

# Learning delivered with



Hillcrest Primary School

# TLC

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

### **An Outdoor Learning Week of Two Halves**

Fantastic weather at the start of this week meant that there were lots of activities taking place around the school grounds. The school field, amphitheatre, sensory garden, woodland area and Forest School became outdoor classrooms for the week with a huge range of subjects being taught in the outdoor environment.

However, after the week before where the weather had been perfect throughout, it was disappointing that the weather decided to turn for the worst from Wednesday onwards with rain and cooler temperatures.

This didn't deter the staff however, with many planned activities still going on in the open air despite the change in the weather. We are grateful to all of the parents who coated their children up appropriately in light of the changing temperatures each day. This enabled the children to continue their learning outdoors.

### **Current Situation at Hillcrest**

In Week One of our return in September, we didn't drop below 95% on any day of the week which was a fantastic return rate considering the heightened concerns that many parents will have had.

This figure dropped to around 91% for most of Week Two before dropping further to 88% on the last day of last week and the first day of Week Three. However, the figures picked up as the third week has progressed with 94% attendance towards the end of this week.

We have had a number of children each day, between 10 and 20, who have either been kept home by their parents because they have been displaying Covid symptoms or they have been sent home by the school for displaying symptoms.

We are delighted to say that despite many attempts and much frustration, most parents have been able to secure a test for their children and that no Hillcrest pupil has returned a positive Covid test. The testing system is definitely much slower than it should be and not what was promised by the government upon the return of schools in September. However, between perseverance and some tricks that people have discovered along the way, most families have managed to get tests for their children.

*It would appear from Tuesday's announcement that the current social distancing measures and risk of coronavirus is here to stay at least until March 2021, which means that the staggered start and finish to school will also stay.*

We DO have children in school with colds. It is most certainly doing the rounds. We have children with runny noses, sore throats and mild and inconsistent coughs. We are only sending those children home who display, or it could be considered are displaying, one or more of the three main Covid symptoms which are; persistent cough, high temperature or sudden loss of sense of taste/smell.

The NHS have produced an information sheet about this to help parents distinguish Covid from cold or flu which we have pasted below...



## Test and Trace

23 September 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:
  1. **a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
  2. **a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
  3. **a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal

- Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.
  - If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)
  - Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.
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- If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and **only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.**
  - If a pupil in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.**

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school. Schools have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Viv Bennett CBE**

Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and  
Early Years | Public Health England



**Dr Susan Hopkins**

Interim Chief Medical Officer |  
NHS Test & Trace

## Parent Consultation Evenings by Phone

In a further change to the way we have to do things due to the current health situation, this term's Parent Consultation Evenings will be held over the phone and not face-to-face.

As usual, parents should book a time slot using the WisePay system. The phone meetings will still be 10 minutes long. However, with other parents waiting at home for a call at a specific time, it is vitally important that those meetings keep to their 10 minutes and don't drag over.

If you have a specific number that is best for you i.e landline or mobile, then it would be worth emailing your child's class teacher once you have booked your slot via WisePay to confirm the number you want them to contact you on.

All appointments will fall between 4.00pm and 7.00pm on the following dates...

Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Parents
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3 Parents
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 Parents
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 Parents
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Parents
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 1 & 2 Parents
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 5 Parents
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Reception Parents
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Parents
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Parents
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Parents
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 & 2 Parents

**Bookings can be made via WisePay NOW and please ensure that you take your opportunity to arrange this valuable conversation with your child's teacher.**

## Hello Yellow Fundraiser

The mental health of our younger population was a huge talking point before the pandemic arose and has only given experts more cause for concern throughout the lockdown.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October** is World Mental Health Day and we would like to take the opportunity to raise money for mental health charity, Young Minds.

Therefore, as the title of Young Minds fundraiser is 'Hello Yellow' we are asking children to come into school on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October** in non-school uniform, wearing something yellow. It might be yellow socks, yellow sweater, yellow trousers or some other yellow item. In the event that you are struggling to find something for the yellow theme, don't worry as you can still attend school in non-school uniform. We just ask that all those in non-school uniform on that day bring £1 in for Young Minds.

If anyone wants further information on the charity, please go to [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

## Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need (and Friends of Hillcrest)

We may not be going on any school trips in the immediate future because of the current health situation, but we are continuing to take the children out on local walks.

Therefore, we are in a perfect position to once again support BBC Countryfile's Ramble for Children in Need. We last supported this cause in 2018 and raised lots of money for the Children in Need charity fundraiser along the way. This year, we are taking the opportunity to share the funds raised evenly between Children in Need and the Friends of Hillcrest.

As you may be aware, with the many social distancing requirements to fulfil and the need to reduce the amount of adults in the school building, many of the events that the Friends of Hillcrest would usually hold to raise money, have had to be postponed. This has massively reduced their ability to fundraise this year which, in turn, reduces their ability to support the school with resources that the school would otherwise not be able to afford.

Therefore, we are hoping that the children and parents will rally behind the cause and raise lots of money again this year.

The rambles will take place during the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> November with every class going in a different direction at different times, therefore helping to maintain the social distance between classes.

More information about the Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need (and Friends of Hillcrest) will be shared in due course along with a sponsorship form.

## Flu Immunisation

A reminder that the Annual Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme comes to Hillcrest on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The government are putting an even greater importance behind the general public getting themselves immunised from the flu this year due to the added concerns over Covid and this is your opportunity to ensure that your child is covered through a nasal flu vaccination, administered via the nose.

The school IS NOT responsible for signing the children up to the vaccination programme. If you wish your child to take part on 19<sup>th</sup> October, then you MUST register your child via the website <https://tinyurl.com/yb36ardq> You are also able to decline the treatment using this website.

The link on this website will close on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, therefore it is important that you register your interest as soon as possible.

It is important that on the day of the immunisation, that your children are able to tell the nurse what their own name and date of birth is. Therefore, could the parents of the younger children in the school please practice this at home. If the nurse cannot identify the child on the day, the immunisation will not take place.

You can get further information from 0300 555 5055 or [ccs.norfolk.immunisationteam@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.norfolk.immunisationteam@nhs.net)

## Taking Care at Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Some parents will have discovered that if they have the later drop-off time or earlier pick-up time, that there are children still in school, either having a morning or afternoon break, taking part in a PE lesson or, in the case of this week, being taught outside in any one of a number of different subjects.

Can parents please take care as they wander around the site to avoid the lessons that might be taking place. We would also like to remind parents that younger siblings or children that have already been picked up from earlier slots, should not be riding around the site on bikes or scooters whilst they wait for their brothers or sisters.

## 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.*

## Covid Tracker App

We would like to remind all parents who own a smartphone that the government have requested that we download the new NHS Covid-19 tracker app



This is intended to make us aware of when we have come into contact with someone else who has tested positive for Covid-19 so that we can then isolate.

### Early warning...SCHOOL CLOSURE

We would like to remind you that Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the October half-term break between **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October (inclusive)**. School reopens at the usual time on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Therefore, the children's last day this half-term will be Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2020**