

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents /Carers,

### Welcome Back

It has been a pleasure to see how happy the vast majority of children have been upon returning to school this week.

Ahead of us we have an exciting year full of the same sort of enjoyable activities that we normally try and fill our calendar with alongside the concrete job of teaching a broad and balanced curriculum.

We continue to use the TLC (Text-Linked Curriculum) to enthuse and motivate the children whilst also raising the profile of reading as well as harnessing the power of the great outdoors when we continue to use our many outdoor areas to help deliver our Outdoor Learning curriculum.

We also look forward to meeting many families as we continue to open our doors to parents at regular intervals to either showcase the children's work, showcase their talents or to provide parents with events that enable them to support their children's learning.

### Class Drop-In

The Wednesday morning class drop-ins will take place between 8.45 and 8.55am on the following dates...

- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

### Parent Governor Election

Information will be coming out today regarding a forthcoming Parent Governor Election as we seek nominees for such a position ahead of any possible election that may take place in the event that we have more than one person interested. Please look out for the information relating to this that will come out separately from this newsletter.

## Goodbyes

On the very last day of term last year, we received the news that Mrs Birt, a Year 6 TA who had worked alongside Mrs Cawley for the past 9 years, would not be returning this term. We wish Mrs Birt well in her new job role.

Another Year 6 TA, Mrs Roy, will also not be returning this year after her fixed-term contract ended.

We also lost Mrs Simpson who ended her role as a Midday Supervisor last term to enjoy a well overdue and well-earned retirement.

Miss Camus also left after rejoining us for a short spell in order to cover a period of Maternity Leave in Year 1.

## Autumn Term Fundraiser: Pro Kick

Every Autumn Term we hold a massive charity fundraiser and alternate it each year between the Pro-Kick Challenge and the Countryfile Ramble.

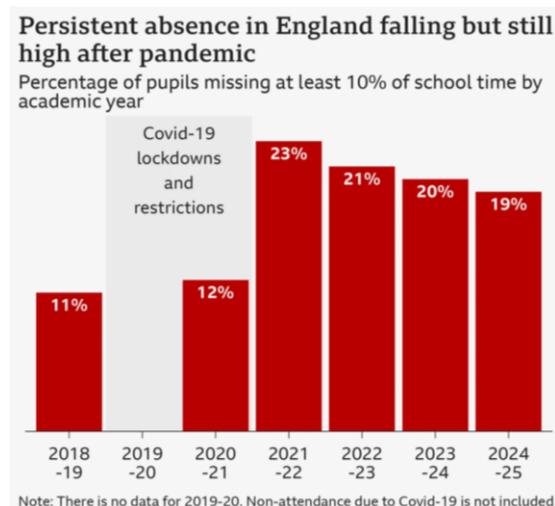
This year we will be welcoming former professional footballer, Junior McDougald, back to Hillcrest on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. He will be giving all of the pupils an opportunity to take part in the Pro-Kick Challenge which sees the children test how fast they can kick a football into a giant inflatable goal with prizes for the fastest kicks and the biggest fundraisers.

The Pro-Kick Challenge is delivered by the Sports Connections Foundation who provide opportunities to improve the lives of children through the medium of football.

We will provide more information, along with a sponsorship form, in the next few weeks.

## Attendance Matters

Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, made the news headlines earlier in the week when she made the statement about the importance of school attendance. In particular, Mrs Phillipson addressed the fact that a child who is absent during the first week of the school year is most likely to go on to become a persistently absent pupil, missing more than 10% of their learning over the school year.



# Norfolk County Council: Penalty Notices regarding school absence - Guidance for parents

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

## **Regular school attendance and parent's legal responsibilities**

At **Hillcrest Primary School** our aim is to collaborate with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

This guidance is to remind all parents about the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government is clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

## **The important legal information**

The Government have introduced a single national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England. This threshold is **10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period**. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The period of 10 school weeks can span different terms or school years.

In line with national guidance, the Local Authority (LA) retains the discretion to issue a penalty notice before the threshold is met. This might apply for example, where parents have taken several term time holidays below the national threshold. The LA also retains the discretion to consider going straight to prosecution where appropriate.

A maximum of 2 penalty notices per parent, per child can be issued within a rolling 3-year period. This period will start from the issue of the 1<sup>st</sup> penalty notice. The national framework also sets out the escalation process which applies to such penalty notices. If the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within 3 years, another tool should be used. In Norfolk, where a pupil's attendance has met the national threshold for a third time within 3 years and the parent/s have already been issued with 2 penalty notices within that period, consideration will be given to prosecution under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, which can result in a criminal conviction and fine of up to £2,500.

A parent includes any person who is not a natural parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or who has care of the child, as set out in section 576 of the Education Act 1996. Penalty notices will usually be issued to the parent/s with day-to-day responsibility for the child's attendance or the parent/s who have allowed the absence (regardless of which parent has applied for a leave of absence).

The first penalty notice issued to a parent for a child will be charged at £160 to be paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice, the second penalty notice to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the first offence, is charged at a flat rate of £160 and is payable within 28 days. **There is no reduced sum available in this instance.**

Part payments or payment plans are not acceptable, and fines must be paid in full within 21 or 28 days, at the rate specified within the penalty notice. There is no right of appeal against a penalty notice.

## **Requests for leave of absence**

[Working together to improve school attendance](#) advises all schools that they should only grant a leave of absence during term time in exceptional circumstances, considering each request on a case-by-case basis. If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the headteacher to determine the length of time the pupil can be away from school. Although we recognise the value and benefits of family holidays, it is unlikely

a leave of absence will be granted for a family holiday as the Government 'does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.'

Requests for leave must be made in advance, otherwise schools will be unable to consider your individual circumstances and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Headteachers are not obligated to reconsider authorising leave if an application was not made in advance.

### **Support with ensuring regular school attendance**

If you require any support with ensuring your child's attendance, please contact **Mr Martin, Deputy Headteacher** at [DMartin@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:DMartin@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk)

## **2025/26 Term Dates**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

Pupils return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Half – Term Holiday: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October (inclusive)

Last Day of Term: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas and New Year Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (inclusive)

### **Spring Term 2026**

Children return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half-Term Holiday: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)

Last Day of Term: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Holiday: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive)

### **Summer Term 2026**

Pupils return on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – SCHOOL CLOSED

Half-Term Holiday: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive)

Last Day of Term: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Summer Holiday begins on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

**NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

## **JOB VACANCY @ Hillcrest Primary School**

### **Midday Supervisor**

We are looking for a motivated, energetic and organised individual to become part of our Midday Supervisor team.

The position will be Monday to Friday lunchtimes 1.25 hours per day (6.25 hours per week) term time only.

Rate of pay is £12.65 an hour.

Applications are invited from people who

- ✓ Will enjoy working with children
- ✓ Are keen to play with children and support them
- ✓ Reliable and punctual
- ✓ Have a sense of humour
- ✓ Flexible to last minute changes

Duties include supervision of a specific class outside on the playground and within a classroom ensuring that lunchtimes are an enjoyable and safe experience for all the children.

If you are interested in joining our team please email

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

**The closing date for this opportunity is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025**