



Start of Year Newsletter

8th September 2016

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome back children and parents from Year 1 to 6 and welcome our Reception children and parents to Hillcroft. We sincerely hope you all had relaxing and enjoyable Summer holidays.

The start of any year is always an exciting time as it's a time for new beginnings and new chapters and this year is no exception. We have a number of new staff we would like to welcome and introduce at Hillcroft.

Welcome to Mrs Scott and Mrs Emery in Beech and Willow class in Year 1, Mrs Gear to Sycamore class in Year 2, Mrs Samson to Birch class in Year 4 and Mr Fuhrmann and Mrs Page to Aspen and Larch class in Year 5. Welcome to Miss Card who will be working with the team in Fir class.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Robertson back from maternity leave who will be a cover teacher this year. Congratulations to Miss Watson who got married in the Summer holidays and became Mrs Enfield. Although Miss Riley in Reception got married last October, she is now officially known as Mrs Brown.

Staff INSET's

As you are aware, staff have enjoyed three very productive days of training to start the year. The training has included safeguarding for all staff, Maths curriculum and strategies and English provision and resources. Yesterday, we were inspired by a day with Professor Guy Claxton who is the founder of Building Learning Power. BLP is all about making children better leaders and providing the skills to become a lifelong learner. As a school we are on a journey to embed the theory and practices of BLP. Mrs Hunter will be running a parent workshop later in the term.

Staffing for 2016-17

Please find below a reminder of the names of teachers and class names in each group.

| Year group | Teachers name | Working Days | New class name |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Nursery | | | |
| Nursery | Mrs Nicola Clarke | Wed, Thurs, Fri | Fir class |
| | Mrs Olha Savchenko | Mon, Tues, Wed | |
| Reception | | | |
| Reception | Miss Danni Robins | Every day | Elm class |
| | Mrs Katie Brown | Every day | Ash class |
| Year 1 | | | |
| Year 1 | Mrs Belinda Emery | Every day | Beech class |
| | Miss Louise Campbell | Mon, Tues, Wed | Willow class |
| | Mrs Emma Scott | Wed, Thurs, Fri | |
| Year 2 | | | |
| Year 2 | Mrs Steph Hughes | Every day | Chestnut class |
| | Mrs Carly Gear | Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs | Sycamore class |
| | Mrs Hunter-Murphy | Fri | |
| Year 3 | | | |
| Year 3 | Miss Sophie Burningham | Every day | Rowan class |
| | Mrs Rachel Enfield | Every day | Maple class |
| Year 4 | | | |
| Year 4 | Mr Tom Holloway | Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri | Cedar class |
| | Mrs Kath Robertson | Tues | |
| | Mrs Wyn Samson | Every day | Birch class |
| Year 5 & 6 | | | |
| Year 5 | Mr Neil Fuhrmann | Mon, Tues Wed, , Fri | Acer class |
| | Mrs Kath Robertson | Thurs | |
| | Mrs Ann Marie Page | Every day | Larch class |
| Year 5/6 | Mrs Wendy Macleod | Every day | Hawthorn class |
| Year 6 | Mrs Alex Swain | Every day | Oak class |

Start and end of the day procedures

As communicated at the end of last term, there is now a slight change to the start and end of day procedures to make them more effective. The official time for the start of the day is 8.45am to ensure that learning can begin at 8.55am. Registers will be taken at 8.55am to ensure learning can begin immediately after this. Key Stage 1 children will continue to use the Key Stage 1 door to enter through at 8.45am. For this week only, parents in Year 1 are welcome to settle their child in the classroom at the start of the day, entering through Beech classroom door. From Monday, we ask that children enter the Key Stage 1 door with Year 2 and parents say goodbye at the door. It will be closed at 8.55am for registers to be taken and any child who arrives after this will need to sign in as late at the School Office.

For Key Stage 2, it is expected that the children line up at their class sign post at 8.45am for the class teachers to collect their classes and lead them 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 entrance door will also be closed at 8.55am 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 8.45am when the bell sounds and be taken to the Reception block by their parents, for registers at 8.55am and Nursery children will enter through the Nursery entrance at 8.50am when the doors open.

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

At the end of the school day, similar procedures will take place. Reception children will leave from the Nursery door at 3.00pm with the class teachers dismissing them. Year 1 will leave school from Beech class door and Year 2 will leave from the Key Stage 1 door at 3.00pm. For Key Stage 2, the class teachers will lead the children onto the front playground and return them to their class sign post for dismissal at 3.10pm.

Could we please ask parents to wait in the centre of the playground to ensure there is adequate space for the children to be dismissed properly.

Uniform

We are pleased to see children looking very smart and proud in their Hillcroft uniform this term. At Hillcroft, we believe that school uniform is an important part of school life and we are expecting all children to attend school in full school uniform for daily attendance. If children do attend school without elements of the school uniform, they will be loaned uniform to wear. This includes footwear and children will be asked to change into black school plimsolls from the school office should they not be in appropriate footwear. If you are in any doubt about uniform, please see the school policy on the website.

Curriculum

This year we have introduced a new Curriculum called Cornerstones. It provides our children with a broad, rich and engaging curriculum which excites and motivates children. It ensures full and comprehensive coverage of the 2014 Primary National Curriculum of national expectations. The curriculum is delivered through termly or half termly Imaginative Learning Projects which provides a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of the children's learning. It encourages children to become engaged in their learning, use their imagination to learn and develop skills and then apply their learning to engaging contexts. These are known as the four stages of learning in each Imaginative Learning Project:

- Engage
- Develop
- Innovate
- Express.

The Imaginative Learning Projects taught in Early Years (Nursery and Reception) are as follows:

| | Nursery | Reception |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Autumn 1 | Why do you love me so much? | Do you want to be friends? |
| Autumn 2 | Why do leaves go crispy? | Why do squirrels hide their nuts? |
| Spring 1 | Did dragons exist? | Will you read me a story? |
| Spring 2 | Are eggs alive? | Who lives in a rock pool? / Are we there yet? |
| Summer 1 | Is it shiny? | Do cows drink milk? |
| Summer 2 | Why can't I have chocolate for breakfast? | Why do ladybirds have spots? |

The Imaginative Learning Projects taught in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2) are as follows:

| | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Autumn 1 | Superheroes | Land Ahoy |
| Autumn 2 | Moon zoom! | Towers, Tunnels and Turrets |
| Spring | Bright lights, Big city | Muck, mess and mixtures |
| Summer 1 | Memory Box | Beachcombers |
| Summer 2 | The Enchanted Wood | The Scented garden |

The Imaginative Learning Projects taught in Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) are as follows:

| | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5/6 |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Autumn 1 | Predator | Potions | Hola Mexico |
| Autumn 2 | Scrumdiddumptious! | Traders and Raiders | |
| Spring | Gods and Mortals | Blue Abyss | Off with her head |
| Summer 1 | Tremors | Misty Mountain | Darwins Delights |
| Summer 2 | Flow | Burps, bottom and bile | |

Welcome Meetings

We would like to welcome all parents to our Welcome Meetings which will take place on Wednesday 21st September. This will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see your child's classroom and find out more about the year ahead including their curriculum, trips and visits, expectations, homework and how you as parents can help and support your child this year. We are running two sessions; one at 3.30pm and one at 6.30pm to try and offer the meeting to as many parents as possible. Further information about these meetings will follow.

Dates for this term - Further details will follow in due course:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday 12 th September | - | Bags 2 School Collection |
| Tuesday 13 th September | - | Roald Dahl Day |
| Wednesday 21 st September | | Welcome Meetings 3.30pm / 6.30pm |
| Friday 23 rd September | - | PGL Trip |
| Tuesday 27 th September | - | Read Write Inc Meeting for Nursery parents 3.20pm |
| Thursday 29 th September | - | Read Write Inc Meeting for Rec/KS1 Parents 3.30pm/6.30pm |
| Tuesday 4 th October | - | Internet Safety Day |
| Wednesday 5 th October | - | School Photographer to take individual photos |
| Wednesday 19 th October | - | Open Day for prospective parents 9.30am/1.30pm |
| Friday 21 st October | - | Break up for half term |
| Monday 31 st October | - | Back to school |
| Monday 7 th November | - | Science Week |
| Wednesday 16 th November | | Open Day for prospective parents 9.30am/1.30pm |
| Tuesday 22 nd November | - | Parents Evening |
| Thursday 24 th November | - | Parents Evening |
| Friday 25 th November | - | INSET Day |
| Saturday 3 rd December | - | Christmas Fair |
| Saturday 10 th December | - | Christingle |
| Friday 31 st March | - | INSET Day |
| Friday 30 th June | - | INSET Day |

Yours Sincerely



Miss K Brazier
Acting Headteacher