

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

31st August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATE

It's been almost 6 months since the school has come together as one. Very soon the day will be upon us when Hillcrest opens its doors to all of the children for the first time since the start of the lockdown in March.

All of our families will have had hugely different experiences of lockdown. Some families may have been directly affected by Covid-19 and have experienced what the virus is like at first hand. Other families may have been paralysed by the fear of the virus despite not contracting the illness themselves because they strictly observed the various social distancing rules. There will be those families which included adults who were classed as key workers and who will have continued to work a fairly typical shift pattern throughout lockdown. Other children may have seen their parents for a more concentrated period than ever before because they were amongst those furloughed.

Whatever your experiences, hopefully many families have found opportunities to enjoy the additional time in each other's company and to take elements of this experience away that you will actually try to maintain going forwards because of its positive effect on your family.

However, there is no getting away from the fact that the children have missed a substantial amount of schooling. Each individual child's experience of remote learning through Google Classroom will have been different from the next with many engaging fully, some being selective over the subjects they engaged with, some doing little or none of the online work because of computer access issues. Others may have considered themselves amongst those who were engaging fully at the start of lockdown but who may have tailed off over the course of the 4 months away from school.

Hillcrest staff have been preparing the school over the Summer for the children's return and we are confident that all of the key safety measures have been taken to keep the children, the staff and the parents safe from the virus.

The government are also insisting that ALL children return to school from the start of term and that absence is to be treated as it would have been prior to lockdown, with fines issued for the parents of those children whose absence falls below the acceptable level.

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We therefore look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 7th September**. Detailed below are many aspects of the new school arrangements that we wanted to ensure parents were aware of before they drop their child off on the first day. This includes a reminder of the different start and finish times for all of the classes.

Staggered Start and Finish

Please find below a table that shows you the time at which your children are expected to arrive at school and the time they will be expected to be collected.

Class	Start of Day	End of Day
Suns*	8.45am	3.20pm
Asteroids*	9.00am	3.35pm
Titan	9.00am	3.35pm
Meteors	9.15am	3.50pm
Tethys	9.00am	3.35pm
Planets	9.15am	3.50pm
Nebulas	8.15am	2.50pm
Mercury	8.30am	3.05pm
Comets	8.45am	3.20pm
Mars	9.30am	4.05pm
Saturn	9.15am	3.50pm
Proteus	9.00am	3.35pm
Jupiter	9.00am	3.35pm
Europa	9.15am	3.50pm
Venus	9.30am	4.05pm
Pluto	8.15am	2.50pm
Neptune	8.30am	3.05pm
Earth	8.45am	3.20pm

**Please note that pupils in Suns and Asteroids will only be at school for a limited period in the morning for the first three weeks*

Door Opening at the Start of the Day

Unlike during pre-coronavirus times, we will not be opening the doors to the classrooms before time stated in the table above, even when the weather is bad. Therefore, we urge parents not to arrive at school too early, but to aim to get here promptly for the time listed.

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The reason behind this is that the staggered start times are designed to keep as many adults (and children) away from one another as possible during the drop-off and collection times. Therefore, if parents arrive too early with their children, this defeats the object as parents with children expected at different start times will end up mixing.

If your child is old enough and responsible enough to walk themselves to school, please ensure that they do not arrive on the school site more than 5 minutes before the start time of their class. Parents of those children arriving at school too early will be contacted by the school and asked to ensure their child remains at home until it is time to come in.

Access ON and OFF the School Site

There will be two points of access going forwards.

We will continue to use the front car park as a point of entry into the school. Parents will enter the car park via the footpath to the right of the main car park gate and walk anti-clockwise around the car park, through the small black gate outside the 'i' Building and continue walking around the outside of the building in an anti-clockwise direction until you reach your child's classroom.

Parents accessing the school via the car park will then need to continue walking in the same direction after dropping their child off, passing the Reception classrooms, and leaving the premises via the footpath and gate on the other side of the main car park gate.

For the first time since the lockdown began, we will be re-opening the back gate which opens out onto Civray Avenue. However, this access point will be both an entrance AND an exit. Parents and children will enter along the tarmac path that leads across the field but when they turn to leave the premises, they will need to follow a path that will be marked out across the grass, leading back to the same gate. As parents get to the end of this path, we would ask that they take care not to pass through the gate at the same time as someone about to enter the premises and to try to maintain a social distance.

Please note that the entrance off Sandringham Drive will remain CLOSED until social distancing measures are no longer required.

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Access into the 'i' Building

For classes in Years 4, 5 & 6, the children should note that there is a one-way system in force around this building.

All children will be dropped off in the morning on the KS2 Playground and gain access to the building via the fire exit that leads off this playground (Please note that this is the opposite way round to how we were allowing people to access the 'i' Building during the partial school reopening in June and July).

When collecting children at the end of the day, parents should gather (socially distant from one another) on the orange tarmac area outside the main entrance to the building.

Physical Education

Please DO NOT send your children into school on the first day with their PE kit.

Due to the current restrictions, the children will NOT be getting changed for PE as there is thought to be an increased risk of the virus spreading when lots of children are changing clothes in the same area.

Therefore, your child's class teacher will inform them, and you, of the days on which they will have PE. On these days, the children should arrive at school already dressed in their PE kit and they will remain in these clothes all day.

As a result, outdoor PE can only take place in the dry weather as we do not want the children to have to sit in class all day in wet clothing.

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.

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Communication with School

Parents should note that the front office to the school will remain closed to visitors for the foreseeable future, until social distancing measures are no longer required.

Therefore, any questions for the office staff should be phoned in on 01366 388191 or emailed to office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk

Parents should remain behind the yellow and black taped lines which are marked on the floor, approximately two metres from each classroom door. Dropping-off in the morning should be as swift as possible and we ask that parents do not engage the staff in conversations at this time. Any matters that the class teacher should be aware of should be sent to their work email address. By the end of the first week, all parents should have access to the email address for their child's class teacher.

Each teacher checks their emails before the start of their day, which will differ from teacher to teacher this year, but any emails sent after the start of the day for their child's class teacher will not be picked up until the end of the day.

If you have an issue that you feel cannot adequately be addressed through an email exchange, then please request a telephone meeting by emailing the teacher concerned.

Staff will not be holding face-to-face meetings on the school site due to the current restrictions and need to limit the number of adults in the school building. However, telephone meetings remain an option.

Communication Books will return in September and minor issues that the class teacher needs to be aware of can be shared through this book. However, we would like to remind parents that the Communication Book is not a suitable place to share comments critical of the staff as the children have access to these books and therefore can serve to undermine the position of the staff member concerned. If your query or concern is likely to be critical of the position a member of staff has taken, then this should be shared by email rather than through the Communication Book.

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Uniform

All of the children will be expected to return in FULL school uniform in September. When we reopened on 1st June to Years R, 1 and 6, it had become evident that a number of children had grown out of their shoes in the time during lockdown. As a result, we were more relaxed about the footwear during this period.

Hopefully everyone has now had a chance to purchase new shoes for the start of the school year.

The office will be getting new stock of school uniform in on 3rd September and will be updating WisePay with stock levels once the delivery has been received. Please keep an eye out for this on WisePay.

Planning for a Recovery Curriculum

It is estimated that the typical child will demonstrate an academic level similar to that which they had reached in January 2020. We will be dealing with children who are up to 9 months behind where they would have been had the lockdown not happened.

Therefore, we cannot pick up the TLC curriculum and deliver it as we would in a normal Autumn Term. All staff spent the last few weeks of the Summer Term planning a 'Recovery Curriculum' that would be adopted with the children when they return. This will ensure that the key features of the previous year's curriculum which should have been taught throughout the Summer Term, are covered from September before teachers can even begin to think about curriculum content designed for the year group they are actually teaching.

There will be a focus on Maths, English and Science so that the children's skills in the core subjects are strengthened. Alongside there will be a focus on PSHE to ensure that any anxieties that lockdown may have brought to a head, are sensitively addressed by staff.

We will work on building up the learning stamina that may have been lost after so many months away from the formal classroom environment. Therefore, the time spent on focussed writing and maths activities will initially be kept shorter and broken up by the creative subjects such as art, music and design technology which will provide the children with an opportunity to express themselves in a more energetic way.

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Face Coverings

Both government and the World Health Organisation guidance states that only children aged 12 and over should be routinely wearing face coverings when in communal areas such as shops and school corridors.

The government's recent announcement about face coverings in schools goes one step further and suggests only that they must be used in secondary schools that fall within areas undergoing local lockdowns and not in every secondary school, unless the Head deemed it necessary.

The use of face coverings is not recommended in any area of society for children aged under 12. However, if parents feel more comfortable with their children wearing a face covering on their way to and from school, this is obviously fine. If this is the case, they should remove their face covering once they have entered the school building and not put it on again until they leave at the end of the day.

In the event that a member of your child's household has serious health concerns which would make them particularly vulnerable to Covid-19, then please contact the school as it may be possible for the children of families in those circumstances to use their face coverings at other times during the day. However, this will be the exception rather than the rule.

Covid Closures

Very few people, including the scientific and medical experts, expect the Autumn Term to be straight forward.

In the event that the school experiences confirmed cases of Covid-19, particular classes, year groups or possibly even the whole school, we may have to close at relatively short notice.

If other bugs and viruses rear their heads during the Autumn Term, as they often do, which impact on the health of the staff, we may also not be able to open to certain classes if internal cover cannot be provided. We will not use supply teachers during this period.

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Parents will be informed if a child or member of staff that their child has come into contact with, is sent home after displaying symptoms of the coronavirus. Whilst we wait for confirmation of the test result, the class will remain OPEN to the children and the expectation will be that the rest of the class continue to attend.

In the event that the test result is negative, the child will return to school the following day. In the event that the test result is positive, all parents will be informed and, after discussions with Public Health England, it is likely that all children in the class affected will be asked to isolate for 14 days.

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 a NEGATIVE Covid-19 test has been received 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 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/get-coronavirus-test>

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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.

No food containing nuts are allowed on site



As a 'nut-free' school we ask that parents do not provide any snack or lunchbox items that contain nuts in the ingredients.

We have a number of pupils at Hillcrest who have nut allergies and extreme reactions when coming into contact with nut-based products.

This includes chocolate spreads that contain nuts. Items containing nuts will be taken from the children by staff and disposed of to help ensure

children's safety.

No unhealthy snacks during morning break

A reminder that we operate a healthy morning snack policy with ideally only fruit and water being consumed. However, we are open to a range of other healthier options including cheese, crackers, raw vegetables, dried fruit etc.

Children should not be sent to school with crisps, chocolate or other sweets as part of their morning snack.

Children should also only have still water at school and no fruit juices or fizzy drinks.



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Reception Class Part-Time Start

Those new pupils to Hillcrest in Suns and Asteroids, will only attend school part-time for the first three weeks.

During the week beginning 7th September, children in Suns will go home after the morning break at 11.30am with children in Asteroids going home at 11.45am.

During the week beginning 14th September, children in Suns will go home BEFORE lunch at 12.10pm whilst children in Asteroids will go home at 12.25pm.

Week 3 will be the first time that the new Reception pupils will eat at school and therefore from the week beginning 21st September, the children in Suns will go home at 1.15pm whilst the children in Asteroids will go home at 1.30pm.

From the week beginning 28th September, the new Reception pupils will start full-time hours with Suns class ending at 3.20pm whilst Asteroids will finish at 3.35pm.

Next Holiday

The next 'planned' closure of Hillcrest will be for the October Half-Term Holiday which runs from Thursday 22nd October to Friday 30th October (inclusive).

Therefore, the children's last day in school will be Wednesday 21st October. They will return on Monday 2nd November.

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Hot Schools Dinners are Back!

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					

Parents should return to booking their children's school dinners via WisePay from September. The menu for the Autumn Term is pictured above.

ALL MEALS NEED TO BE ORDERED VIA WISEPAY – because of the complications around lunch and the particularly early start to lunch for some classes, we will be unable to add any 'forgotten' meals on the day

Meals MUST be ordered by midnight on Sunday 6th September. If you forget to order by this time, or going forwards by the Sunday leading up to each week, you must send your child into school with a packed lunch

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Soft Toys

Along with soft furnishings being removed from all classes in line with the local authority's risk assessment for Covid-19, children will NOT be allowed to bring soft toys into the school.

They are a potential risk for the spread of coronavirus as they cannot be easily sterilised.

Play Equipment

The Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Trim Trails will remain out of action whilst social distancing measures continue to be necessary.

We would also like to ask that parents bringing younger siblings along on the drop-off and collection runs, do not allow their children to play with the toys that can be found outside the Reception classrooms. These will be sterilised as often as possible and we would not want equipment that is ready for our pupils to use, contaminated by being touched by pupils who are not yet part of the school.

And Finally...

A huge thank you to all of the parents who either contacted me or their child's class teacher at the end of term with such nice words.

It has been a tough time for everyone; the children, parents and staff. Every one of us has had to get used to a new routine and make a less than perfect situation work as best we can for the children.

Hopefully, from the comments that have been received, many of you feel that we struck the balance as best we could as a school and provided both you and the children with the support and communication that was needed to see us through the past few months.

Plans continue to be refined for remote learning in the event that we face another national or local lockdown or a partial school closure. Therefore, hopefully the online service that our teachers provide will be even better than the service that has already been experienced. Naturally, we hope that it is never necessary to need to use remote learning again and that life can head back towards something more like the old normal at some point soon.

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The staff are genuinely excited to see all of the children again and to get to know their new classes. We hope that the children are just as excited to come back, seeing their friends, their teachers and to get their heads down into some good old-fashioned learning.

We hope you have all kept well during the Summer break.

Mr Try