

2023/24



# HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Prospectus

Headteacher  
**Mr Matthew Try**

**Growing together, achieving together**



01366 388 191



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## Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to **Hilcrest Primary School**. Our aim is to provide your child with an education for life, and to make it a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

We are proud to say that Hillcrest is a progressive and innovative school which has a strong emphasis on high standards and creativity across the curriculum.

Our vision is that every person who enters our school feels a buzz and thrill about learning. Children, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Office Staff, Parents, Governors and the wider community recognise that it centres on everyone learning, co-operating, playing and developing together. We want our learners to be successful, confident and responsible contributors to society through creativity in all areas of the curriculum.

The chosen mission statement 'growing together, achieving together' encapsulates the aim to nurture all those who join our school, to produce successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens who can work together.

We have supportive and dedicated staff who, through establishing a positive attitude and code of conduct, will enable your child to become a valued member of society. This works best when home and school work together in partnership.

The facilities and opportunities we can offer you and your child are excellent. We intend to maintain our traditions, excellent behaviour and high standards to ensure that Hillcrest remains a happy and successful school.



**"We welcome you to join in with every aspect of school life at Hillcrest."**

**Matthew Try**  
Headteacher



## Our Values

At Hillcrest, we are:

- Safe & Valued
- Independent Thinkers
- Active Learners
- Listeners & Communicators
- Polite & Courteous



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## Our Vision

### We aim for us all, as learners, to:

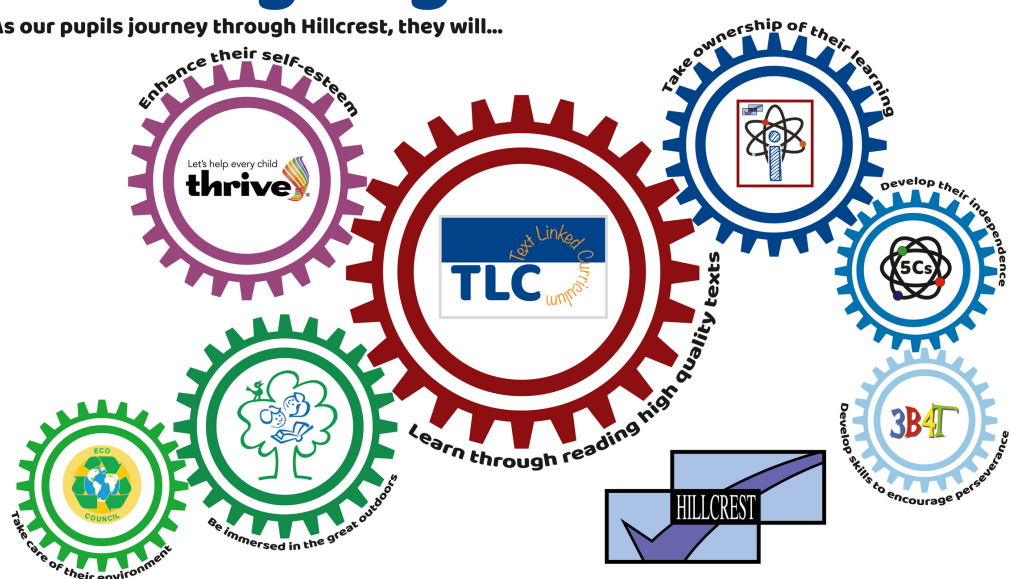
- Feel safe and valued as part of a caring community that celebrates success.
- Feel validated and confident in expressing their views and emotions.
- Understand and respect diversity.
- Develop a sense of self-esteem: be well-balanced and healthy individuals.
- Experience and actively participate in a relevant, enjoyable curriculum that evolves to meet the needs of all.
- Develop a curious mind and ask questions.
- Be independent thinkers / learners who are able to seek solutions in creatively, co-ordinated and co-operative ways.
- Be able to listen and communicate responses showing consideration to others.
- Be polite and courteous when communicating.
- Be proactive in our responsibilities towards the community, society, the environment and economy, linking 'real life' with our learning.

## Our Mission Statement

At Hillcrest, we nurture a love of reading to empower the children to unlock the full wonders of the curriculum, supporting them to unleash their creativity and champion their independence, helping them to achieve their full potential.

## Growing Together...

As our pupils journey through Hillcrest, they will...



## ...Achieving Together



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## Our History

Constructed in 1980, to serve the ever expanding town of Downham Market, Hillcrest Primary School was once surrounded by open fields. Now, the town has grown up around our site, making Hillcrest truly a part of the community that it serves.

Since our beginnings in 1980, the school has been led by just three Headteachers, demonstrating the dedication that our staff give to the Hillcrest community.

We are a large primary school in West Norfolk situated on the outskirts of the busy market town of Downham Market. Although near to the edge of the Fens, Downham has established and well supported rail links to London and Peterborough, via Ely, opening exciting opportunities to explore different cultures and environments quite easily.

## Our Grounds

Although very much part of our local community, Hillcrest benefits from an abundance of space; space to learn and space to play.

Our grounds are extensive and surrounded by mature trees, reinforcing our dedication to outdoor learning in our various "Forest Zones" around the site.

Our large field allows us to provide excellent sporting experiences, with the school hosting the annual local schools for joint sporting events.

## Our Facilities

- Main Building (lower school)
- i Building (upper school)
- Specialist Resource Base
- Three school libraries
- Unworry Room
- Large sports hall
- Expansive sports field
- Daily Mile track
- Video recording studio
- Computer suite
- Multiple laptop & tablet trolleys
- Food Technology kitchen
- Forest Area
- Sensory Garden
- Pond & Wildlife Area
- Outdoor Classroom & Amphitheatre
- "The Hillcrest Hut"



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## Our Designated Safeguarding Leads



**Mr Try** Headteacher & DSL



**Mr Reeve-Hayes** Deputy Headteacher & Alternate DSL



**Mrs White** Assistant Head, SENDCO & Alternate DSL



**Mr Martin** Assistant Head & Alternate DSL



**Mrs Wardle** Senior Teacher & Alternate DSL



**Mrs Stretton** SRB Teacher & Alternate DSL



"I feel that Hillcrest Primary school is very safe place for my children to learn and grow and they are cared for really well. Any concerns I ever had about my children, school always been really supportive and handled it effectively and professionally. Can't ask for better school for children!" - Current Year 5 parent



[Visit the Safeguarding page on our website](https://www.hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Our Safeguarding

**Safeguarding is our top priority at Hillcrest.**

The safeguarding of our pupils, families and staff forms the core of everything we do.

**We believe in 3 core principles, each building on the one before:**

1. Keeping everyone **SAFE**
2. Helping everyone to be **HAPPY** and **REGULATED**
3. Helping everyone to **LEARN** and **PROGRESS**

Hillcrest's Safeguarding Culture is central to all we do.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are deployed across the school site, ensuring that each of our buildings has a safeguarding expert on hand to help with any issues.

**Three members of the Safeguarding Team are non-teaching, meaning that they can be there, at any time, when our children need them.**

All staff receive yearly safeguarding training, based upon the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education document and the Prevent initiative, in the form of the Norfolk Core Package (provided by Norfolk County Council).

In addition to this, staff receive safeguarding updates throughout the year, refreshing their knowledge of various safeguarding matters.

**At Hillcrest, Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S responsibility.**



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## Our Curriculum

**Hillcrest's bespoke Text Linked Curriculum (TLC) is very precious to us!**

Our dedicated staff team has spent many, many hours creating and developing a **truly inspirational and bespoke curriculum with reading at its heart.**

To promote this love of reading, our curriculum bases each learning experience around key quality texts that are carefully chosen, with activities designed to make links between concepts, enabling learners to *maximise* and reach their potential.

**We are very proud of our curriculum and we believe that it is one that:**

- Instils a love of reading
- Is rewarding to teach
- Is fun to learn
- Provides an exciting and creative experience
- Produces a learning environment that resounds and echoes with learning
- Encourages independent thought
- Meets the needs and interests of all learners
- Enthuses pupils and parents alike
- Encourages a cross-curricular approach
- Encourages the creation of displays that embody the learning journey
- Enables pupils to make excellent progress because they are supported and cared for individually and their opinions are valued.



[Visit the Curriculum pages on our website](#)

## Our Learning

A visit to Hillcrest might send you back in time to the Viking era, finding out

**How to Train Your Dragon!**

It might whisk you even further to prehistoric times, where you might learn that **Dinosaurs Love Underpants** or spend some time with your **Wolf Brother!**

You may find yourself somewhere very peculiar indeed, spending time with **Alice in Wonderland**, or going on an adventure with the **Iron Man!**

You may travel to faraway lands, finding yourself in **Kensuke's Kingdom!**

***Wherever the learning takes you, you will find teachers who love teaching and children who love learning!***

We believe that reading is the key to learning! The gift of reading allows all knowledge to be sought and it opens the mind up to a world of infinite possibilities, where anything is possible and learning is limitless!



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## Our Independence 5Cs



### COMMUNICATE

Asking for Help; Achievement; Vocabulary; Collaboration; Speaking out; Speaking up



### CONFIDENT

Finding Help; Making Choices; Resilience; Reflection; Making a stand; Active Bystander



### COORDINATED

Knowing the End Goal; Organisation; Time Management; Improvement, Reflection; Collaborate



### CURIOUS

Motivation; Questioning; Concentration; Exploration; Empathy; Asking why



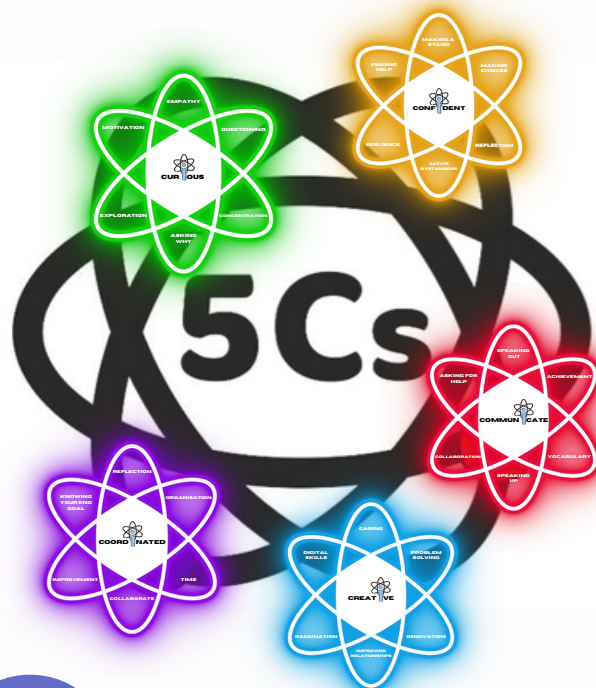
### CREATIVE

Digital Skills; Problem Solving; Innovation; Imagination; Caring; Improving relationships

## Our Independence Curriculum

**Our 5Cs of Independent Learning is central to our educational philosophy.**

Hillcrest has created the 5Cs of Independent Learning. Each "C" is a different skill, which contributes to becoming a successful independent learner! The skills are broken down into different areas, to help children understand what each "C" means.



**"The 5Cs help us grow together. They help us to be better learners. I love collecting the stickers!" - Callum, Year 3**



Visit the [Independent Learning page](#) on our website



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# HILLCREST FOREST

## Our Outdoor Learning Goals

**The Outdoor Learning ethos fits perfectly with Hillcrest's 5C principles of independence: creative, communicate, coordinated, curious and confident.**

Forest School is a unique outdoor learning experience, which inspires children through positive outdoor experiences.

At Hillcrest, we want our children to curiously explore and have fun in the natural environment, whilst confidently managing risks, collaborating with their peers, creatively solving problems and initiating their own learning.

- To enable young children to be independent and self-motivated
- To allow children to develop gross and fine motor skills in a natural environment
- To encourage children to be co-operative and to collaborate with each other
- To allow children to take risks within a controlled environment
- To encourage creativity through problem-solving activities
- To build self-esteem and self-confidence
- To increase competence
- To promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainability
- To prepare children for life-long learning



[Visit the Outdoor Learning page on our website](#)

## Our Outdoor Learning Curriculum

**The Forest School and Outdoor Learning ethos fits perfectly with Hillcrest's 5C principles of independence: creative, communicate, coordinated, curious and confident.**

Forest School is a unique outdoor learning experience, which inspires children through positive outdoor experiences. At Hillcrest, we want our children to curiously explore and have fun in the natural environment, whilst confidently managing risks, collaborating with their peers, creatively solving problems and initiating their own learning.

Our Outdoor Learning curriculum sees each class enjoy at least one lesson a week in the great outdoors.



**"I think it's a fantastic idea, and extremely well organised. It's fun, great exercise where they're learning different life skills, but still actively working towards the classroom education. My child is always excited for forest school and it definitely enhances his learning."**  
- Current EYFS Parent



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"Overall, we think that nothing at school needs improving right now and we feel happy, safe and proud to be Hillcrest pupils. We are happy that the outdoor learning areas are being improved already because this makes us feel heard." - Ganymede Class, Year 5

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDERS

If you have any concerns about your own mental health, or the mental health of others, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



PENNY MATHER  
HLTA  
pmather@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



CLARE PERILLO  
THRIVE PRACTITIONER/TA  
cperillo@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



ANGELA PASSEMORE  
HLTA  
apasmore@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk

OUR MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDERS CAN OFFER YOU:

- An in-depth understanding of mental health and the factors that can affect wellbeing.
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues.
- Reassurance and support for a person in distress.
- Non-judgemental listening.
- Knowledge to help someone recover their health by guiding them to further support - whether that's self-help resources, through their employer, the NHS, or a mix of these.



ELLIE SMITH  
CLASS TEACHER  
esmith@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



MICHELLE EASTER  
RECEPTIONIST  
measter@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



KINITA O'DEA  
CLASS TEACHER  
kwebbodea@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



JOHN REEVE-HAYES  
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER  
deputyhead@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



NANCY WHITE  
SENDCO/ASSISTANT HEAD  
sendco@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk



## Our Pastoral Care

**Pastoral care is another priority at Hillcrest.** The wellbeing and personal development of our pupils, families and staff is paramount to everything we do here at Hillcrest.

### • Thrive Practitioner

At Hillcrest, we have our very own Thrive Practitioner and Mental Health First Aider, Mrs Perillo, who is based in our Unworry Room. Mrs Perillo meets with lots of different pupils to help them to thrive!

### • United Against Bullying

Hillcrest is dedicated to stamping out bullying in all forms. The school's Anti-Bullying Policy heavily involved the pupils in its creation. The school has signed up to the Anti-Bullying Alliance's United Against Bullying Initiative.

### • Active Bystanders

Hillcrest has joined Norfolk County Council, in conjunction with the Crime Commissioner's Office, to deliver the Bystander Intervention Programme. The aim of the programme is to train and upskill children and young people to become active bystanders who can safely intervene to prevent incidents of sexual harassment. Schools and colleges throughout Norfolk have enrolled in the programme since its formation and the feedback from them is very positive.

### • Help for LGBT Students & Families

Hillcrest is a community that values each and every individual. Pupils, staff and families who identify as LGBT+ are safe and valued here!

### • Smart School Council

Each week, our School Council Representatives (democratically voted for at the beginning of each school year in Class Elections) lead their class through a meeting where a question has been posed to them.



Visit the [Personal Development](#) page on our website



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## Our Early Years Foundation Stage

### Hillcrest has a dedicated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) unit.

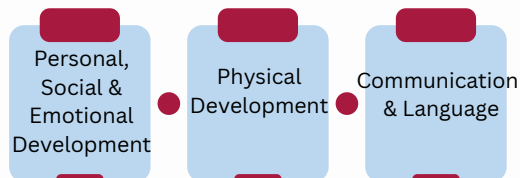
We value each and every one of our children as an individual right from the start of their journey at Hillcrest Primary School and our kind, caring staff ensure they have a smooth transition from preschool/ nursery, including visits to preschools and a home visit.

In EYFS we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Our children are nurtured in a secure environment, whilst being allowed to explore, enquire and develop their learning both inside and outside the classroom.

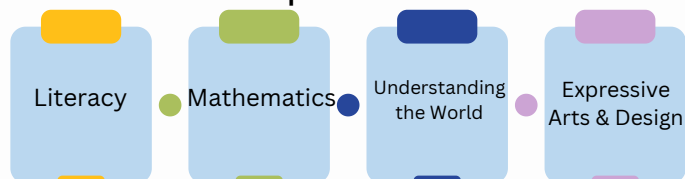
### The 7 areas of learning in the EYFS

Carefully planned play opportunities are created to stimulate children's learning. A child centred approach to learning is adapted as we believe that children learn best when they are interested and engaged; therefore we aim to take into account children's individual and current interests, and will adapt our environment accordingly.

#### Three Prime Areas



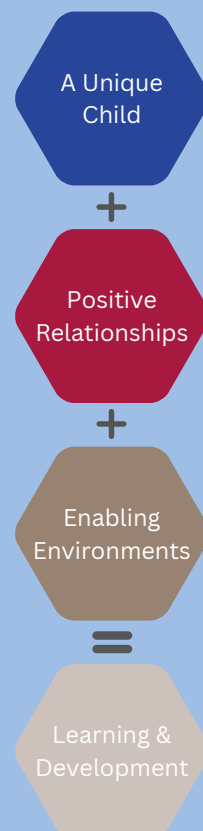
#### Four Specific Areas



Visit the EYFS page on our website

## Our EYFS Learning

- We ensure every child is a '**Unique child**', developing all children to be confident and resilient with high self-esteem.
- We pride ourselves on our '**Positive Relationships**', enabling all children to be strong and independent through caring and secure relationships with our staff
- We endeavour to create '**Enabling Environments**' which offer relevant and stimulating learning resources.
- We recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and we support and extend all children's '**Learning and Development**' opportunities.



"All staff have been amazing in the support they have given my child in his first year of Reception."  
- Current EYFS Parent

"My child's confidence & ability in reading has grown tremendously since starting Little Wandle and we now both enjoy reading together." - Current EYFS Parent



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# Our EYFS Goals

for every child



2023/24

To become a:

## **Confident Communicator**

who feels safe, can listen ..... carefully in different situations, hold a conversation, ask ..... relevant questions and use new vocabulary to explain their ..... ideas and feelings.

To become a:

## **Fantastic Friend**

who can be kind, caring and helpful, show empathy and respect to others, work and play co-operatively whilst considering others' ideas and feelings.

To become an:

## **Independent Individual**

who can set simple goals and persevere to achieve them, select resources, manage their own personal needs, regulate their emotions and know how to stay fit and healthy.

To become a:

## **Brilliant Bookworm**

who has a love for reading, uses new vocabulary to talk about what they have read or has been read to them, read words and simple sentences, using their phonics knowledge.

To become an:

## **Exceptional Explorer**

who is eager to take part in outdoor learning, shows curiosity about the world around them including the local area, whilst understanding similarities and differences through their exploration.

To become an:

## **Amazing Athlete**

who can show strength balance and co-ordination when playing, move confidently and safely in a variety of different ways, using a range of equipment.

To become a:

## **Sentence Superstar**

who can hold a pencil effectively, is a keen writer, can write letters that are formed correctly, write words and simple sentences that can be read by others and enjoy the writing process.

To become a:

## **Master of Maths**

who is passionate about numbers, has a deep understanding of numbers to 10, recognises patterns, subitise, compares quantities and recalls number bonds to 10 and beyond.

To become a:

## **Dynamic Designer**

who can choose and safely use their resources they need to make their creations, talk about the processes and begin to plan and evaluate their creations verbally.



In reception we ensure each child is happy, safe and confident in their environment and play; to facilitate each and every one of them in becoming fantastic learners throughout their educational journey.



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"Having the children visit our residents brings a breath of fresh air. We see residents light up when their visitors arrive. I think the children get a lot out of helping them too." - local care home Administrator

- **Befriending the Elderly**

Year 5 have the opportunity to visit a local care home to build some inter-generational links. The residents thoroughly enjoy reading with the children, playing games with them as well as telling stories of times gone by.

- **Supporting Charities**

Hillcrest pupils often express a desire to help those less fortunate than themselves. Hillcrest gives to the Downham Market Foodbank each year through our Reverse Advent initiative. Recently, the school raised over £2,000 to offer support to those affected by the Syria-Turkey earthquake.

- **Eco Council**

Each year, children democratically elect representatives from their class to join the Hillcrest Eco Council, who champion environmental causes at the school.

- **School Council**

In addition to the Eco Council, elections are held for School Council representatives from each class. The elected children run weekly meetings, where a question is posed to the entire school for the children to discuss and vote upon. They then upload their responses from our Deputy Headteacher to action!

- **5Cs Champions**

A pupil from each class is nominated by their teacher to become the 5C Champion! This pupil encourages, praises and motivates their peers to embody the 5Cs just as they do! They proudly wear brightly coloured lanyard to advertise that they champion the 5Cs!

## Our Opportunities

**Hillcrest is very much part of our community.** Pupils get involved in a variety of events and activities at Hillcrest; in Downham Market and beyond!

- **IMP News Show**

At Hillcrest, we have our very own pupil-run news show! A group of pupils wanted to deliver news that was Informative, Mind-blowing & Positive! They do a great job and make use of our custom built recording studio.

- **The Hillcrest Choir**

Our choir is renowned in the area for putting on professional and heart-felt performances. The choir perform annually at the Downham Christmas lights switch-on ceremony, as well as performing for residents at the various care homes in the town.

- **Extra-curricular Clubs**

Hillcrest has a very dedicated staff team. Many of them give up their time to run afterschool (or lunchtime) clubs for the children to enjoy. We also have some outside groups - like King's Lynn Town Football Club - run specialist clubs after school.

- **Pupil-initiated Clubs**

In addition to clubs started by adults, our pupils in Years 4, 5 & 6 are encouraged to create clubs that interest them; supervised by staff members, of course!



"We love being able to run a club at lunchtime! We come up with an idea, find an adult to help, then get going. I have learnt so much being a club leader" - Elsie, Year 5



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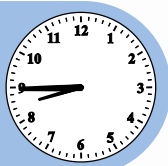
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## Our School Day

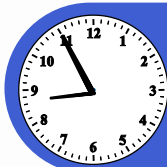
### 8.45AM DOORS OPEN

We welcome children into the school, through their classroom door, with a "good morning" from 8.45am, with a window of 10 minutes to allow for different parental routines.



### 8.55AM REGISTRATION

At 8.55am, the doors are secured, and the attendance register is taken, marking the start of the compulsory school day. This happens promptly as part of our rigorous safeguarding routines. Now, the pupils get down to learning!



### 3.30PM HOME TIME!

Staff and pupils wish each other well and they head home for a well deserved rest!



[Visit the School Day page on our website](#)

[Visit the Uniform page on our website](#)

## Our Classes

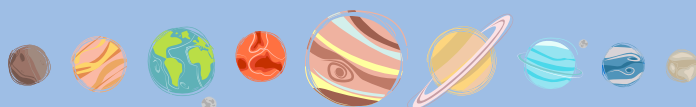
**The learning ethos here at Hillcrest is all about aiming high; reaching our potential.**

Embodying this ethos, our classes were named after celestial bodies in the night sky.

Our **Early Years Foundation classes** are: Suns and Moons.

Our **Key Stage 1 classes** are: Meteors, Nebulas, Comets and Planets.

Our **Key Stage 2 classes** are: Pluto, Mercury, Saturn, Mars, Europa, Jupiter, Venus, Earth, Proteus and Neptune.



## Our Uniform

**Our pupils are extremely proud of their school and their uniform. Pupils are to be dressed smartly, adhering to our uniform expectations.**

We expect pupils to have long hair tied back and any ear rings are to be simple, round metal studs. False nails are not permitted.

In the summertime, some pupils wear summer dresses or shorts.



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# 2023/24

**WE LOOK  
FORWARD  
TO  
WELCOMING  
YOUR  
FAMILY TO  
HILLCREST  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**



**Appointments to view the school can be made via the School Office.**

Norfolk County Council deals directly with all of our school admissions. Parents should contact the local authority to find out about admission and appeal arrangements. By following Norfolk County Council's directives, the school is compliant with the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code.

Telephone: 0344 800 8020

Website: <https://www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk/enrol/>

## **Growing together, achieving together**



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[office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk)

**Hillcrest Primary School  
is dedicated to the  
commitment of the  
staff and Governors to  
promote equality and to  
fulfil our  
responsibilities under  
the Equalities Duty. This  
involves tackling the  
barriers which could  
lead to unequal  
outcomes so that there  
is equality of access and  
the diversity within the  
school community is  
celebrated and valued.**



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