



# Autumn 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your children had a lovely half term holiday.

We had a very busy start to the school year in the first half of the Autumn term. Some of the highlights for us included;

- Our lovely Reception children joined us at a staggered rate over the first couple of weeks. They have settled brilliantly and are thoroughly enjoying start to school life at Hillcroft.
- Roald Dahl Day early in September when we celebrated Roald Dahl's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration when the children spent the day learning about his writing and having a go at their own piece.
- Some very positive feedback from parents who attended the Welcome Parents Evenings. "A very informative and helpful evening" Year 4 parent.
- Year 6 children with Miss Burningham, Mrs Pearson, Mrs Huck and Mrs Colburn attended the residential visit to PGL. They had a wonderful time and there were many compliments made by staff and other visitors to the centre about the attitude and behaviour of our Year 6 children. We are very proud of this positive start to the year.
- The Breck Foundation Internet safety day with Lorin LaFave. The day consisted of workshops for the whole school and then a parent information evening. Thank you for the positive comments and response we have received about this day.
- The seasonal celebration at the Year 3 and 4 Harvest Festival. We would like to thank you for your generosity for the goods that were bought into school. These goods were taken to the local food bank.
- Well done to all the children in Nursery and Reception who they raised an incredible £804.90 doing a sponsored bounce which will go towards improving their outdoor learning area.
- Stand Up To Cancer was a huge success. We would like to thank Harry Kelly, Leo Cox, Joe Jones, Emily Barnes, Leah Bell and Libby Miller from Oak class who dedicated their time before and after school to sell wristbands on the playground, and a special mention also goes to Isabella Curd in Maple class for having a sponsored swim and raising a huge £187!
- A sea of black and orange was worn by children and adults alike for Stand Up To Cancer. The school are proud to announce we raised a staggering £911.13 which will go to fund scientific research into the treatment for cancer patients.

### Start of day procedures and punctuality

We would like to thank the children and parents for their support with the changes to the start of the day procedures. The changes have resulted in children entering school in an organised and calm manner and are ready for learning with improved attitudes and at an earlier time.

It is also very pleasing to report that this system has improved punctuality by 30% from the first half of the Autumn term last year in 2015. Although this is a significant improvement, punctuality still remains a focus for Hillcroft as even with this improvement, 203 lates were still recorded on registers in the first half of the Autumn term 2016. Punctuality is essential to a child's success at school, not only to avoid children missing their learning but also to ensure they enter school comfortably and confidently therefore we expect parents to ensure children are on the playground at 8.45am to enter school with their peers.

### Attendance

Attendance is a vital part in the achievement and progress of all children therefore full attendance is expected at Hillcroft. There are times when children are unwell and if this is the case, it is essential you phone the school by 8.45am so we are aware of their absence.

As attendance is such a significant part of any child's progress, we strongly recommend that holidays are taken during school holiday time rather than term time. As a result of this, we cannot authorise any absence taken for holiday reasons. If you do chose to take holiday during term time, a form needs to be completed so the school is aware of the absence and you may be liable to a fixed penalty notice issued by the local authority. Forms can be collected from the school office.

### Attendance This Week

<b>EYFS/KS1</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>KS2</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Elm	99.3	Rowan	94.1
Ash	99.3	Maple	97.3
Beech	97	Cedar	97
Willow	96	Birch	95.7
Chestnut	97.8	Aspen	98.9
Sycamore	98	Larch	98.6
		Hawthorn	95.3
		Oak	98.6
<b>Good attendance 97-100%</b>		<b>Cause for concern 93-97%</b>	<b>Inadequate attendance below 93%</b>

### Punctuality This Week

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
<b>2 lates</b>	<b>3 lates</b>	<b>8 lates</b>	<b>3 lates</b>	<b>5 lates</b>	<b>7 lates</b>	<b>1 late</b>

### Behaviour update

At the end of the Summer term a parent survey was sent out which indicated many positives about school life at Hillcroft such as 98% of parents agreeing that their

children make good progress at Hillcroft and 98% agreeing that their children are well taught at Hillcroft. One area that did raise concerns was behaviour expectations as only 79% of parents agreed that behaviour of children at Hillcroft is good.

As you may be aware, we launched a new whole school behaviour system at the end of the Autumn term 2015 which was based on differing levels of behaviour and a consistent approach to consequences. It is openly shared with the children on a regular basis which has resulted in children feeling confident and knowledgeable about the system. The levels of behaviour are as follows:

Gold level behaviour	exemplary behaviour
Green level behaviour	expected levels of behaviour
Yellow level behaviour	disruptive learning
Orange level behaviour	Anti-social behaviour or disrespectful behaviour
Red level behaviour	Physical behaviour, vandalism, extreme swearing, targeted behaviour.

As a result of these changes, we are proud to report that the number of children who received the Go Green award for consistently good and exemplary behaviour increased each term last year from 72% in Autumn term to 78% in the Spring term and 82% in the Summer term. We also saw a decline each term in the number of orange and red level behaviours which has continued this academic year. In the baseline week Autumn 2015, 27% of behaviour incidents recorded were orange level and 4% were red level. This has improved in Autumn 2016 to 15% of behaviour incidents being orange and 1% being red level. Updates about behaviour will continue.

### **Official opening of Hillcroft Phiz Lab**

Hillcroft have an ongoing partnership with the Ogden Trust and we were fortunate to receive funding from them to create a school Phiz Lab which is now complete. The Phiz Lab initiative is about creating a dedicated science learning environment to support and engage teachers and pupils, in order to:

- Improve progress and attainment in science
- Provide better quality learning and teaching in science
- Raise the science profile
- Raise aspirations of pupils
- Increase parental engagement
- Facilitate, support and improve primary science CPD

Parents will be able to view the Phiz Lab during Parents Evenings and see it in use at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Parent Suggestion Box**

Please remember to use the parent suggestion box which is in the main Reception area should you have any recommendations about any aspect of life at Hillcroft. It is important to us that we receive your feedback so we can try to address issues as they arise.

**Parking**

The safety of our children at Hillcroft is paramount and therefore I strongly ask that parents do not park directly outside the school. It is exceedingly dangerous and unsafe when parents park outside the doctor's surgery or along the double yellow lines. Parking is difficult in this area however there are car parks directly opposite the school which should be used. Please can I urge all parents to support the school in ensuring our children can access school safely and securely.

As always, the second half of the Autumn term is a busy, yet exciting one. We have much planned for the forthcoming weeks, especially in the lead up to Christmas and we appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Stanger'.