

Learning delivered with



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents /Carers,

SCHOOL CLOSED

Hillcrest Primary School will be closed from Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October (inclusive). School will reopen at the usual time on Monday 3rd November.

Amazing Support for Pro-Kick Fundraiser!

A huge thank you to all of the families who supported the recent Pro-Kick Challenge fundraiser at Hillcrest.

All of the children who took part had a thoroughly enjoyable time being supported and motivated by Junior McDougald and his team from the Sports Connections Foundation.

A massive £5078 has been raised so far with the Hillcrest Just Giving page open until 31st October. Therefore, there is still time to add money if you have only just been able to collect money that you have raised or wish to add more for such a great cause.

The Sports Connections Foundation raise money to provide disadvantaged youngsters with positive opportunities and seek to change lives through the power of football. The Sports Connections Foundation keeps 60% of the funds raised with the remainder going to the Friends of Hillcrest. That means that the Friends should expect to see £2031 which is money that will eventually come back into school to support the children and provide additional opportunities.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2025

It is that time of year when we appeal to everyone's good nature as we head towards the festive period.

First launched here at Hillcrest in 2018, with no pause throughout the Covid period, we have raised several tonnes of food and household items over that time in order to support those families who rely on the Foodbank to provide those additional items that they may need to get by, especially with Christmas coming up.

In what will be our 8th year of running the Reverse Advent Calendar, we hope to beat last year's total of 2477 items which almost beat the 2500 items that were donated during our first year collecting in 2018.

We introduced an element of class competition last year, by revealing at regular intervals throughout the month, the number of items donated by the parents of children in that class. Suns Class in

Reception were last year's winners with things getting particularly competitive between Suns and Moons. I wonder whether those same families will be just as competitive in Year 1 now that they are Nebulas and Meteors.

The Reverse Advent Calendar will last for 4 weeks (20 school days) starting from Wednesday 19th November. More information will be released after the half-term break. However, we can reveal the first 5 items that we will be asking to be donated...

Wednesday 19 th November	Fizzy Drinks (2 litre bottles or cans of any flavour/brand)
Thursday 20 th November	Dried Pasta (any size packet or pasta type)
Friday 21 st November	Tinned Soup (any flavour or brand)
Monday 24 th November	Toothpaste (any brand)
Tuesday 25 th November	Toilet Rolls (any size multipack or brand – we cannot accept rolls that have been taken out of their original packets)

Pumpkin Appeal



Pumpkins needed for Forest School

On Monday 3rd November (the first Monday back) we will be using uncarved pumpkins and turning them into bird feeders at Forest School. If you have any pumpkins (any shape or size) which are uncarved, we would love them for Forest School. Please drop them off to either door of the iBuilding or to your child's class teacher.

Little Wandle Books

Can we remind the parents of children who bring Little Wandle books home to support their reading, that it is vitally important the books are looked after and returned to school.

We do not have the spare budget to purchase spare copies of books that have not been returned or which have been damaged.

Sometimes pages come loose and we are happy to repair these and then reuse the books with other children. However, if the books get water damaged or scribbled on, then we would not allow other children to use these and would have to replace them.

If parents don't send their child back into school with the Little Wandle book that they have borrowed or they send them back in with a book that is damaged beyond repair, we will be charging those parents anywhere between £5 and £7 depending upon the stage and size of the book.

It is important that we continue to stock the right amount of each story, in order to continue to support all of the children with their reading. However, as we have already mentioned, we do not have the funds to replace damaged or missing books.

Children in Need

Can parents please go online via WisePay to make their child's £1 payment in order to attend school in non-school uniform for Children in Need Day on Friday 14th November.

Panto Trip

A reminder to parents that the annual trip to the Panto in Hunstanton takes place for Years 1, 3 & 5 on Friday 12th December with Years 2, 4 & 6 going on Monday 15th December.

Payments can now be taken on WisePay with the £13 trip money to be paid by Friday 21st November.

Registering for Free School Meals

At present, the parents of children within Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 attending schools across England are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. This means that no parent of any child within those year groups has to pay for a school meal.

However, this is different to benefits-related Free School Meals. There are many families in the community who could be benefitting from some additional support if they were to apply for Free School Meals.

At present, all families who have registered for Free School Meals, receive £15 supermarket food vouchers every month. This goes up to £30 over Christmas and the Summer holidays. In households with more than one school-aged child, you also receive a voucher for every child that you have.

The vouchers can be used at all of Downham's major supermarkets along with other chains that are available elsewhere



Please check the list below to see whether your family qualifies for Free School Meals.

The qualifying benefits are:

- Universal Credit - with an annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190

If you have checked the list above and feel that you would qualify for Free School Meals and the additional support that comes with this, then you can either register online at <https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

If you would like some support with completing the forms either online or in hard copy, then please contact Mrs White, Assistant Headteacher at sendco@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk

Class Drop-In

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

- Wednesday 26th November
- Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Productions

Friday 5th December

Reception, 10am

Year 2, 2.15pm

Tuesday 9th December

Year 1, 10am

Reception, 2.15pm

Thursday 11th December

Year 2, 10am

Year 1, 2.15pm

The KS2 Christmas Church Service will also be held on Wednesday 17th December with the service for Years 3 and 5 starting at 10am and the service for Years 4 & 6 starting at 2pm.

Attendance Matters

Class	Target for October	ACTUAL FOR OCTOBER	Target for November
Moons	100%	94.61%	96%
Suns	97.50%	93.65%	96%
Meteors	97.50%	96.27%	97%
Nebulas	97.50%	97.06%	97.50%
Comets	97.50%	95.42%	96%
Planets	98.50%	97.82%	98.50%
Mercury	98.50%	96.57%	97%
Pluto	96.50%	94.41%	96%
Mars	96.50%	95.48%	96%
Saturn	97.50%	96.55%	97%
Jupiter	97%	97.45%	98%
Venus	100%	97.57%	98%
Earth	96%	88.82%	96%
Neptune	97%	95.84%	96%

Congratulations to Jupiter Class in Year 5 who have exceeded their target this month with an attendance rate of 97.45%. A huge well done to Planets Class in Year 2 for being the highest attending class of October with 97.82%.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER