



Hillcroft
Primary School

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Creating Learners of the Future

End of Year Newsletter

22nd July 2016

Dear Parents,

Highlights of 2015-16

As we come to the end of another term, it gives us time to reflect on the past year of which Hillcroft has had a very busy and successful one. Some of the achievements from our children this year have included:

- Show stoppers very proudly representing Hillcroft at the GLF Music Festival in June at the Fairfield halls where they represented the school brilliantly.
- Hillcroft hosting a successful 'Day in Politics' led by Enabling Enterprise in May when the whole school learnt about politics and created their own political party.
- Many extracurricular visits taking place throughout the year to enhance the curriculum including a Year 5 visit to White Stuff headquarters, Year 6 visit to a solicitors firm in London, Year 4 Egyptian visit to the British Museum and Year 1 and 2 visiting Gatton Park to further enrich their topic.
- Participation at various sporting activities and competitions including district sports where Hillcroft was represented exceptionally well and achieved the award of 2nd place overall.
- Our talented children taking part in Hillcroft's first talent show. Some of the talent included singing, dancing and gymnastics.

These are just a few but it is fair to say that all Hillcroft staff are very proud of the many successes and accomplishments that all of our children have experienced this year.

Volunteers

Thank you to all the many volunteers that give up time to come into school and help with activities such as listening to readers, general help in class and supporting on school trips and visits. We really do appreciate everything you do to support our children at Hillcroft and hope you will be able to continue into the new academic year. If there are any other parents who can offer any help to the school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the new academic year.



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Friends of Hillcroft

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the enthusiastic and hard working parents who make up the Friends of Hillcroft. They have had a very successful year running a variety of events such as cake sales, Summer and Christmas fair, quiz nights and school discos. The school are planning on spending some of this the money on creating a thoroughly engaging and interactive library for the children to use next year.

Summer Home Learning

The six weeks summer holiday is a long time for children and as a result, many vital skills get rusty and even forgotten. As a result we would like the children to continue practicing some of the vital skills they will continue to need in September.

Firstly, your child will have received some Summer home learning where they are required to write about a new skill they have learnt over the Summer holidays. This could be any new skill such as learning to ride a bike, learning to swim, learning their 4 X table or even learning to tie their shoe laces. This homework needs to be brought into school on the first day back in September to share with their new class and teacher. In addition to this, they will also have bought home a holiday pack consisting of spellings and times tables practice. This is optional however we cannot stress how much it will help and support the children in September if these things are practiced in spare time in the holidays. There is a little incentive for the children to practice as house points will be awarded if the work is brought back in to school in September.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed the parent survey recently. Your feedback is vital in improving the school so we appreciate your time in completing it. Having analysed the results, the outcome of the survey is below:

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	My child feels safe at this school.	59%	37%	4%	
2	My child is making good progress at this school.	54%	44%	2%	
3	This school meets my child's particular needs.	46%	50%	4%	
4	This school ensures my child is well looked after.	52%	46%	2%	
5	My child is taught well at this school.	57%	41%	2%	
6	This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	61%	37%	2%	
7	There is a good standard of behaviour at this school.	31%	48%	15%	6%
8	My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour. *9% don't know	21%	38%	30%	2%

9	This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. *18% don't know	32%	32%	13%	5%
10	This school helps me to support my child's learning.	45%	48%	5%	2%
11	This school responds well to my concerns. *2% don't know	41%	48%	9%	
12	This school keeps me well informed.	45%	36%	16%	3%

This will be used in the forthcoming months to improve elements of life at Hillcroft. We will keep you regularly updated on new initiatives and improvements to address the main issues.

Attendance

We are happy to report that 30 children have accomplished 100% attendance across this year which has been celebrated in our end of year assembly along with over 180 children who have achieved 100% attendance this term. It is encouraging to see these numbers increase each term as the relationship between high attendance and children's progress in their learning is very strong. If your child's attendance dips below 95% this can begin to significantly impact on their academic progress.

If your child is unwell, please ensure you telephone the school office before 8.45 to inform us of this as it is vital we know a child will be off school prior to the registers.

Punctuality and new start of the day procedures

As a school we are very aware of the detrimental effect poor punctuality can also have on children's learning. Punctuality is vitally important to ensure the children are prepared for school and their learning but also to ensure they do not miss any learning which begins at 8.50 in class. Persistent lateness can also lead to the Education Welfare Service becoming involved.

We feel the start of the day is an essential time for children to prepare themselves for the day ahead and as a result we are continuing to improve how children start their day at school. The official time at Hillcroft for the start of the day is 8.45 to ensure that learning can begin at 8.55. From September registers will be taken at the slightly earlier time of 8.55 to ensure learning can begin immediately after this.

From September Key Stage 1 children will continue to use the Key Stage 1 door to enter through at 8.45. This door will be closed at 8.55 for registers and any child who arrives after this will need to sign in as late at the School Office.

For Key Stage 2, all class teachers will collect their class from the front playground at 8.45 and lead their classes in. It is expected that children will be at school and ready to enter with the rest of their class however if your child finds their class has already entered school, they will need to enter school through the main reception door. The main reception door will also be closed at 8.55 to ensure registers are completed and learning can begin promptly. Again any child who arrives after this will need to sign in as late at the School Office.

For Reception children, they will enter through the main entrance at 8.45 when the bell sounds and taken to the Reception block for registers at 8.55.

Members of the School Leadership Team along with Phase Leaders will be on the Playground from 8.30 everyday for any problems, concerns or messages you may have.

Go Green Awards

We are pleased to report that the number of Go Green behaviour awards have increased each term throughout this academic year. These awards are given to those children who remain on green or gold all term demonstrating a consistent approach to the schools STRONG values and behaviour system.

In the Autumn term 72% of children (from Year 1 to Year 6) received these, in the Spring it increased to 79% and in the Summer it has further increased to 83%.

Uniform

At Hillcroft, we believe that school uniform is an important part of school life. Full school uniform is compulsory and it is our policy that all children must have full school uniform, worn correctly, for daily attendance. School uniform does include footwear and therefore it is important to note that children wear school shoes not trainers, canvas shoes or boots. Children will be asked to change into black school plimsolls that are kept in the school office should they not be in appropriate footwear. As you are aware, we changed uniform suppliers earlier this year which was timely with the new school logo and therefore all labelled uniform for the new academic year will need to be bought from this supplier. We are very much looking forward to seeing more children looking smart in the uniform with the new logo from September.

To order uniform log on to www.onlineschooluniform.co.uk

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents to ensure all garments of your child's uniform is labelled with their name.

As we come to the end of the year I would like to congratulate each and every child for their hard work and many achievements throughout this year. I would also like to wish our special Year 6 children luck and happiness as they enter a new phase of their schooling as well as some of our Nursery children who are leaving Hillcroft to start their school life in other schools. For all our other year groups, enjoy the Summer holidays and we look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready for many more achievements and successes next year.

Yours Sincerely



Miss K Brazier
Acting Headteacher