

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

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17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE 15: Final School Closure Update

School has already closed to the pupils in Suns and Nebulas classes this week with the final day for those in Asteroids, Meteors and the Year 6 bubbles, being Tuesday 21st July.

After the Summer holidays Hillcrest will reopen to all pupils across the school on Monday 7th September. The first School Closure Update was emailed on 27th March and this 15th edition will be the final one with the old-style newsletters returning monthly from September.

Of course, the key information within this edition is the list of start and finish times for each class from 7th September. I am sure there has been much anticipation, especially for those parents with more than one child at Hillcrest who will be hoping that the start and finish times fall nicely for them.

As we have reported previously, the task of staggering the start and finish for 18 classes and over 500 children has not been an easy one. With so many siblings scattered across the school, the new timetable is undoubtedly going to be inconvenient for many, requiring some parents to drop children off, return home and collect another for a re-run. We would like to thank those parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who have adapted well to the one-way system around school and managed the stagger since returning on 1st June. There will be a similar process in place throughout the Autumn Term, and possibly beyond, but on a much larger scale as it will involve far more people.

We would ask that parents do not request amendments to the timetable or send in requests to accept some children into school early, as these requests simply cannot be met. The staggered timetable has only been necessary because of the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves and it is not as simple as making one adaption to the programme for one family. Like an incredibly large jigsaw puzzle, one piece moved has huge consequences for the entire plan. Therefore, we ask that parents persevere with the schedule, even if it is not ideal for all.

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The Timetable for September

Below is a list of the start and finish times for each class along with the timing of their lunch break so that you can get a sense of how early or late in the day they will be eating.

Class	Start of Day	Lunch Break	End of Day
Suns*	8.45am	11.25am – 12.25pm	3.20pm
Asteroids*	9.00am	12.15pm – 1.15pm	3.35pm
Nebulas	8.15am	10.25am – 11.25am	2.50pm
Meteors	9.15am	12.15pm – 1.15pm	3.50pm
Planets	9.15am	1.05pm – 2.05pm	3.50pm
Comets	8.45am	11.25am – 12.25pm	3.20pm
Mercury	8.30am	11.05am – 12.05pm	3.05pm
Tethys	9.00am	12.15pm – 1.15pm	3.35pm
Pluto	8.15am	10.25am – 11.25am	2.50pm
Titan	9.00am	11.25am – 12.25pm	3.35pm
Mars	9.30am	1.05pm – 2.05pm	4.05pm
Saturn	9.15am	1.05pm – 2.05pm	3.50pm
Jupiter	9.00am	12.15pm – 1.15pm	3.35pm
Europa	9.15am	1.05pm – 2.05pm	3.50pm
Venus	9.30am	1.05pm – 2.05pm	4.05pm
Proteus	9.00am	1.05pm – 2.05pm	3.35pm
Neptune	8.30am	11.05am – 12.05pm	3.05pm
Earth	8.45am	11.25am – 12.25pm	3.20pm

It is important for the success of the stagger that parents are as prompt as possible when dropping off and picking up to prevent people either gathering on the playground because they are too early and mixing with parents in the previous time slot or arriving too late and mixing with those in the later time slot.

Please be aware that some classes are eating lunch extremely early, with the first lunch break taking place between 10.25 and 11.25am whilst others will not eat until 1.05 – 2.05pm. However, generally it is those classes arriving the earliest in the morning who will be having the earliest lunch.

Despite the stagger, all classes will receive the same amount of learning time as normal.

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Morning (or Afternoon) Break Snacks

With potentially long mornings (or afternoons) for some, parents may wish to provide their children with additional snacks for break times.

Some classes will find that their traditional morning break is swapped for an afternoon one where the positioning of lunch means that their morning is cut short. The children will be allowed to save their snack for the afternoon break if this is the case.

We will continue to maintain the healthy standards of these snacks and continue to follow the healthy snack policy was adopted at Hillcrest several years ago.

It is especially important at these times that the children's health, including dental health, is taken extra care of and at a time when we are suggesting that additional snacks may be necessary, it becomes even more important that healthy choices are made.

Book Amnesty – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Despite requesting the return of Communication Books, library books and set reading books on the Transition Days, we received very few books.

We are in danger of having a huge hole in the school's reading resources in the new year if we do not get all school books returned before the term ends next Tuesday.

So that the reading books and library books can be available for other pupils from September, can parents please dig out any books they may have and return them to school by placing them in the boxes situated outside the main front entrance on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

If the books do not come back after being loaned out, it will also make loaning books out difficult in the event that we are forced to close again in the future because of further lockdowns.

Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

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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 20th 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.

Year 6 Shirt and Book Signing

Some other end of school traditions have been affected by the safety measures in place because of the coronavirus.

The Year 6 pupils will be unable to mingle with one another to get their shirts signed as they may have done in past years.

Instead, the children of those parents who are happy for their children to get their shirt signed, can get those children within their 'bubble' to sign their shirt but not other Year 6 children from outside their bubble.

If parents wish to provide their children with an autograph book, we are arranging for those to be passed to each bubble for all of the children to sign. However, it will be the staff passing the books from bubble to bubble and not the children.

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Non-School Uniform Day

Children within Meteors and the Year 6 classes are welcome to come to school on their final day, Tuesday 21st July, in non-school uniform.

Keeping in Touch with Learning over the Summer

Some parents, and children, believe that after almost a year of learning, that the Summer holidays are a time to switch off from formal learning and have the break that everyone deserves.

Schools have spoken for years about the fact that the six-week break results in a dip in learning which the average child doesn't catch up on until the October half-term.

Of course, it is even more important this Summer that children continue to access some form of learning either through workbooks that are readily available through high street stores or through online retailers such as Amazon, or through the use of online educational resources. Many children will not have received any formal learning for over 5 months by the time they return in September and if you are concerned that your child hasn't engaged with Google Classrooms as much as they should have done, it is even more important that some time is taken during the Summer holidays to immerse the children in some form of learning.

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

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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

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDe74j1F52zQ51fqNpKV07E71knNl8HFfn	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

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https://www.mathematics mastery.org/free-resources	EYFS to KS2	Downloadable guidance and resource packs for parents and pupils
https://nrich.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

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

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Attendance Compulsory from September

A reminder that the government expectation, and therefore the school's expectations, is that all children return as normal on Monday 7th September.

Attendance is once again compulsory after this temporary period of optional attendance and the usual process of fining parents of poorly attending pupils is reintroduced.

One Way System

A one-way system around the school site will remain in place when we return in September.

Unlike the current time where the front gate is the only point of access, we will be reopening the back gate onto Civray Avenue from 7th September. However, the gate leading onto Sandringham Drive will remain closed until social distancing is no longer required.

For those accessing the school via the front gate, the one way system that has been in place since 1st June will remain in place with parents walking anti-clockwise around the school building until they reach their child's classroom and then continuing anti-clockwise around the school until they head past the Reception classrooms and out of the car park.

For those accessing the site via Civray Avenue, this gate will be both an entrance and an exit. However, you will head onto the school site via the tarmac path and leave the school site via the grass path that will be marked out beside it. It is then for parents to take turns and wait at the gate to avoid squeezing through when parents may be coming the other way.

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Schools Dinners

Hot school dinners return in September!!!

Week One	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	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
Option 2	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)
Dessert of the Day	Ice Cream Tub	Beetroot Brownie	Apple Flapjack	Berry Muffin	Bitesize Cocoa Oatcake with Orange Wedges
Packed Lunch Option	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, Apple 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
Option 1	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
Option 2	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)
Dessert of the Day	Bitesize Oaty Bar with Orange Wedges	Dinky Doughnuts	Ice Cream Tub	Orange Cupcake	Mini Shortbread and Melon Wedge
Packed Lunch Option	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.

Parents should return to ordering meals via WisePay in September.

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2020/21 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2020

PD Days: Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Pupils return on Monday 7th September

PD Day: Thursday 22nd October - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Half – Term Holiday: Thursday 22nd – Friday 30th October (inclusive)

Last Day of Term: Friday 18th December

Christmas and New Year Holiday: Monday 21st December 2020 – Friday 1st January 2021 (inclusive)

Spring Term 2021

Children return to school on Monday 4th January 2021

Half-Term Holiday: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February (inclusive)

Last Day of Term: Friday 26th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April (inclusive)

Summer Term 2021

Pupils return on Monday 12th April

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May – SCHOOL CLOSED

Half-Term Holiday: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June (inclusive)

Last Day of Term: Wednesday 21st July

Summer Holiday begins on Wednesday 22nd July

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And Finally...

This is the final School Closure Update after what has felt like the longest 15 weeks in my school career.

I hope that the frequency of communication has been enough to keep you informed but not so much that it has swamped you. I also hope that the frequency of contact between your child and their class teacher through Google Classroom has been enough to keep the children busy without overwhelming them.

This process of communication via email has proven effective and from September, when the monthly newsletters return, these will also be distributed in the same way. Therefore, the children will not be sent home with a hard copy. There will have been some permanent changes and lesson learned as part of this health crisis and electronic communication in place of paper communication is one of them.

The closure of the school office will continue into the new school year, as will the postponement of face-to-face meetings between parents and staff. Therefore electronic and telephone communication will remain the main sources of contact between home and school. However, as time goes by and the situation continues to improve, communication will be one of the first matters addressed so that we can start to invite people into the school building again.

Thank you for bearing with us at this difficult time and for your continued support.

Stay safe and keep well.

Mr Try