



# Hillcroft Primary School

**Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

**Nurture**

**Inspire**

**Strive**

Friday 27th November 2020

I hope you have all had a safe two weeks since our last newsletter.

I would firstly like to thank all the parents and carers who so generously donated toys for the Salvation Army – there will be many families who are truly thankful for the wonderful gifts you gave.



It was also lovely to see all the children (and staff!) in their muffin and crazy hair today. Thank you again for the presents donated for Secret Santa – it is always one of the most loved elements of the Christmas Fair so we thank the PTA and yourselves for making it possible during these difficult times.

This week we are excited to share the learning of Years 1 and 5 – Year 1 have been completing some fantastic balance work in PE and Year 5 have been getting to grips with one of our most famous philosophers – Aristotle!

We have also announced our Christmas plans. Sadly, due to COVID, we are unable to follow our normal plans; however, we have tried to ensure that Christmas at Hillcroft is still exciting and enjoyable for the children.

Ms Swain and myself will continue to be on the gates to welcome you every morning and afternoon, so if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Miss Summers

## **Christmas Plans!:**



In our run-up to this exciting time of year, we have had to tweak our traditional Christmas plans due to COVID restrictions. However, we have endeavoured to ensure that our children will still experience the joy of Christmas at Hillcroft with the following activities planned:

We will be releasing two Christmas performances this year. Sadly, we are unable to invite parents and carers into the school so these will be virtual. However, we are really excited to see the children's performances still! We would like to thank our parent – Melody Shelley – in advance for her support in editing these.

### **'Twas the Night Before Christmas' performance:**

To unite as one community, each class will audio record a verse of the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', with Nursery sending us a Christmas message at the end. This will be accompanied by a selection of artwork the children have completed about the poem, of which some will also be displayed on the front fence.

### **Class Bubble performance:**

Each class will also video a short Christmas performance in front of our festive Christmas tree, which will be shared with the parents and carers directly.

These performances will be shared with parents in the last week of term.

### **Christmas cards:**

We are highly aware of how special it is for children to give and receive Christmas cards to one another. Therefore, we have organised it so that they will be able to send cards to their friends, not only within their class bubble, but also to friends across the school. To enable this to be in line with guidance, we ask that all children bring in their Christmas cards to be posted in our post boxes (these will be positioned outside the school office). The post boxes will be open for children to post their cards from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The last 'posting date' will be on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. To ensure that their friends receive your child's cards we ask that the following information is included on the envelopes:

The child's full name (if known) and class name.

### **Pantomime:**

We are excited to announce that the PTA have very kindly organised for our children to be able to watch a virtual pantomime via Zoom during the last week of term of Jack and the Beanstalk, with Peter Duncan as Dame Trott. The pantomime looks incredibly enjoyable and interactive. For more details, please follow:

<https://pantoonline.co.uk/jack-and-the-beanstalk>

### **Prize Giving:**

Prize Giving will continue this year, being held virtually with the different year groups. Below are the timings that your children will be involved within these, unfortunately due to COVID we are unable to invite parents / carers of the winners:

#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

9.30 am – Years 1 and 2

10.00 am – Years 3 and 4

10.30 am – Years 5 and 6

### **Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day:**

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, we will be hosting our Christmas Dinner, and invite children to wear Christmas Jumpers where we would be grateful to receive any donations for Save the Children.

There may also be a Christmassy visitor knocking on each classroom door on that day too!...



### **Secret Santa:**

Thank you to all the gifts that have been brought in today towards the PTA's Secret Santa. We will be hosting this on **Monday 7th December** in line with the most up-to-date COVID regulations. The children will be invited into the hall in their class bubbles to pick their gifts (a maximum of 2 gifts). Nursery will have their opportunity on Wednesday 9th December when all Nursery children are in school. **Please can we ask that children bring in a maximum of £6 each.** Unfortunately, due to COVID we will only be able to let the children choose on that Monday so please do remind them to bring in their money, should they wish to take part.



## We have been learning...

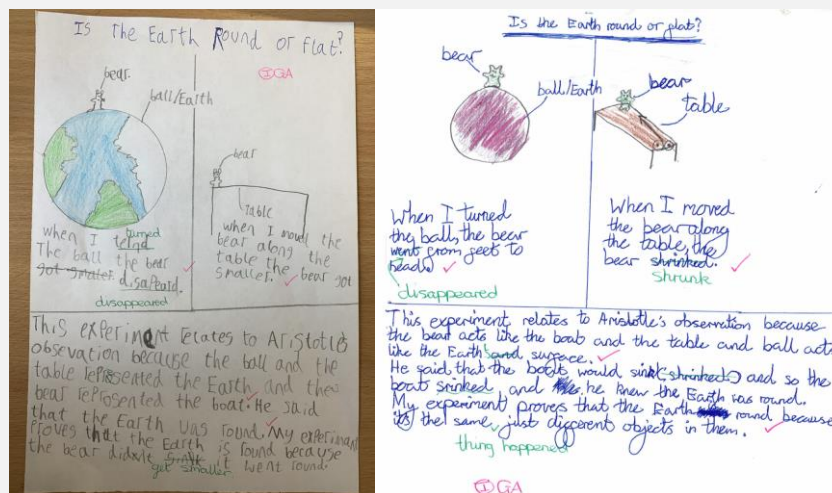
### Year 1

In Year 1's PE lesson this week we practised different seated static balances. We had to think about what makes a good balance and we practised squeezing our muscles, not wobbling and holding it for 10 seconds! We helped each other and told each other what we were doing well and ways to improve.



### Year 5

Year 5 have been busy combining their Science and History learning to find out about Aristotle's observations of boats on the horizon, which began the belief that the Earth is round and not flat. These are some lovely examples of the children's investigations.



## Other News!

### Message from our local Foodbank:

During this difficult time, the Foodbank is here to support us. As a school, we are able to provide foodbank vouchers for any family who may be struggling financially. There is no limit to the number of vouchers families can claim. Additionally, people are able to get in touch with Citizens Advice in Caterham or Oxted for help with benefit advice, debt and much more. If you would like to speak to someone at school regarding this, please call the office and they will re-direct you to a member of staff who will be able to help you further.

### Family Learning:

Surrey have released their family courses for 2021, and booking opens on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please follow this link for more information: <https://mailchi.mp/5a4642a5e844/family-learning-parent-bulletin-732856>