

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

# SCHOOL CLOSED

***Hillcrest Primary School will be closed from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 through to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. It will reopen at the now familiar staggered start times on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Hillcrest staff would like to wish all of the parents and pupils a very Merry Christmas and we are all looking forward to a better 2021.***

## Mammoth Total from Countryfile Ramble

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who raised money as part of the Countryfile Ramble which took place during November.

A massive total of £5,245.60 was raised meaning that £2,622.80 is heading off to support the many great causes that Children in Need fund. The remaining £2,622.80 goes to the Friends of Hillcrest so that they can continue to provide the school with additional resources at a time when it has been understandably difficult for them to raise funds with many typical avenues for fundraising cut off.

Hillcrest families have always been hugely supportive when it comes to charitable fundraising although at this particular time, when the financial situation is so uncertain for many, it is even more impressive that our children and their families have been able to commit to these great causes.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Following on from the report above, the charitable fundraising has continued with the Reverse Advent Calendar being well supported again this year.

Since its launch, we have received...

- 151 bottles of fizzy drink;
- 176 packets of breakfast cereal;
- 157 tins of fruit;
- 122 tins of custard;
- 115 packets of rice;
- 71 packets of toilet roll (which amounted to 417 individual rolls);

- 119 tins of meat;
- 104 tins of potatoes;
- 94 mince pies/Christmas puddings;
- 76 tubes of toothpaste;
- 76 sponge scouring pads;
- 108 jars of tea or coffee;
- 100 bars of chocolate;
- 87 tins of tomatoes;
- 84 multipacks of crisps;
- 81 cartons of fruit juice;
- 83 packets of cake mix;
- 96 cartons of long-life milk;
- 88 jar of jam or marmalade;
- 65 packets of cheddars;
- 52 boxes of Christmas crackers.

By supporting the Downham Foodbank, this is one of those rare charitable events where you can be assured that the items you are donating are really going to be used to support those who you may pass in the street every day. A true support to the community at not only a difficult time of year for many, but also during a difficult period of time.

***We are also supporting the 'No child goes hungry at Christmas' campaign run by the Swan Youth Project – a flyer with more details can be found towards the end of this Newsletter***

## **Keeping the School Informed about Covid over Christmas**

Schools have a duty to support the Track and Trace programme over the first week of the Christmas holidays in the event that a pupil or member of staff tests positive, and their symptoms started, at the beginning of the holidays.

Therefore, any parent who has a child that **tests positive** for Covid-19 at any point UP TO AND INCLUDING Christmas Eve and whose symptoms started on either Friday 18<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December (if they were last in school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December) or whose symptoms started on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December (if they were last in school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December) need to inform the school by emailing a NEW email address specifically set up for this reason. The new address is [Covid@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:Covid@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk)

This email address will be monitored up to and including Christmas Eve. There is no need to make contact after Christmas Eve and this email address will not be checked after that point

The most important point is to note that you only need to make contact via the new email address if your child developed symptoms on or before Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December and they were in school on either the Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> or Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. If their symptoms did not develop until after Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, we do not need to be informed.

## School Reports

Hopefully you have all had a chance to review your child's Post-Lockdown School Report.

If you haven't yet done so, please read the letter that accompanies your child's school report carefully as it explains why there may appear to be a discrepancy between where your child was assessed to be back in March, before the lockdown, and where they are assessed to be at the time the report was written.

If it appears they have fallen back, this is because of the effect that the lengthy period of school closure has had on the children. It doesn't necessarily reflect that your child is putting put less effort in, it simply reflects the fact that so much learning from the previous year has had to be covered this term that it is difficult for them to demonstrate that they are where a child should be for their age and stage.

The Recovery Curriculum, which we have been implementing since our return in September, will continue throughout the Spring Term with the remaining content from each child's previous school year being mopped up next term. The hope is that by the Summer Term, all children will be undertaking the normal primary school curriculum and learning content intended for their age group. However, the catch up process will mean that there is still work from the current year that will need catching up on at some point. We are on a gradual slope towards normal.

A second school report will be issued at the end of the Spring Term.

## Parent Consultation Evenings

The normal programme of school events has been heavily altered by the lockdown and the associated social distancing measures upon our return.

We would normally hold a second Parent Consultation Evening during February/March at which point, the Mid-Year School Report, which would normally be the first official School Report of the year, would be handed out.

As a School Report has only just been issued to share progress since the lockdown, there will not be another School Report until the end of the Spring Term and this will be sent home on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

This also means that we have taken the decision to postpone the Spring Term Parent Consultation Evenings and move these back to either side of the Whitsun half-term break in May/June 2021.

We do hold out some hope however that by that time, we may actually be able to hold the Parent Consultation Evenings face-to-face rather than over the phone.

## Parking

Another reminder to parents to be considerate when parking outside our neighbours properties. Although parking still remains a hot topic of conversation, the situation at the moment is as good as it's ever been because of the staggered start times. It has meant that fewer cars are parked in the streets around the school at the same time. However, there still remain some particularly busy periods and we urge parents to remember not to block neighbours driveways, even for the shortest of periods.

We would also like to remind parents that there should be NO PARKING on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school gate at any time.

A number of parents have also commented recently on the amount of young children being allowed to walk or scooter into the road, in amongst the parked cars with concerns that a serious accident could occur if proper supervision isn't maintained on the way to and from school.

## **SATs Go Ahead – for Year 6**

The Department for Education recently announced that although there would be some changes to the statutory tests that take place this year, there will be no complete cancellation of the Year 6 SATs and that these will still go ahead.

However, the government have cancelled the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test, meaning that there is one less test paper for the Year 6s to do. The Reading and Maths tests will still go ahead.

They have also extended the period over which tests can be taken from a week to a fortnight meaning that, in the event of a child having to self-isolate on the day of the tests, there is still time for them to catch up and sit the test upon their return.

It's better news for Year 2 pupils however, who no longer have to sit SATs test papers this year with all judgements about the children made by the teachers and based upon the work they produce in class.

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check will go ahead as normal in June but also with the extended fortnight during which absent children can sit the test upon their return.

## **Future Plans**

Despite the positive news about the vaccinations, there is still much uncertainty about when things will go back to normal for schools.

There is lots of speculation about Easter feeling more like normal which is why we will continue to maintain the current staggered start and finish times throughout the Spring Term.

We are still aiming to reduce, but not remove the stagger fully, after the Easter break with whole year groups starting school at the same time. This will reduce the period of time between the first and last classes starting school in the morning and will enable staff and pupils across a year group to mix.

However, this is open to change and will be dependant upon the success of the vaccination programme. It may be that the situation improves more quickly than we are anticipating and that by the Summer Term social distancing measures may not be required. However, if the situation doesn't improve as quickly as is hoped, it may be that the current stagger and restrictions remain in place until the end of the academic year.

## **Help Us to Keep the School Safe**

The recent scare at Hillcrest, with the first positive case amongst our pupils reported last week, makes the situation ever-more real to those in the community. It is also a sign that parents need to remain vigilant and open to getting themselves or their children tested if symptoms arise. Parents also need to ensure that if household members do have symptoms and are awaiting test results that they keep their children off school until a negative result is confirmed.

It was this prompt action by the parents of the child who recently tested positive that prevented much more widespread disruption at school this week. We have had other parents who have not been as proactive and who have continued to send their children in despite themselves waiting for test results. Fortunately all these ended up being negative tests, but those parents weren't to know that at the time and, as a result, have put everyone at risk by continuing to send their children in.

Please help us to keep Hillcrest virus-free, especially at a time when locally, it is clearly in circulation.

It is vitally important that parents closely follow the NHS guidelines for isolating themselves and their children when a case is suspected.

**If a member of your household demonstrates any of the well-advertised symptoms of Covid-19, then ALL of the household members, including the children, should self-isolate until the member of the house with symptoms has received a 'negative' test result.**

**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.***

**NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**



# No child goes hungry at Christmas

**Food parcels available 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>  
December**

**We can support you!**

**Have you been furloughed?**

**Have you lost your job?**

**Have your work hours been cut?**

**Do you need help to feed your child over the holiday?**

**If you have answered YES, please get in touch.**

## Get in touch

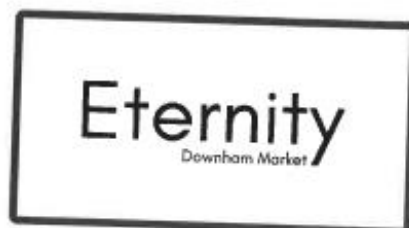
Email OR Phone

[office@eternitydownham.co.uk](mailto:office@eternitydownham.co.uk)

[anna@swanyouthproject.org](mailto:anna@swanyouthproject.org)

Anna - 01366 386259 Alex - 01366 384474

Or find us on Facebook [Downham Market No Child Goes Hungry Scheme](#)







# Finding this winter even harder because of Coronavirus?

## We are here to help.

Norfolk County Council's Covid Winter Support scheme can help with:

- Day to day living costs including food & energy bills
- Daily essentials such as toiletries & nappies
- Food vouchers for school holidays

Find out more online or call us now

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport)

**0344 800 8020**

Or visit your local library for help with applying



**Contact  
us today**