

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

NEWSLETTER

Friday 28th May 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

SCHOOL CLOSED

Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the Whitsun half-term week from Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June (inclusive). We will reopen on Monday 7th June at the new staggered times that we launched on 4th May.

Pulling Together

It has been a difficult week for the school community as it comes to terms with the loss of one of its family members.

Thank you to all those parents and pupils who have rallied round and supported the family concerned.

It is comforting for all to know that when the worst happens, the local community is so close that it unites in support of those in need of care and understanding at the most distressing of times.

Thank You!

The Delayed 'Winter' Sports Day

It was fantastic that the weather changed just in time to allow the much delayed Winter TEAM Sports Day to take place this week.

The event, which usually takes place during the first half of the Spring Term in February, was delayed due to the lockdown. It provides an opportunity for the children to compete for their Houses in team sports such as football, hockey and rounders as opposed to the more traditional Summer Sports Day that focuses on individual athletic events.

It is slightly different this year, as the children would normally compete in mixed Year 3/4 teams and mixed Year 5/6 teams further up the school, whereas the year group bubbles mean that each year group has to have their own event.

However, it is just nice to be able to welcome competitive sport back to Hillcrest after such a long absence and fits completely with the focus on physical education that we have had since returning from lockdown.

The Daily Mile Track

During the Easter break, a Daily Mile Track was installed in the grounds behind the 'i' Building at Hillcrest.

The blue track is enjoyed by all of the children, many of who cannot resist making it part of their route in and out of school at the start and end of the day.

Although clearly not a mile in length, the children complete a mile after 8 laps of the track. They do this daily apart from on days when they are getting their Physical Education through timetabled PE lessons.

It allows the children to burn off some energy, keep physically fit and provide them with additional focus for when they return to the classroom.

The track was paid for through the use of PE Premium funding that is awarded to schools each year.

Outdoor Learning Week

Despite some less than perfect weather, the children had a fantastic time during Outdoor Learning Week.

One of the highlights was watching Year 3 pupils baking bread over a camp fire in our Forest School under the guidance of Mrs Farr and Mr Dunne.

The purpose of Outdoor Learning Week wasn't just to have 'fun' but it was about using the fantastic outdoor facilities that we have on site to take the children forwards with their learning.

A learning environment doesn't have to have four walls and a ceiling. Some of the best learning can take place in the open air and that includes English and Maths learning.

It is with this in mind that Hillcrest will be launching an Outdoor Learning Curriculum during the course of the next academic year with staff beginning the planning process for that in September. We want to maximise the benefits that learning in the outdoors can have on both the children's academic progress and their wellbeing all year round. Therefore, rather than selecting a couple of weeks each year when the weather is nice to conduct Outdoor Learning, we will be looking to weave in opportunities to learn outside the classroom all-year round and across a range of subjects.

Social Distancing Measures and Mask-Wearing Remain

Many thanks to the parents who continue to follow the one-way system around the school site and ensure they are wearing their masks whilst on the premises.

We will continue to ask this of you all for the time being and, most likely, until the end of the school year.

Although the circulation of the virus would appear to be low in this area at this moment in time, this has been achieved through the social distancing measures working in conjunction with the vaccination programme. We don't want to take our eye off the ball at this moment in time, despite things going so well, as we have increased the numbers of adults on site at the same time through the introduction of year group bubbles. Therefore the safety measures that are in place will remain for the moment.

We are also aware of some positive cases that have come to light recently in other schools in the area so we must continue to be vigilant and continue to get ourselves and the children tested if they develop symptoms.

Year 6 Activities Week

We are trying our best this year to give the Year 6 pupils a fun and exciting end to the year despite the fact that the annual residential trip to Hilltop cannot go ahead.

Letters went home to the Year 6 parents this week with plans for a week-long series of activities both on and off-site that the children can enjoy. This includes a trip to Banham Zoo, a visit by a steel band, the RAF and an inflatables day! Great fun to be had by all and a memorable way to end their time at Hillcrest.

The activities will take place during the week beginning 5th July.

Welcome Back

We would like to welcome back Mrs Spademan who returns to school following her spell away on Maternity Leave. She will largely spend her time supporting the children in Year 1 until the end of the year.

Race for Life – have you signed up yet?

On Thursday 8th July, Hillcrest will be hosting its own Race for Life with funds raised being split. 60% will go to Cancer Research UK whilst 40% will go to the Friends of Hillcrest who are currently working towards raising funds for a Wellbeing Area in the 'i' Building for children requiring emotional support.

Sponsorship forms have gone home both via email and as a hard copy in the past two weeks. However, there is another included within this newsletter and you will also find one on the school website.

Whatever amount the children can raise will be going to two fantastic causes and past experiences tell us that the children will do a fantastic job adding to the massive totals they have raised in previous years for numerous good causes.

On this occasion we are asking that children raise a minimum of £3 so that they can receive the unique, one-of-a-kind medal that is being produced for the occasion.

However, there will be a prize for the pupil that raises the most money in each year group.

We are also appealing to the parents and friends and family members of Hillcrest pupils who are interested in running and supporting charitable causes, to sign up and take part. Adults can book themselves and other interested friends, colleagues or family members onto one of several 20-minute time slots that will be open throughout the course of the day. These are at 1.45pm, 2.15pm, 3.45pm, 4.15pm, 4.45pm and 5.15pm. Places for the adult participants can be booked at a cost of £5 via your child's WisePay account. We would also ask that you then complete the form that would have been attached to the letter that went home, confirming that you have booked on and making a note of the time slot that you would like to book onto.

Sponsorship Form for the Children's Run

Sponsor's Name	Sponsor's Address	Amount Sponsored	Tick if money received

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Total Raised: _____

(please return to school along with the money raised by Friday 16th July)

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 25th JUNE 2021