

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

4th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Remaining Open During Second Lockdown

When we wake up on Thursday morning, nothing will have materially changed from where we were today or where we have found ourselves over recent days. For those who have been keeping track of events on the news over the past few weeks, it will come as no surprise that the situation relating to the virus has been getting increasingly worse.

Although the East of England has maintained fairly low levels of Covid-19 up until recent weeks, it is evident from the data that cases have been growing and hospitalisations increasing across Norfolk for some time.

The main change tomorrow is that the government are enforcing a second lockdown with one of the main differences from last Spring being that schools will remain open on this occasion.

However, this does provide us with a timely opportunity to remind parents of the important role that we continue to need them to play over the next 4 weeks and beyond, as everyone continues do their bit to keep the virus away from the Hillcrest community.

One-Way System

Please continue to observe the one-way system around the outside of the school site. Those parents using the access gate off Civray and who have children in the older part of the school building should continue to complete a full lap of the school before leaving via the Civray gate again. Please DO NOT be tempted to walk against the flow of traffic, the wrong way around the outside of the older part of the school.

In an attempt to improve the flow of traffic around the one-way system, there is a new waiting area for parents of the Reception pupils which should keep the path close to the Reception classrooms free for people to walk along.

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

Fax: 01366 384286

The waiting area outside the Year 2 and Year 3 classrooms was on grass which, at this time of the year, starts to get wetter and muddier. Over the half-term break, the Site Manager has laid wood chip across this whole area to provide a less wet and more comfortable area on which to wait whilst collecting their children.

Social Distancing

We would like to ask parents to ensure they maintain their social distance from other families. During this new lockdown, schools will continue to operate and be a huge gathering place for adults. It is vitally important for the safety of all in the Hillcrest community that parents take their role in social distancing seriously and not congregate with other families whilst on site.

Face Masks

Whilst we are not planning to enforce the wearing of face masks whilst walking around the outside of the building, we would welcome parents, and actively encourage those, who wish to wear face masks on site. Although not a requirement of schools at this time, the more who take this step to protect both themselves and others, the safer people will feel whilst on site.

Distance from Staff

A number of colleagues have mentioned that the careful distance that parents maintained at the start of the school year, has gradually relaxed over the last few weeks.

We would like to remind parents that they should be maintaining a two-metre distance from the class door and therefore, from the class teacher/TA, when dropping off and collecting their children. This is for the safety of both the staff and the parents.

All communication with teachers should be via the Communication Book or the class teacher's email address. In the event that a more detailed conversation needs to take place, a phone meeting can be arranged.

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

Independence

Can you please ensure that your children are as independent as possible when it comes to being able to use the clothing and equipment they are sent to school with. This will assist with minimising physical contact between the children and different adults such as the class teacher, TA, midday supervisor etc. If the children can be helped at home to become comfortable with doing up zips and buttons on clothing, shoelaces or Velcro straps on shoes, lids on snack/lunch boxes etc, this all helps. Of course, no member of staff at Hillcrest would leave a child struggling but the more we can do to minimise contact between the staff and the children's possessions, the better.

Staggered Starts

The current system of staggered starts and ends to the day will definitely remain in place until Easter 2021.

Even if the virus hasn't completely been eradicated through the introduction of a vaccine, provided the situation with the virus has subsided by the Spring and the number of cases is under control, we are planning to make some changes.

In this situation, after Easter, we would hope to be able to operate year group 'bubbles' rather than class 'bubbles' with an entire year group entering school at the same time and mixing with one another.

This would reduce the number of staggers at the start and the end of the day and the length of time between the first and last classes entering school.

However, nothing can be confirmed until we get closer to Easter and know what the virus situation is at that point. Plans will only be changed once it is safe to do so.

How Long Do We Have to Isolate For?

- 1) If YOU are the person that has tested positive, you have to self-isolate for 10 days from the point your symptoms began or longer if you still have a high temperature. You can return to work/school after 10 days even if you still have a cough or lack of sense of smell/taste as these symptoms can last for many weeks after contracting Covid.

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 **Fax:** 01366 384286

- 2) If you LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE as someone who has tested positive, ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD have to self-isolate for 14 days from the date the test was taken (if the person tested was asymptomatic and therefore not showing any symptoms) OR from the date the symptoms started if this date was earlier.
- 3) If other members of the household go on to develop symptoms they need to seek a test and follow Step 1 above. Other members of the house (who haven't already tested positive) also need to follow Step 2 above with the 14 days isolation starting from the date the other person's symptoms started.
- 4) If any member of the household has symptoms and are awaiting a test result, ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD self-isolate until that test result comes back negative.

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.

And Finally...

We have been fortunate until now that, apart from a few scares caused by symptoms, Hillcrest hasn't experienced any confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst its staff or pupils since returning in September.

We would like to keep it that way for everyone's benefit and therefore, your support with the measures outlined in this letter is much appreciated.

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

Fax: 01366 384286

In the event that the national or regional picture deteriorates further, we may have to ask for your support with even stricter measures.

Once again, the measures that we have put in place are to safeguard you and your children whilst you are on our site. Please help us to help you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Try