



NEWSLETTER

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents /Carers,

Celebrating our SATs Success

It feels like a long time ago since the KS2 SATs results were released in July 2025 and even longer ago since last year's Year 6 pupils sat those tests in May. However, now that those results have been officially published by the Department for Education in December, we can really shout about how well our former pupils did last year.

In ALL areas (apart from Greater Depth Writing) Hillcrest pupils both exceeded the results that the previous year's pupils had achieved at Hillcrest but also, more notably, exceeded the national averages for schools across England.

In Reading, Mathematics and Grammar/Punctuation Hillcrest pupils far exceeded those national averages for both those achieving the Expected Level and for those achieving Greater Depth. Within Writing, Hillcrest pupils also exceeded the national average for those achieving the Expected Level but fell short of both our own result from last year and also the national average for those achieving Greater Depth in this area.

Through our Teacher Assessments of Science, Hillcrest pupils also exceeded the national average for this subject.

The headline figure however, is those pupils who achieved the Combined Expected Level across the three subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths. We are delighted to report that 71% of last year's Year 6 pupils achieved this which was 9 percent higher than the national average and 8 percent better than our result from last year.

The full results can be seen in the table on the next page...

Subject	Category	2023 Result	2024 Result	2025 Result	2025 vs 2024	2025 vs National
Reading	Exp+	73%	79% (72/91) <i>Nat: 74%</i>	83% (49/59) <i>Nat: 75%</i>	+4 %	+8 %
	GD	20%	23% (21/91)	35.6% (21/59) <i>Nat: 33%</i>	+12.6 %	+ 2.6%
Writing	Exp+	69%	71.4% (65/91) <i>Nat: 72%</i>	74.6% (44/59) <i>Nat: 72%</i>	+3.2 %	+2.6 %
	GD	6%	12% (11/91)	8.4% (5/59) <i>Nat: 13%</i>	-3.6 %	-4.6%
Maths	Exp+	71%	79% (72/91) <i>Nat: 73%</i>	86.4% (51/59) <i>Nat: 74%</i>	+7.4 %	+12.4 %
	GD	23%	25% (23/91)	33.9% (20/59) <i>Nat: 26%</i>	+8.9 %	+ 7.9%
GAPs	Exp+	77%	75% (68/91) <i>Nat: 72%</i>	83% (49/59) <i>Nat: 73%</i>	+8 %	+10 %
	GD	25%	35% (32/91)	37.2% (22/59) <i>Nat: 30%</i>	+2.2 %	+ 7.2%
Science	Exp+	72%	79% (72/91) <i>Nat: 81%</i>	88.1% (52/59) <i>Nat: 82%</i>	+9.1%	+6.1%
Combined	Exp+	59%	63% (57/91) <i>Nat: 61%</i>	71.1% (44/59) <i>Nat: 62%</i>	+8.1 %	+9.1 %
	GD	6%	7% (6/91)	8.4% (5/59) <i>Nat: 8%</i>	+1.4 %	+0.4 %

School Reports and Parent Consultation Evenings

You should be able to book your son/daughter's next Parent Consultation Evening which take place on Thursday 26th February and Tuesday 3rd March. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible and would always encourage you to take up the opportunity to discuss matters with your child's class teacher whether there are issues you would like to raise or not. It is always as good to be able to celebrate the successes face-to-face as it is to tackle those matters that worry you.

During the week beginning Monday 23rd February, all of the children will be sent home with their Mid-Year Report, the first formal school report of the year to go home. It is far less detailed than the Year-End School Report that goes out in July but will give you a sense of how well your child is achieving at this half-way point in the academic year.

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 25th February

Wednesday 25th March

Future Day

A huge thank you to all of the children and family members who helped dress the children up as imaginatively as they could for Future Day. The children looked amazing and hopefully came home with stories about the activities they got up to as part of the event.

Attendance Matters – New Termly Attendance Records

All parents would have recently received an email from the school showing them their child's attendance record for the Autumn Term. This is a new process that we have started this year with a similar record being emailed home every term.

School attendance has become a key issue for schools across the UK and a focus for the Department for Education who direct Ofsted to address the issue of each school's attendance during their inspections.

School attendance percentages have struggled since the lockdowns and have never recovered to the levels they were at prior to the pandemic.

Although term-time holidays still account for a significant percentage of these absences despite clear guidance on the process for fining parents if such absences occur, another key contributor to the excessive levels of absence is the way in which parents view their child's ill-health.

The record of attendance that parents would have received recently, referred specifically to reasons when we would expect you to keep your children home. These would be in the event of diarrhoea or sickness in which case children should remain off school for 48 hours after the last case of either. Also, in the event that a cold/flu was accompanied by a high temperature of over 38 degrees, the child should stay off school until that high temperature has subsided.

Having a cold in itself is not a reason to keep a child away from school and the ability to cope with mixing in an environment where other children may be poorly is actually a healthy step in growing up and building children's own defences against illness.

The choices that are made when our children are ill has changed markedly since Covid when people were asked to isolate. That isn't necessary any more and in order to rebuild all of our tolerances to illness, we need to send children to school, even when they may visibly have the signs of a cold.

96% attendance or above is the aim for every child which is why the colour-coded attendance records that were sent home start to show amber colourings for attendances below this figure and the further away from this figure the attendance is, the dark amber and, eventually, red colours will appear.

Class	Target for January	ACTUAL FOR JANUARY	Target for February
Moons	96%	98.71%	99%
Suns	96%	97.55%	98%
Meteors	96%	95.84%	96%
Nebulas	96%	98.71%	99%
Comets	96%	94.38%	96%
Planets	96%	97.85%	98%
Mercury	96%	96.55%	97%
Pluto	96%	98.82%	99%
Mars	96%	91.77%	96%
Saturn	96%	97.10%	97.50%
Jupiter	96%	93.76%	96%
Venus	96%	96.24%	97.50%
Earth	96%	91.77%	96%
Neptune	96%	95.48%	96%

Well done to Moons and Suns in Reception, Nebulas in Year 1, Planets in Year 2, Mercury and Pluto in Year 3, Saturn in Year 4 and Venus in Year 5 for exceeding their targets for the month of January. A huge congratulations to Pluto Class in Year 3 for achieving the best attendance of the month with a whopping 98.82%.

Early warning...SCHOOL CLOSURE

We would like to remind you that Hillcrest Primary School will be closed for the February half-term break between Monday 16th and Friday 20th February 2026 (inclusive). School reopens at the usual time on Monday 23rd February 2026.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OUT ON FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY