



Hillcroft Primary School

Newsletter 4 - Friday 18th October

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture

Inspire

Strive

Bingo

Thank you to Friends of Hillcroft who organised the Bingo Night last week. It was a great success and good fun was had by all! Huge thanks to everyone that came along and supported the event – it raised over £500.00!

TT Rockstars

On Thursday afternoon Hillcroft had its first Times Tables Rock Stars competition!

The Times Table Wrangle featured a house representative from each KS2 year group as well as a teacher representative. Excitement levels were high, as were the nerves (and that was just the teachers!). The Year 3's started the competition off in great style with Brunel taking an early lead. As the heat in the hall rose so did the scores with Year 4 children scoring more than 100 correct answers in just one minute. Years 5 and 6 held their nerve and despite some technical hitches proved that they could keep their cool. To finish the event the teachers took the hot seat. In fantastic style Mrs Page scored top marks for Darwin narrowly beating Mrs Gear.

It was a superb afternoon with house captains on hand to support their team and it culminated in the head boy and girl giving a speech and handing the trophy to the winners: Brunel.

We are so proud of all the children but particularly the nerves and courage it took for our finalists to perform in front of their peers. Congratulations Brunel!



Reading

The National Literacy Trust has found that children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than those who don't.

Do you read with your child? Did you know that finding the time to read a regular bedtime story is a simple activity that encourages children to enjoy reading and gets them into good reading habits that will set them up for their future? It can make a difference to their wellbeing and to how successful they are at school, and beyond.

This term we launched the Oxford Reading Buddy, a digital reading service designed to support your child's reading development at home as well as at school.

The Oxford Reading Buddy can be used on a tablet, PC or smartphone. It contains hundreds of digital books and book quizzes all matched to each child's reading ability. Children can earn badges for good reading behaviours, be coached in their understanding by their personal 'Reading Buddy', take quizzes and record all the reading they do. Everything is logged so that your child's teacher can see how they're getting on.



To promote this with the children we will be celebrating a Reader of the Week from each class at our Celebration Assembly every Friday. We will also be awarding a Reader of the Half Term and display their photo in a communal area.

If you have any questions about The Oxford Reading Buddy, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

E-Safety

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge.

A representative from the Breck Foundation is visiting us on Monday 21st October and will be talking to all pupils in KS2 about E-Safety, in an age appropriate way.

We would like to invite parents and carers to join us for an E-Safety Parents Information Session at 6.00pm. This is a good opportunity to learn more about E-Safety, to help give you more knowledge about how to protect your children online and to share practical advice to use in their online lives. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting. **Please note that this session is for adults only.**

Camps 4 Champs

Camps 4 Champs are offering 4 free places for their holiday club in half term. If you would like the opportunity to win one of these places please call into the school office and fill in a form to enter the prize drawer. More information about their holiday club can be found on the school noticeboard.

Year 1 – Cake Sale

Year 1 will be having a cake sale after school on Monday to help raise funds to subsidize their forthcoming trip to the pantomime.

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS!

Good attendance is so important for your child's social and emotional wellbeing. School ensures that children have the best start in life and that they are equipped for succeeding both academically and socially

The more school that children miss, the harder it is for them to catch up. It is important we encourage good attendance from a young age in order to lay the foundations for secondary school and their working life.

Punctuality is also important. If a child is late to class it affects learning and behaviour, not only of the pupil who is late, it also has an impact on all other learners. Punctuality during the school life will also help imbed good principles for their working and personal life.

Ideally every child would be in school 100% of the time. Our school target it set at 95.6% attendance. We want your children to succeed – please help us to help them by getting them in to school regularly and on time.

Reminder - if you take your child out of school for 5 or more days, you will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently, the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 if paid within 21 days, rising to £120.00 if paid within 21- 28 days. If the penalty notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that Penalty Notices are issued per parent/carer per child, so a family with 2 parents/carers and 2 children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Bags 2 School

We have a partnership with a company called Bag 2 School, which specialises in recycling **good quality second hand clothing that can be re-used**, and fundraising for the school.

Bag 2 School bags have been delivered. Rather than giving a bag to each child, we have a box of bags available in the school foyer, please pop in and collect one if you would like one. You can fill as many bags as you are able, and any bag will do. The more we collect the bigger the benefit to our school! All the bags we collect are weighed and the school receives payment per tonne. There is no limit on the number of bags to fill!

Please bring in all bags on **WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER** and leave them in the shelter in the front playground ready for collection at 9.15am. Please do not return the bags to school before this date, we do not have the room to store them. Thank you.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 21 st October	Year 1 Cake Sale
Thursday 24 th October	Year 3 – Street Art Workshop
Friday 25 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th November	Back to school
Wednesday 6 th November	Perform Workshop for EYFS and KS1
Wednesday 13 th November	Bags 2 School Collection
Tuesday 19 th November	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm Information to follow
Wednesday 20 th November	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 7.00pm Information to follow
Friday 6 th December	Mufti Day – information to follow
Saturday 7 th December	Christmas Fair – information to follow
Tuesday 10 th December	9.15am – Year 1 Songs Around the Christmas Tree
	2.30pm – Year 2 Songs Around the Christmas Tree
Wednesday 11 th December	Nursery –Songs Around the Christmas Tree - times TBC
	Reception – Christmas Performance – time TBC
Thursday 12 th December	9.15am – Year 3 Songs Around the Christmas Tree
	2.30pm – Year 4 Songs Around the Christmas Tree
Friday 13 th December	9.15am – Year 5 Songs Around the Christmas Tree
	2.30pm – Year 6 Songs Around the Christmas Tree
Monday 16 th December	9.00am - KS1 Prize Giving Assembly
Tuesday 17 th December	9.00am – Year 3 / 4 Prize Giving Assembly
	Year 1 Trip to the Pantomime
Thursday 19 th December	9.00am – Year 5 / 6 Prize Giving Assembly
Friday 20 th December	Break up for half term
Monday 6 th January	Back to school