



NEWSLETTER

Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents /Carers,

Reverse Advent Calendar 2025: Week 2 Update

A huge thank you to everyone that has donated something to the Reverse Advent Calendar over the past 8 days. A massive amount of food and other items have already been collected by the Foodbank so that we can free up some space in the Purple Hall to store the items that you will hopefully be donating next week.

We are well on the way to at least match, if not beat, previous records for the numbers of donations made. The competition amongst classes is also hotting up.

Since we started collecting we have received the following donations...

- 128 bottles of fizzy drink;
- 167 packets of dried pasta;
- 168 tins of soup;
- 168 tubes of toothpaste;
- 140 packets of toilet rolls;
- 112 tins of meat;
- 100 cartons of UHT milk;
- 154 packets of sweets

The current class leaderboard stands as follows...

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 st | Nebulas (Year 1) | 179 items |
| 2 nd | Moons (Reception) | 115 items |
| 3 rd | Venus (Year 5) | 102 items |

The items that we are requesting for next week are...

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 1 st December | Deodorant (spray or roll-on) |
| Tuesday 2 nd December | Packet rice/cous-cous (any size packet or flavour) |
| Wednesday 3 rd December | Tinned Cream/Condensed Milk (any brand) |
| Thursday 4 th December | Tinned Fruit (any type of fruit) |
| Friday 5 th December | Kitchen Roll (any size multipack or brand) |

Class Swap

Hopefully the children will have come home tonight full of excitement about the new teacher that they would have experienced today.

All staff were asked to swap classes for the morning to experience the children in another year group. The staff were equally as excited as the children to see some new faces and they welcome the opportunity to work with children from across the school.

Children in Need

Hillcrest raised £260 for Children in Need thanks to the parents' donations towards the non-school uniform day.

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

The children will be having their school Christmas Dinner on **Thursday 18th December**. On this day, the children will be able to come into school in non-school uniform. However, we would ask that they wear the brightest, funniest and most colourful Christmas jumpers that they own.

Cross-Country Success

On the 10th November, 28 children represented Hillcrest at the SSP Cross Country Finals competing against over 400 other competitors from schools across the West of Norfolk.

Whilst every pupil who represents Hillcrest in sporting competitions does so whilst displaying the most positive of attitudes and behaviours regardless of the position they, or their team, finishes in, it is also a pleasure to reflect upon their successes.

We are delighted to inform you that Dana, one of our Year 6 pupils, beat all of the other competitors, from across our school sports partnership, to finish in first place.

We also had a third place finish for Milo in Year 3, a 6th place finish for Olivia in Year 3 and a 7th place finish for Jessica in Year 6.

A huge well done to all who took part and represented our school so well.

Pro-Kick Update

For those wondering where the children's footballs, wristbands and prizes are following the amazing efforts that were made to run over £5000 as part of the Pro-Kick Challenge in October, I can inform you that the Sports Connections Foundation, who ran the charitable event, have had some problems with their usual suppliers of the footballs.

Having spoken with Junior, the ex-footballer who came in to run the event with the children, all items should be with the children before Christmas and we look forward to welcoming Junior back to present the children's awards in the coming weeks.

Class Drop-In

The final Wednesday morning class drop-in for the Autumn Term will take place between 8.45 and 8.55am on Wednesday 17th December

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

Attendance Matters

| Class | Target for November | ACTUAL FOR NOVEMBER | Target for October |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Moons | 96% | 96.55% | 97% |
| Suns | 96% | 92.91% | 96% |
| Meteors | 97% | 97.14% | 97.50% |
| Nebulas | 97.50% | 96.29% | 97% |
| Comets | 96% | 95% | 96% |
| Planets | 98.50% | 94.53% | 96% |
| Mercury | 97% | 99.43% | 100% |
| Pluto | 96% | 95.90% | 96.50% |
| Mars | 96% | 94.68% | 96% |
| Saturn | 97% | 97.24% | 98% |
| Jupiter | 98% | 97.43% | 98% |
| Venus | 98% | 96.95% | 97.50% |
| Earth | 96% | 91.24% | 96% |
| Neptune | 96% | 95.27% | 96% |

Congratulations to Moons Class in Reception, Meteors Class in Year 1, Mercury Class in Year 3 and Saturn Class in Year 4 who have exceeded their targets for the month of November. A massive well done to Mercury Class in Year 3 for being the highest attending class of November with a stunning attendance figure of 99.43%.

Inconsiderate Parking

We recently had a police officer patrol the road immediately outside the school's main gate and we were delighted that he was able to speak with the minority of parents who park inconsiderately and dangerously when dropping their children off in the morning.

We would like to remind parents that they should NOT be parking, even if for a brief period, in the entrance to the school car park or the zig-zag lines either side of the main gate. This is for everyone's safety including that of the child being dropped off by the parent in such a dangerous place.

We will not hesitate to request that the Police visit again if we feel that there is a vehicle and a parent who persists in parking where they know they shouldn't.

Choir

The Hillcrest School Choir have once again been incredibly active this Autumn, responding to as many requests to perform as they can in the run-up to Christmas.

As well as the forthcoming appearance at the Downham Christmas Lights Switch-on, the choir have also performed at the Downham Garden Centre, Downham Library and the Grange Care Home.

Christmas Productions

The children have been working very hard on their performances and their singing ahead of their Christmas productions taking place. We look forward to seeing as many of the parents as possible on the dates below...

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 a 2pm.



| Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 02 December | 9:00 - 11:00 | Swan Parents' Group |
| 02 December | 15:00 - 16:30 | Downham Market library |
| 16 December | 15:00 - 16:30 | Downham Market library |
| 17 December | 11:00 - 12:30 | Downham Market library |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Family Hub Drop In


Advice and support for parents and carers of children and young people from conception to 19 (25 for young adults with SEND).

Your local family hubs team are ready to help, and this month your Community Worker, Lex will be at the following venues ready to listen and support you to find the right help.

Family hubs can help with advice and support with:

- health and wellbeing
- mental health
- parenting
- relationships
- finding activities and groups
- infant feeding
- money and work
- housing
- SEND
- support for dads
- substance misuse
- transition to adulthood

and so much more...





**family
hubs**

What's on at the King's Lynn family hub in December...

We're closed 22 Dec-4 Jan for Christmas. You can still reach us via our public line or online referral QR code, except on 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan when we're fully closed.

Mondays

Stephanie from Housing Options will be attending the Family Hub in Kings Lynn on Monday the **8th of December between 10am and 12pm**. Stephanie can support parent/carers with Advice on getting on the housing register. Support with applications Guidance around housing banding and the process from applying to getting offered your own property.

On Monday 15 December, Katie from Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS) will be at the family hub for bookable appointments offering free, confidential legal advice for those unable to afford access to justice. Services include:

- Family law & court support
- Welfare benefits
- Debt & money advice
- Immigration advice
- Discrimination & employment

Wednesdays

Chris from BOOST will be attending the Family Hub every **Wednesday in November between 09:30 – 11:30**. Chris can offer support to young people parent/carers between the age of 16-30 around:

- Career advice and guidance
- Access to local support services
- Free employment support
- Training

Thursdays

Emma from the Department of Work and Pensions will be attending the Family Hub **Thursday 18th December between 10am and 2pm**. Emma can support parent/carers with:

- Benefit related queries
- Finances difficulties and debts
- Childcare funding
- Opportunities around training, qualifications, or new skills

Fridays

Anna from the Relocations, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion team will be attending the Family Hub **every Friday between 12:30 and 16:30**. Anna is able to support parent/carers who have relocated to England from another country and who are struggling with barriers to accessing support for their children SEN or Social emotional and mental health needs.

What is coming up in the next few months:

Join Danii from SEN Socials and Early Help Community Worker Georgie on the **12th of January 2026 10:30 to 12:30** for a cuppa and an informal chat about all things SEND parenting. No diagnosis needed! Children are welcome and there will be an activity each session provided by Voices Through Art! Please contact sensocialsdownham@gmail.com for further information or to request a social story and venue walk through.



Finding us from the station

Address: Saint Augustine's
Healthy Living Centre,
Columbia Way, King's Lynn.
PE30 2LB

What3words: //sport.bits.bunny

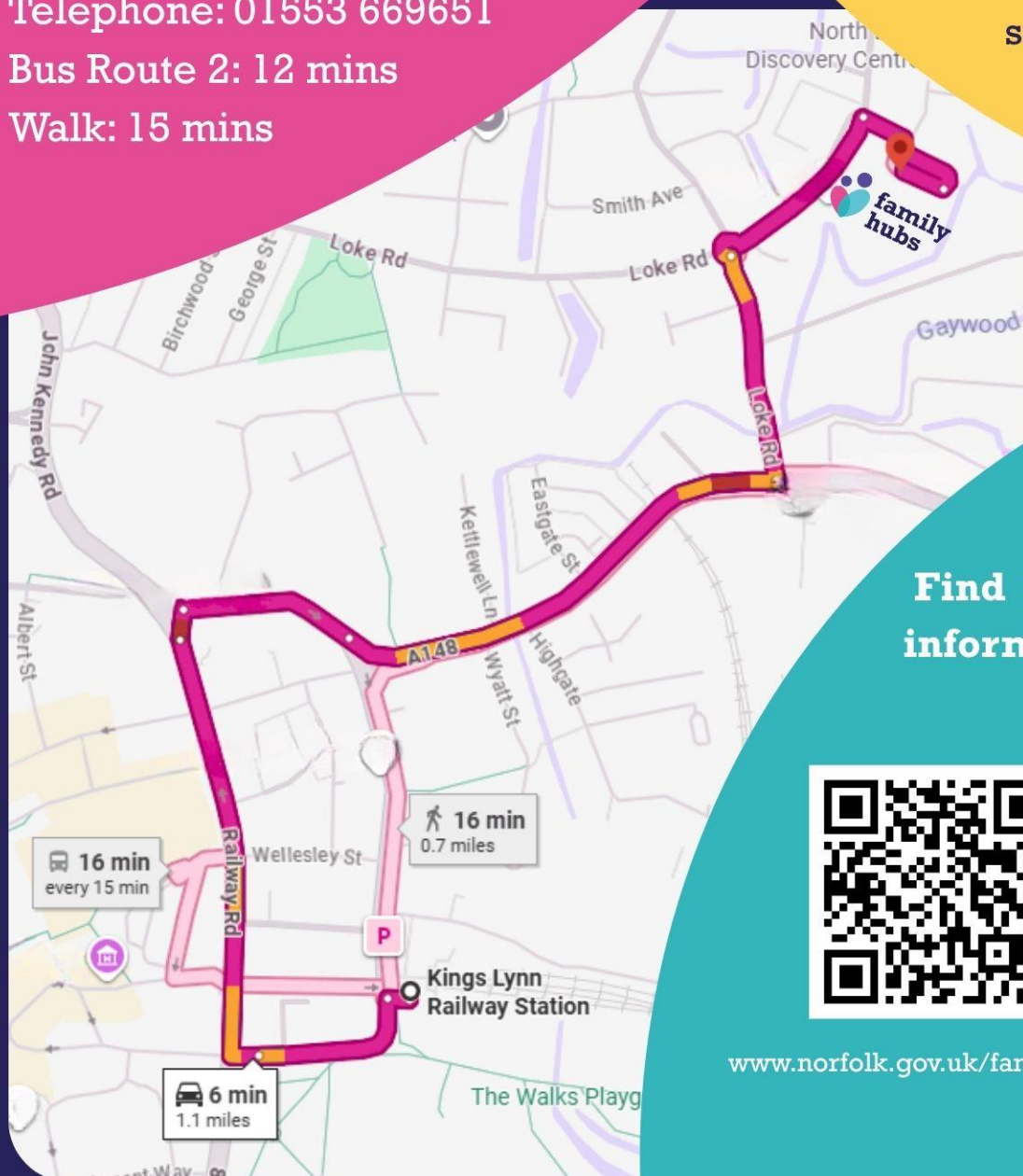
Telephone: 01553 669651

Bus Route 2: 12 mins

Walk: 15 mins

How to get an appointment:

Call our public line on 01553 669651 and let one of our advisors know the date and time you would like to book in to see us.



Find more information



www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs

Early warning...SCHOOL CLOSURE

We would like to remind you that Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays between Monday 22nd December 2025 and Monday 5th January 2026 (inclusive). School reopens at the usual time on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER