 Jan / 1 Feb / 22 Feb / 8 Mar / 22 Mar					

  

Week Two	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Option 1</b>	Breaded Chicken in a Wrap with Garlic Mayo, Potato Wedges, Lettuce and Cucumber	Margherita Pizza with Couscous and Coleslaw (v)	Sausages with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Garden Peas and Gravy	Jacket Potato with Chicken Curry and Rainbow Salad	Fish Fingers with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans
<b>Option 2</b>	Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese, Beans and Rainbow Salad (v)	Jacket Potato with Veggie Mince Chilli and Vegetable Medley (v)	Veggie Sausage with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Garden Peas and Gravy (v)	Cheesy Pasta with Broccoli and Sweetcorn (v)	Vegetable Goujons with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans (v)
<b>Dessert of the Day</b>	Bitesize Oaty Bar with Orange Wedges	Dinky Doughnuts	Ice Cream Tub	Orange Cupcake	Mini Shortbread and Melon Wedge
<b>Packed Lunch Option</b>	Cheese or Ham Sandwich, Carrot Batons, Popcorn, Orange Wedges and Bitesize Oaty Bar	Cheese or Egg Mayo Sandwich, Cucumber Sticks, Sultana Bag, Melon Wedge and Dinky Doughnuts	Cheese or Tuna Mayo Roll, Carrot Batons, Popcorn, Apple Wedges and Ice Cream Tub	Cheese or Ham Sandwich, Cucumber Sticks, Sultana Bag, Orange Wedges and Orange Cupcake	Cheese and Tomato Pasta Pot, Carrot Batons, Popcorn, Melon Wedge and Mini Shortbread
Week Two: 14 Sept / 28 Sept / 12 Oct / 2 Nov / 16 Nov / 30 Nov / 14 Dec / 11 Jan / 25 Jan / 8 Feb / 1 Mar / 15 Mar					

Norse will start to operate as normal once again from the start of the new school year, although the timings of children's lunches will be all over the place with the need to stagger the time that each class eats.

Although there will be no Pick 'n' Mix from September, Norse will be supplying a cold meal option each day in the form of a packed lunch.

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## Sports Day

Yet another event that would normally be shared with parents, Sports Day this year will be on a much smaller scale and with the absence of an audience.

However, we still wanted to give those Year R, 1 & 6 pupils who have been attending since 1<sup>st</sup> June, the opportunity to share their sporting talents as part of a normal Summer Term ritual.

Because one of the other issues that the current health crisis has given us is the ability to get children changed part way through the day, we would like to ask that all children come to school dressed in their PE kit on the date of their Sports Day.

The dates for the Sports Day are as follows...

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – Asteroids and Meteors

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July** – Suns (please note that this is a day earlier than we had previously reported in previous editions of the newsletter)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July** – Nebulas and all of Year 6

Obviously, each Sports Day is weather permitting and in the event that it rains, it is unlikely that the events will be rescheduled this close to the end of the year.

## School Reports

As reported in one of the earlier editions of the School Closure Update, we will not be issuing school reports at the end of this year.

The Mid-Year Reports were shared as part of the Parent Consultation Evenings that were held just prior to lockdown and gave the most recent and accurate picture of where the children were academically at the point the school closed.

For those children attending in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, the curriculum has been so heavily curtailed by the availability of time and safety procedures that to report on progress made since 1<sup>st</sup> June is also incredibly difficult and would not be a true reflection of where the children are compared to where they should be or would have been had schools have not been forced to close.



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We will return to Parent Consultation Evenings in October, although these may well take place over the phone rather than in person if current restrictions are still in place, with an interim School Report going home in December. This will give parents the confidence to know how well their children are settling back in to life at school. However, even by the end of the Autumn Term, it is not anticipated that all children will be operating at the levels they should be for their age within English and Maths due to the extent of the recovery needed following such a lengthy closure period.

## 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)

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**Week Beginning 21st 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).

## A Message from the Friends of Hillcrest

As the end of the academic year approaches, Friends of Hillcrest wanted to send a quick message out to all of the Hillcrest families.

Firstly, a big THANK YOU for all of your support throughout the year. We have been able to continue to support the school with purchases such as a new library system and leavers gifts for Year 6, which will hopefully go a little way towards helping them to enjoy their last few days at Hillcrest.

Obviously, this has been a very difficult year for everyone with ongoing changes and challenges. FoH have had to put lots of things on hold but we are still here in the background and will endeavour to continue to support the school as much as we can.

For now, plans are on hold and we have taken the decision to postpone the AGM which is usually held at the beginning of the academic year as it is unclear as to how we will be able to move forward at the present time. We will continue to monitor the situation and once things are clearer and we feel able to move forwards, we will communicate this to you.

Projects that were due to go ahead, such as the outdoor classroom, will be completed once school is ready to proceed.

We hope to be in touch with you all again soon but, for now, once again, a big THANK YOU. Stay safe and well, and we hope you all have a great Summer.

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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](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.**

## 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>

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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**.

## And Finally...

There has been an amazing feeling around school today. It has been a pleasure to see the school busier than it has been for some time and to have welcomed back so many children who appeared genuinely excited to be back at school, amongst their friends.

It was also a pleasure to see the parents again whilst on the front gate throughout the day and a reminder that we must continue to work hard to get school back to normal as soon as we possibly can.

Whilst we may have to live with this virus for some months still to come, please rest assured that the staff at Hillcrest are doing everything they can to ensure that the return in September is as normal for the children as it can be under the circumstances.

Stay safe and keep well.

**Mr Try**