

Learning delivered with



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

Text Linked Curriculum

NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th February 2024

Dear Parents /Carers,

SCHOOL CLOSED

Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the Half-Term Holiday between Monday 19th and Friday 23rd February (inclusive). School reopens at the usual time on Monday 26th February

School Reports and Parent Consultation Evenings

All Mid-Year Reports should have gone home today with the children.

Although this is referred to within the covering letter that accompanies the report, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents that the data used within the report is from the end of the Autumn Term and that the children will be six weeks further on with their support and their learning from the point that data was created.

It is therefore essential in order to get the fullest possible picture of your child's progress that parents sign up on WisePay for one of the Parent Consultation Evenings slots which take place on Thursday 29th February and Tuesday 5th March.

The 1960s Day was a roaring success

A massive thank you to all of the parents who supported their children with dressing up for the 1960s Day that was held recently.

A fantastic day was had by all and Disco Dan was taken back by the amount of children who appeared to know the titles and the words to a number of songs from the Sixties.

Next year we will jump forward to the Nineties!!!

Comic Relief - Friday 15th March

The children will be able to attend school in non-school uniform on Friday 15th March in return for a £1 donation towards Comic Relief. Parents can pay the £1 through WisePay or cash.

Welcome Back

We would like to welcome back Miss Hancox who returns from her Maternity Leave. Miss Hancox joins Mrs Pepper as co-teacher of Meteors Class in Year 1.

Drop-In Morning

The final classroom drop-in mornings for the Spring Term takes place between 8.45 and 8.55am on Wednesday 28th February and Wednesday 20th March.

Winter Sports Day

EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils enjoyed what must have been the warmest Winter Sports Day in Hillcrest history this week. They experienced temperatures of around 17 degrees Celsius whilst taking part in their activities.

After half-term it is the turn of the Key Stage 2 pupils who have their Winter Sports Day on Wednesday 28th February. Can all Key Stage 2 pupils please remember to attend school in their PE kits on that day.

Life Skills

We are aware that there has been some disquiet amongst some parents of Year 5 pupils regarding the subject matter being discussed within Life Skills lessons at present.

The heavy topic of gender and celebrating everyone's differences is the current area of learning for the Year 5s at present and this is an area that evokes lots of differing opinions amongst adults who can often view the matters being discussed with varying strengths of opinion.

Whatever the views shared by any individual, we are only delivering the subject matter that we have a legal obligation to deliver and not going any further than we are obliged to go nor are we dumbing the subject matter down in any way. It is an important conversation to have and one that primary schools are duty-bound to deliver.

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. In the event that any parent persistently ignores polite requests to remove their dogs from the school site, the parent themselves will be banned from the school site under powers we hold within the Education Act.

Respecting our Neighbours and Respecting Our School Site

We have experienced a growing number of issues in recent weeks where pupils from Downham Market Academy are not being respectful either to neighbours of the school, or to Hillcrest itself whilst on our site.

We would like to remind everyone that DMA pupils should not be using Hillcrest's playground as a thoroughfare to get from one side of the estate to the other and that they should ONLY be on site if they are collecting a sibling from our school.

We would also like to ask parents who allow their DMA-aged child to collect their younger sibling from Hillcrest to make sure that they are respectful of the other adults and children around them whilst they are waiting to collect and that they wait sensibly.

We have had one particularly upsetting incident where two girls from DMA displayed rude gestures using their hands towards the children in one of the Year 2 classrooms as they walked past at the end of the day.

In another incident, DMA pupils waiting outside our gate into the KS1 playground on Sandringham Drive, have been throwing items at the front door and into the back garden of one of our neighbours, causing them much distress.

Both the high school and the police have been informed with the police having carried out a patrol in the area in recent days.

Sending Cash Into School

There are very few times when we ask cash to come into school with most payments for lunches, trips and charitable events coming into school via WisePay. However, on those occasions where you have no other choice than to send your child in with cash, please ensure that you send it in within a sealed envelope. On the front of the envelope you should write the amount that can be found within the envelope, your child's name, their class and the purpose for the money.

Car Parking

A reminder to all parents that the school car park is only available for staff members, blue badge holders and those taxis dropping off and collecting children from the SRB. Other parents should not be attempting to drive in through the barrier whilst it is in its upright position.

Attendance Matters

Lateness – If a child misses the register at 8.55am but arrives shortly afterwards, they are marked as being present but 'late' right up until 9.25am. However, children arriving after 9.25am with no valid reason will receive an unauthorised absence in the register for the morning even though they have eventually turned up for school. Please don't let lateness become a habit as every minute of schooling missed really counts over the course of a year.



Class	Target for February	ACTUAL FOR FEBRUARY	Target for March
Moons	96%	89.81%	96%
Suns	96%	83.40%	96%
Meteors	96%	91.25%	96%
Nebulas	96%	89.67%	96%
Comets	96%	89.83%	96%
Planets	96%	95.97%	96.50%
Mercury	97%	96.27%	97%
Pluto	97%	88.06%	96%
Mars	96%	92.41%	96%
Saturn	96%	95.94%	96.50%
Europa	96%	90.71%	96%
Jupiter	96%	93.57%	96%
Venus	96%	94.25%	96%
Earth	96%	91.50%	96%
Neptune	96%	93.87%	96%
Proteus	96%	95.28%	96%

The attendance figures for each class throughout the month of February can be found above with Mercury in Year 3 the best attended classes in the school with a figure of 96.27%.

Early warning...SCHOOL CLOSURE

We would like to remind you that Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the Easter holidays between Thursday 28th March and Friday 12th April (inclusive). The last day of term is therefore, Wednesday 27th March. School reopens at the usual time on Monday 15th April.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH 2024