



**Hillcroft**  
Primary School

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Creating Learners of the Future

# Start of Year Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents,

I sincerely hope everyone had a wonderful Summer and welcome all our children, families and staff back for this academic year. A warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception children and their families to Hillcroft too.

We have had a very successful and enjoyable start to the term where children have thoroughly thrown themselves into their learning through some amazing stunning starts to this terms topic. Among other things, Year 6 have enjoyed a Victorian workshop and Year 5 have created their own Egyptian headdresses.

## Staffing

We are very pleased to welcome some new staff to Hillcroft this year who bring with them a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for the year groups they are teaching in. We would like to welcome Miss Frost to Reception, Miss Langworthy to Year 1, Mrs Dunn and Miss Harborne to Year 2 , Miss Moore to Year 4 and Miss Latham to Year 5. It already feels like they are part of the Hillcroft family.

## Parent Information Evenings

We will be holding Parent Information Sessions for each year group on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018. For EYFS and KS1 these sessions will start at 3.15pm and for KS2 they will begin at 3.30pm. The intention of these sessions is to provide parents with information such as Curriculum, trips and visits, homework and general expectations for the year ahead. If you wish to attend these sessions, there is no booking required however we ask that you report to reception to sign in. The sessions will take place in the following classrooms:









Nursery	Fir classroom
Reception	Elm classroom
Year 1	Beech classroom
Year 2	Chestnut classroom
Year 3	Rowan classroom
Year 4	Birch classroom
Year 5	Aspen classroom

Year 6	Oak classroom
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If you are unable to attend these sessions, the slides from the evening will be on the school website following the sessions for information purposes.

### Autumn 1 Learning

Each year group has some exciting topics coming up over the next year. The topics in each year group for Autumn 1 are as follows:

Year group	Topic	
Nursery	Why do you love me so much?	
Reception	Do you want to be friends?	
Year 1	Superheroes	
Year 2	Towers, Tunnels and Turrets	
Year 3	Predator	
Year 4	1066	
Year 5	Pharoahs	
Year 6	Revolution	

### Start of the day procedures

The start of the school day bell rings at 8.45am and we expect children to line up on the front playground with the rest of their class, ready for collection by the Class Teacher. Parents are not able to enter the school building and accompany their children into class for safeguarding reasons. If you are a parent volunteer, please sign in at reception so the correct provision can be made.

It is essential we get the children into school as quickly as possible for learning to begin and therefore before school is not an appropriate time for discussions to take place between parents and class teachers. If you would like to talk to your child's class teacher, please speak to the school office to make an appointment in which this discussion can take place, giving it the time it deserves.

For Early Years, the EYFS door will open at 8.45am and parents are required to take their children through the school into the back playground. Nursery parents will take their child through the EYFS outside area into the Nursery back door and Reception children will line up with the rest of their class. Reception staff will then collect the children and take them into the classroom. We would appreciate parents then leaving the school building using the Early Years entrance rather than the main school entrance as Key Stage 2 enter the school using the main entrance at this time. For safeguarding reasons, we would appreciate parents leaving the school building as quickly as possible.

Registers are taken promptly at 8.55am, therefore if your child arrives later than this, they will be considered late and will receive a late mark. If this is the case, it is imperative that you accompany your child into the school reception area as they will need to be signed in at the school office. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please ensure you telephone the school office before 8.45am to inform us as it is vital we know a child will be off school prior to the registers being taken. If we have not been informed of a child's absence, a text message will be sent and a response is expected.

### **End of day punctuality**

In the same way that punctuality at the start of the day is vital, it is expected that parents collect their children on time at the end of the school day. Early Years, including Nursery and Key Stage 1 finish school at 3.00pm and Key Stage 2 finishes at 3.10pm.

If parents/carers have not collected their child/children by 3.30pm after the normal end of the school day, and have not rung the school to advise of their lateness the child will automatically be taken to Acorns After School Club and parents will be charged the full afternoon rate. If a parent telephones to say they are going to be late, they will be given an extra 10 minutes, until 3.40pm in which to collect their child. If the parent has not collected within this time then the child / children will be taken to Acorns After School Club. The office staff will **not** be available to supervise any children who are at school after collection time.

### **Communication**

We pride ourselves on having an open door policy and therefore we encourage parents to discuss any aspect of your child's experiences with us. In the first instance this communication should take place with your child's class teacher. We prefer to do this face to face if possible, however we appreciate this can be difficult for some parents and therefore any email correspondence should be via the school email address at [office@hillcroftschool.org](mailto:office@hillcroftschool.org). Please note there may be a delay in responding to email correspondence.

In order to ensure anything that arises for your child/children can be dealt with in a professional and productive manner, we appreciate parents speaking directly to the school, rather than over social media. As a school, we appreciate that social media is part of everyday life however it is not an appropriate platform for any concerns or worries you have about the school or your child. In many instances, it can be upsetting

and offensive to others which in turn can be damaging. Therefore again, we would appreciate any concerns are discussed directly with us.

You will be receiving a sheet which outlines the personal details, including contact details, of your child/children within the next couple of weeks. It is our expectation that we have at least three contact numbers for each child. This is a safeguarding requirement which is set out to ensure we can make contact with the family in the event of an emergency. It is imperative we have these contact details so please can you ensure that there are at least three contacts on the form when it is returned so our systems can be updated.

### **Expectations**

It is a pleasure to see the children looking so smart at the start of the new academic year. The updated logo on the school jumper and the new house PE shirts have been in place for more than a year now and therefore they are a compulsory part of the school uniform. As a result it is expected that all children are adhering to these parts of school uniform and wearing them on a daily basis. We believe uniform is an important aspect to a child's education, giving them pride about their appearance and the school and therefore we appreciate your on going support with this.

I look forward to working closely with all our families this year to ensure our children are happy at school and enjoy and excel in their learning.

Yours Sincerely



Miss K Brazier  
Headteacher