



# Hillcroft Primary School

**Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

**Nurture**

**Inspire**

**Strive**

Welcome Back!

## **Welcome Back!**

Having now been back at school for a couple of weeks, we have been so pleased to see all the children settle back into Hillcroft life so successfully; especially as many have not been in school since March. We are so proud of their progress, and I want to thank all the parents and carers in supporting the children's transition back to school so successfully.

These couple of weeks have been full of fun and engaging learning opportunities – purposefully centred around ensuring our children feel settled, including a two-week long focus on the book 'Here we Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers.

There have been other, exciting curriculum initiatives including Outdoor Learning and Enrichment opportunities. We thank all parents and carers who have contributed feedback and volunteered for Outdoor Learning – it is hugely appreciated. Further updates will be sent out later in the term.

As we enter further into the term, we will continue to reflect and develop to ensure that our vision is at the heart of all we do – to nurture our children so that they can reach their personal bests, and develop the supportive relationship between home and school.

We look forward to continue to greet you on the playground each morning and afternoon,

**Miss Summers**

## **Outdoor Learning**

All year groups have now started their Outdoor Learning lessons; the children are greatly enjoying the rich opportunities of learning outdoors.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have volunteered their time; Miss Harborne and Mr Fuhrmann will be in touch shortly with further information.

We are excited by the possibility of having a class – size set of log seats donated to enhance the provision we are able to offer!

## Oliver Jeffers' "Here we Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth"



As part of our transition back to school, all of our learning centred through Oliver Jeffers' "Here we Are book". This book focuses upon making sense of the world around us, and was taught from Year 1 up to Year 6 through all subjects. Below are some of the wonderful examples of learning that the children completed.

In year 1, the children learnt all about what it means to be a human being, and drew pictures of themselves. They also learnt that it is important to love who we are and to treat other people like we would like to be treated.



At the older end of the school, Year 5 drew pictures of their 'safe' places where we felt calm and relaxed.



## **Other Curriculum Updates:**

### **Maths:**

As we start a new year we are keen to re-engage the children with maths and a great way to do this is through the Numbots and TT Rockstars app. Every child from Year 1 to Year 6 should have a username and password which they can use to access both programs.

TT Rockstars is more suited to KS2, with children who are ready to learn their Times Tables and like a bit of competition. You can even choose to battle against a teacher! Numbots is perfect for all ages and really helps to secure basic number facts and work on mathematical fluency. The apps are free to download onto a phone or tablet or play using your home PC.

If your child needs their username and password please email me with their name and class and I will send you the details. Over lockdown we had a fantastic competition between students and staff, with over 200,00 correct answers. Amazing fun and good practise for all of us!

I look forward to arranging some virtual competitions later in the Autumn term.

If you have any queries please do get in touch,

Mrs Gear [c.gear@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:c.gear@hillcroftschoo.org)



### **Reading:**

Reading is a crucial aspect of children's learning. Sharing a story is a valuable experience for introducing new vocabulary, improving understanding and most of all, enjoyment.

As part of home learning, children are expected to read for at least 10 minutes everyday.

There are many ways to source stories: borrowing books from school, registering with your local library (many have ebooks available), listening to a audio book.

Below are some useful links to questions you can ask your child whilst you are reading with them:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12PxKKdPxVTHPjcs5RvIUvvh3JXlhND0n/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aqcub4N7407XMfD4E9IY7bgV7yYk\\_ZcN/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aqcub4N7407XMfD4E9IY7bgV7yYk_ZcN/view?usp=sharing)

Miss Fox [c.fox@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:c.fox@hillcroftschoo.org)

## Term Dates 2020-2021:

### Autumn Term:

Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
1/9/2020	26/10 – 30/10 2020	17/12/2020

### Spring Term:

Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
4/1/2021	15/2 – 19/2/2021	1/4/2021

### Summer Term:

Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
19/4/2021	31/5-4/6/2021	16/7/2021

### INSET Days (school will be closed):

Tuesday 1st September  
Wednesday 2nd September  
Monday 4th January  
Friday 12th February  
Monday 7th June  
Friday 25th June  
Monday 19th July

### Key Dates for Autumn Term:

WC 26th October - Half Term  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Return to school  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Individual photos

### Other News!

Please see a link to the most recent Grapevine magazine which is packed with useful information and hot links, plus:

- **A new competition**
- **Hallowe'en crafts and activities**
- **Plus some refreshed advertising and listings**

<https://thefamilygrapevine.co.uk/east-surrey/see-a-copy/>

### E-Safety Update:

We have had some feedback regarding age appropriate use of Apps; below is a useful link that parents and carers may want to use about this.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>