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Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents /Carers,

# SCHOOL CLOSED

*Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the festive period between Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The school will reopen at the usual time on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The staff at Hillcrest wish all of the children and their families a very Merry Christmas.*



### Advance Notice for FUTURE DAY – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Over the past few years, Hillcrest has always spent a day during the Spring Term celebrating a particular decade.

These celebrations first started in January 2020 when the school marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 1980s Day. Naturally, these events took a break during Covid which hit the country shortly after our 80s Day, but resumed when life started to get back to normal with the school celebrating the 60s, 70s and 90s in subsequent years.

This January, we will be ending the tradition of these annual events with a FUTURE DAY where we look ahead to what may be to come.

The children will be invited to come to school on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January dressed as anything futuristic. This might be an astronaut, robot, alien or any other idea that you may come up with that demonstrates something futuristic.

As normal on these days, every year group will get the opportunity to take part in a disco in the main hall, watch some TV in the Purple Hall Cinema which focuses on programming related to the future and spend some time in class undertaking activities related to the future. The kitchen will also be serving a futuristic-themed school dinner.

It is always a good time of year to publicise such events as it may be possible to pick up a costume, or materials for a costume, in the New Year sales.

## Reverse Advent Calendar 2025: The Final Outcome

A massive thank you to all of the children and families who donated towards our Reverse Advent Calendar at any point over the past four weeks. You will make a massive difference to the 1000+ families who access the Downham Market Foodbank on a regular basis.

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

- 128 bottles of fizzy drink;
- 167 packets of dried pasta;
- 168 tins of soup;
- 169 tubes of toothpaste;
- 140 packets of toilet rolls;
- 112 tins of meat;
- 100 cartons of UHT milk;
- 154 packets of sweets;
- 117 bottles of deodorant;
- 153 packets of rice or cous-cous
- 101 tins of cream or condensed milk;
- 128 tins of fruit;
- 78 rolls of kitchen paper;
- 161 packets of crisps;
- 98 cartons of fruit juice;
- 126 cakes;
- 97 bottles of washing-up liquid;
- 113 tins of vegetables;
- 64 boxes of Christmas Crackers;
- 92 packets of chocolate coins



The photo shows just some of the many crates of food and non-food items that Hillcrest families have donated stored in the Downham Market Foodbank's warehouse, awaiting distribution.

***In total, the 2025 Reverse Advent Calendar has been able to send the Downham Market Foodbank 2466 items. This figure was on par with last year's 2477 which itself was a record year.***

The final Top 5 of class donations ended as follows...

1 <sup>st</sup>	Nebulas (Year 1)	341 items
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Venus (Year 5)	240 items
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Moons (Reception)	237 items
4 <sup>th</sup>	Suns (Reception)	219 items
5 <sup>th</sup>	Pluto (Year 3)	202 items

**Congratulations to Nebulas for providing the most donations to the Foodbank through this year's Reverse Advent Calendar. Nebulas will receive £200 to spend on a resource for their class.**

## Class Drop-In

The Wednesday morning class drop-ins take place on the following dates throughout the Spring Term with each session open between 8.45 and 8.55am...

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

## Attendance Matters

Class	Target for December	ACTUAL FOR DECEMBER	Target for January
Moons	97%	93.50%	96%
Suns	96%	85.57%	96%
Meteors	97.50%	95.80%	96%
Nebulas	97%	89.57%	96%
Comets	96%	85.87%	96%
Planets	96%	86.65%	96%
Mercury	100%	92.50%	96%
Pluto	96.50%	85.65%	96%
Mars	96%	86.66%	96%
Saturn	98%	94.20%	96%
Jupiter	98%	91.45%	96%
Venus	97.50%	86.38%	96%
Earth	96%	77.36%	96%
Neptune	96%	85.01%	96%

The combination of the flu virus and the sickness bug that has been doing the rounds, has decimated the school's attendance figures for December and put a big dent in them for the whole year. None of the classes exceeded their target set last month. However, well done to Meteors Class in Year 1 for achieving a December attendance figure of 95.80% which is incredibly close to the DfE's ideal attendance target of 96%.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**