

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents /Carers,

Reverse Advent Calendar Gets Off to Great Start

A massive thank you to all those parents who have sent their children in with items for the Reverse Advent Calendar throughout the first week of our annual charitable giving event.

So far, the following items have been donated to us...

- 93 packets of dried pasta;
- 63 packets of gravy granules;
- 57 packets of dried fruit;
- 42 multipacks of crisps.

As we enter Week Two of the Reverse Advent Calendar, we move away from dried items and instead ask for liquids to be brought in. The full list of items for each day next week can be found below...

Monday 27 th November	Squash or fruit juice (should not require refrigeration)
Tuesday 28 th November	Fizzy drinks
Wednesday 29 th November	Tea/Coffee/Sugar
Thursday 30 th November	Jelly Cubes
Friday 1 st December	Sauces (tomato ketchup, brown sauce, BBQ etc)

We thank you in advance for your continued support of next week's Reverse Advent Calendar.

Pro-Kick Charitable Fundraiser

A massive grand total of £4478 was raised by the children as part of the recent Pro-Kick fundraising event. This means that £1791 comes back into school via the Friends of Hillcrest who receive 40% of the money raised with the other 60% being used across the UK and internationally by the Sports Connections Foundation to help improve the lives of others through the medium of sport.

We apologise for the lengthy delay between the event taking place, the money being raised and the children getting their medals, wristbands and footballs. Hillcrest has been working hard with the Sports Connections Foundation to tie up payments with sponsorship forms so that the correct amount of each item can be sent out to the school. We were hoping to receive the gifts this week but, as yet, they haven't arrived. However, all children should have their relevant items by the end of next week.

Children in Need

£353 was raised through our recent non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. Thank you to all who took part.

Timetabling During the Spring Term

From January, there will be a subtle change to the way the children are taught throughout the remainder of the year.

In order to address one of the main areas for improvement from the recent Ofsted inspection, we are looking to use the expertise demonstrated by various members of the teaching staff across the different Foundation Subjects to support children other than those in their own class.

The teaching of Modern Foreign Languages was raised as an area for improvement within the most recent Ofsted inspection report along with there being a similar mention for Music, even though the Music subject leadership team were praised in the same breath.

Therefore, from January all of the Key Stage 2 classes will spend a small part of the week being taught by another teacher. The main subjects that your child's class teacher will not teach are MFL, Music and PE with each of these subjects being taught by someone who is passionate and knowledgeable in that subject.

This IS NOT about Hillcrest moving to a more secondary style of timetabling from January. Indeed, most classes will find they are without their class teacher for around 4 lessons each week, some a little more. Instead, during those lessons they will be receiving an expert input from a French specialist, Music specialist or PE specialist. Some other subjects will also be taught by teachers other than your child's class teacher but MFL, Music and PE are the subjects being more widely taught by others.

Indeed, running alongside this new plan is a programme of Continued Professional Development for all of the teachers, focussing on the teaching of MFL and Music. The plan is to then remove the need for timetabling next September with the children returning to being taught the full range of subjects by their class teacher from that point.

We can confirm that your child will continue to spend the vast majority of their working week with their class teacher. Each teacher will continue to teach the core subjects of English, Maths and Science to their own class and will be feeding back, as normal, on these at the next parent's evening in February.

World Record Attempt Postponed

We had let the children know in recent weeks about a planned World Record Attempt that was due to take place at Hillcrest. On 3rd December, we were expecting to be hosting an attempt to break the World Record for a live Nativity scene. However, due to complications and complexities of organising such an event, it is being postponed for this year.

We are going to try again next year to break the record. Watch this space!

Considerate Parking

We have received a few messages recently from residents in Sandringham Drive and Hogarth Road regarding parents parking in front of their driveways when picking up and dropping off children.

We would like to remind parents that the new parking restrictions around the school were put into effect by the local authority following years of parking issues and debate locally and following the extension of the school building.

I am sure that both parents and residents alike would be keen to avoid further restrictions and also keen to avoid animosity.

If you pick your children up by car, please ensure that you are not blocking a resident's driveway. Thank you.

Colder Weather on the Way

It looks as though we are entering a period of much colder weather this week.

A reminder to parents that the children will go out to play in all temperatures as it is usually the heavy rain that prevents them from going out to break. Therefore, can the children please be reminded to come to school in a warm coat and, where appropriate, gloves and a hat. All such winter weather items should be clearly labelled so that we can reunite lost items of clothing with their owners.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

The children are invited to come into school on Tuesday 19th December in non-school uniform for Christmas Dinner Day. However, in keeping with the spirit of the festive period, the children are encouraged to come to school dressed in the most outrageous and sparkly Christmas jumper.

Drop-In Morning

Our final drop-in morning of the Autumn Term, which give parents an opportunity to visit their child's class between 8.45 and 8.55am, takes place on Wednesday 6th December for years 1 to 6
EYFS drop in is Thursday 7th december between 3.35 and 3.30 pm.

1960s Day – ADVANCE NOTICE

On Thursday 1st February 2024 Hillcrest Primary School will be holding a 1960s Day.

Following on from the huge success of our 1970s and 1980s Days in previous years, the children (and staff) will be encouraged to come to school in sixties costume, dance to music from the era in a disco that all year groups will get the opportunity to experience throughout the day, eat a school dinner based loosely around food that would have been eaten at school during that period, learn about big news events from the time and watch some children's TV from that decade.

The advance notice is an opportunity for parents to get their thinking caps on about how their child may dress on the day. We are looking forward to a great event.

Christmas Production Dates

Reception Performances on Tuesday 12th December at 9.45am AND Friday 15th December at 2.15pm

Year 1 Performances on Wednesday 6th December at 9.45am AND Tuesday 12th December at 2.15pm

Year 2 Performances on Thursday 7th December at 9.45am AND Thursday 14th December at 2.15pm

Year 3 & 5 Christmas Church Service at 10.30am on Monday 18th December

Year 4 & 6 Christmas Church Service at 2.00pm on Monday 18th December

Please note that space for parents and other family members at the Church will not be controlled by us and will therefore be on a first come-first served basis. However, we do ask that parents do not sit in the central aisles of the church as these are the seats reserved for the children as part of their service.

Attendance Matters

Every Day Counts ✓

Missing a day of school a week

is the same as missing over 2 years of school.

Class	Target for November	ACTUAL FOR NOVEMBER	Target for December
Moons	98%	92.42%	96%
Suns	96%	93.18%	96%
Meteors	96%	93.73%	96%
Nebulas	96%	95.76%	96%
Comets	96%	93.33%	96%
Planets	96%	96.36%	97%
Mercury	97%	95.01%	96%
Pluto	98%	95.11%	96%
Mars	96%	92.42%	96%

Saturn	96%	97.51%	98%
Europa	96%	96.63%	97%
Jupiter	98%	96.68%	97%
Venus	97%	96.97%	97.50%
Earth	96%	96.97%	97.50%
Neptune	98%	97.56%	98%
Proteus	96%	95.31%	96%

The attendance figures for each class throughout the month of November can be found above with Neptune in Year 6 the best attended class in the school with a figure of 97.56%.

A huge well done also to Planets Class in Year 2, Saturn in Year 4, Europa in Year 5 and Earth in Year 6 for beating their target attendance for November.

Early warning...SCHOOL CLOSURE

We would like to remind you that Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the Christmas and New Year break between Thursday 21st December 2023 and Wednesday 3rd January 2024 (inclusive). The last day of term is Wednesday 20th December. School reopens at the usual time on Thursday 4th January 2024.

JOB VACANCY AT HILLCREST

EYFS Teaching Assistant at Hillcrest Primary School

Hillcrest Primary School
Hillcrest
Downham Market
Norfolk
PE38 9ND

Tel: 01366 388191

Email: head@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Matthew Try

- **Permanent**
- **28.75 hours per week**
- **Monday - Friday**
- **Term-Time + 1 week**
- **Salary: Band C4**
- **Required from January 2024**
- **Must have training and/or extensive experience within EYFS**

Our school is looking to appoint a Teaching Assistant who has a real understanding and passion for supporting and teaching children within EYFS.

The role will be 5 days per week and involve you working across our Reception classrooms to support with the care and education of the children.

You must be able to effectively support the EYFS Lead and Class Teachers, by delivering high quality, creative, child-centred and challenging learning experiences to individuals and smaller groups.

We would like to interview you if you:

- Have any relevant qualifications appropriate to the school setting in the area of EYFS Teaching Assistant **OR** you have recent training in any of these areas;
- It is desirable although NOT ESSENTIAL to hold a TA qualification;
- Experienced in delivering academic interventions to a high standard;
- Have excellent experience and/or a talent in working with children within the Early Years setting;
- Can use and develop ICT effectively to support and enhance learning;
- Have excellent literacy and numeracy skills.

Hillcrest is a large primary school (438 pupils at time of publishing advert) located on the outskirts of Downham Market, Norfolk and set on large grounds. We are a welcoming and friendly school to work in, with wonderful children who are keen to learn; supportive governors and families; a committed and hardworking staff team.

A visit to the school is strongly recommended. For more information or to arrange a visit please email head@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk

A Job Description and Specification are available to download from the Educator Solutions website. Completed forms can be returned to the school via email to head@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk or by post.

Closing date: Friday 8th December at 3.30pm

Interview date: Thursday 14th December

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. Employment is subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references. This post comes under the requirements of the Childcare (Disqualification) 2009 regulations and the successful applicant will be required to complete a declaration form to establish whether they are disqualified under these regulations.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER 2023