



NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Dear Parents /Carers,

SCHOOL CLOSED

Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the festive period between Thursday 21st December 2023 and Wednesday 3rd January 2024. School reopens at the usual time on Thursday 4th January 2024. May the staff at Hillcrest take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Reverse Advent Calendar Well Supported

A massive thank you to all those parents who have sent their children in with items for the Reverse Advent Calendar throughout the four weeks of the charitable event. We estimate that around 1 in every 4 families contributed something at some point over the 20 days, the best response that we have had since we returned after the pandemic.

The total items donated to us were...

- 93 packets of dried pasta;
- 63 packets of gravy granules;
- 57 packets of dried fruit;
- 42 multipacks of crisps;
- 91 packets of biscuits or crackers;
- 64 bottles of squash;
- 63 bottles of fizzy drink;
- 54 items consisting of tea/coffee/sugar;
- 71 packets of jelly;
- 73 bottles of sauce;
- 69 tins of meat;
- 95 tins of vegetables;
- 67 cans of soup;
- 68 tins of fruit;
- 55 tins of cream/condensed milk;
- 60 bottles of deodorant;
- 62 toothbrushes/toothpaste;
- 42 bottles of washing-up liquid
- 38 packets of toilet roll;
- 18 boxes of Christmas crackers

That is a grand total of 1245 items that have been collected by the Downham Foodbank and which will be distributed to families in need of additional support over the next few days and weeks.

As ever, we are incredibly thankful for your continued support with this annual charitable event.

Christmas Productions

Children across the school did themselves, their teachers and their families proud when participating in the various productions that took place throughout December.

It was also great to see so many families supporting their children, both in school at the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christmas Productions and also at the Church for the Key Stage 2 Church Services.

A huge thank you to the children, their families and the staff who plan, organise and deliver the productions which take several weeks of planning to get them to the point at which the parents see them.

We Are All Looking Forward to the 1960s Day

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 Christmas Sales may be a great time to start thinking about a sixties-themed outfit for the children to wear on that day. The holidays could also be a good time for those creative children and parents to make a costume for the event.

Timetabling During the Spring Term

Following our announcement about some minor changes to the timetable in the New Year, this is a reminder that each KS2 class will spend a small proportion of each week being taught by someone other than their normal class teacher when they return in January.

We will be using teachers with certain specialisms, particularly French, Music and PE, to support children across different classes with the aim of raising attainment within those Foundation Subjects as a result.

Your child's Class Teacher will still remain their teacher for the majority of the week and will still remain your first port of call for reporting any concerns or queries. Your child's Class Teacher will also continue to deliver their English, Maths and Science teaching and report back on progress in these subjects in the usual ways.

Drop-In Morning

Our classroom drop-in mornings for the Spring Term take place between 8.45 and 8.55am on the following dates...

- Wednesday 31st January 2024
- Wednesday 28th February 2024
- Wednesday 20th March 2024

Attendance Matters



**Every Day
Counts** 

**High attendance
makes you
twice as likely to pass your
English and Maths GCSEs.**

Class	Target for December	ACTUAL FOR DECEMBER	Target for January
Moons	96%	91.69%	96%
Suns	96%	96.17%	96.50%
Meteors	96%	94.14%	96%
Nebulas	96%	96.13%	96.50%
Comets	96%	95.60%	96%
Planets	97%	92.00%	96%
Mercury	96%	96.40%	97%
Pluto	96%	93.94%	96%
Mars	96%	88.43%	96%
Saturn	98%	91.29%	96%
Europa	97%	90.89%	96%
Jupiter	97%	92.76%	96%
Venus	97.50%	97.40%	98%
Earth	97.50%	93.60%	96%
Neptune	98%	95.74%	96%
Proteus	96%	92.39%	96%

The attendance figures for each class throughout the month of December can be found above with Venus in Year 5 the best attended class in the school with a figure of 97.40%.

A huge well done also to Suns Class in Reception, Nebulas in Year 1 and Mercury in Year 3 for beating their target attendance for December.

...And Finally...Good Luck

We would like to finish the year by wishing Mrs Spademan well as she starts her Maternity Leave. We look forward to hearing about her impending new arrival in the next few weeks and cannot wait for her to return to Hillcrest in the next academic year. Definitely an exciting start to 2024 in store for Mrs Spademan.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 26th JANUARY 2024