

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents /Carers,

School Reports and Parent Consultation Evenings

We are heading to the mid-point of the school year which is the time at which we deliver parents the first official school report about their child's attainment.

The Mid-Year Report is a very data-based report with very little written commentary about the children's progress. The data is designed to act as a starting point for a conversation with the class teacher when coming along to the Parent Consultation Evenings after half-term. Hence the reason why very little is written on this particular report.

We have tried various ways of issuing the Mid-Year Report from issuing it after the Parent Consultation Evenings to, more recently, giving the parents the first opportunity of reading their child's report at the time they sit down with the teacher at the Parent Consultation appointment.

It was felt that issuing the report at the very time the parent meets the teacher didn't give the parent much opportunity to digest the report's content with parents often going away with more questions that then needed answering at a later point.

Therefore, we now send the children home with their Mid-Year Report on Friday 16th February, the last day before the half-term holiday. We will then hold the Parent Consultation Evenings on Thursday 29th February and Tuesday 5th March. Appointments are available between 4pm and 7pm on both days. You will be able to make your booking via WisePay from next Monday.

The 1960s Day will soon be upon us

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.

Please note that swimming will still go ahead on this day for those children in Year 3 and 6. Therefore, please don't send your child in with any face paints that may run and please ensure that your child can get themselves in and out of their costume independently.

Swimming

We have had a number of issues with children either not arriving with their swimming kit on swimming days or coming on to school and telling their teacher that they are not able to swim for a variety of reasons.

Swimming is part of the school curriculum and should be viewed in the same way as English or Maths, neither of which anyone would consider opting their child out of.

Children cannot opt out of swimming and parents can not opt them out on their behalf. We understand that it is a situation in which some children feel uncomfortable, nervous of or even fearful. However, it is an important life skill that we are duty bound to ensure children attend. Part of their lessons are therefore about ensuring they become less nervous or fearful around water and ultimately, that they can save themselves if they fall into water.

If your child is too ill to go swimming then there is a question as to whether they should be in school and certainly a question over whether they are well enough to be playing outside with friends at break and lunch if they are too unwell to walk to the swimming pool.

Therefore, from next week we will be taking much tougher line on requests for children to miss swimming.

- We will only accept children being in school and not taking part in swimming if there is a clear medical reason that has been confirmed by a doctor (or an obvious reason such as a body part in a cast);
- Although we want the children in school learning, if they are genuinely too unwell to participate in a swimming lesson, it may be necessary to keep them at home;
- In the event that a child does turn up without their swimming kit on a swimming day, the parent will be called with the expectation that they then bring the kit into school as soon as possible;
- In the event that a child attends school without a swimming kit and the parent cannot be contacted or a parent has asked that their child does not swim, the child will then remain indoors at all break and lunch times.

No Dogs Allowed on the School Site

A reminder to ALL parents and family members who visit Hillcrest at various times that there should be NO DOGS walked or carried onto the school site at any time.

Any parent or family member bringing a dog onto the site will politely be asked to remove their dog by a member of staff.

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



Class	Target for January	ACTUAL FOR JANUARY	Target for February
Moons	96%	95.10%	96%
Suns	96.50%	92.36%	96%
Meteors	96%	94.37%	96%
Nebulas	96.50%	92.22%	96%
Comets	96%	91.01%	96%
Planets	96%	95.09%	96%
Mercury	97%	96.87%	97%
Pluto	96%	96.87%	97%
Mars	96%	89.13%	96%
Saturn	96%	92.61%	96%
Europa	96%	89.57%	96%
Jupiter	96%	93.94%	96%
Venus	98%	88.94%	96%
Earth	96%	89.80%	96%
Neptune	96%	93.65%	96%
Proteus	96%	94.04%	96%

The attendance figures for each class throughout the month of January can be found above with both Pluto and Mercury in Year 3 the best attended classes in the school with a figure of 96.87%.

A huge well done also to Pluto in Year 3 for exceeding their target for January.

Early warning...SCHOOL CLOSURE

We would like to remind you that Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the February half-term break between Monday 19th February and Friday 23rd February (inclusive). School reopens at the usual time on Monday 26th February.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2024