



# Hillcroft Primary School

**Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

**Nurture**

**Inspire**

**Strive**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

I cannot believe that this will be the last newsletter of the Autumn Term! We are all so proud of how the children have settled back into school life during these rather unusual times and how they have embraced the changes, we have had to put in place with such gusto and positivity!

These last couple of weeks have been full of fun, Christmassy activities and we look forward to our last week where the children will have their Christmas Dinner and party day as well as be able to watch an online pantomime.

We would like to say a huge thank you – firstly – to the PTA who worked tirelessly over the last weekend to ensure our children were still able to take part in Secret Santa, whilst being in line with COVID guidelines. All the children enjoyed it and the hall looked lovely and festive. We will let you know in the new year how much money was raised. Thank you!



Secondly, we would like to thank Melody Shelley for taking all the Christmas videos and recordings and editing them to enable us to send out to you in the last week of term. I am sure you will agree that they look marvellous!

Lastly, we would like to wish you all a joyful and safe holiday, and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.



Miss Summers

## We have been learning...

### Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning about Materials in Science; we went outside to find and identify different properties. We were then able to use natural materials to make animal homes around our school field.



Another material we have used is paper! We constructed our own bridges out of paper and tested to see if they could hold some weight...some worked better than others!



### Year 6

In Year 6, we have been sharpening our arithmetic skills and are looking forward to learning about Fractions. We are developing our knowledge of The Write Stuff approach to writing by following the expert Jane Considine with her live lessons on YouTube. We have also been looking at the life and work of Charles Darwin; using our sketching skills to draw some of the animals he discovered in the Galapagos Islands. In Geography, we have been locating countries and continents and finding out about different climates. Our Thrive lessons have focused on friendship and feeling positive about others and ourselves.



## Parent Ambassadors – improving the link between home and school!

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your input in the Parent Engagement questionnaire that I sent out last term. Your responses were invaluable - following my collation of them, they have been central to my development of the Parent Ambassador strategy at Hillcroft. Within this, there are three main roles that a parent or carer could become involved in, which are outlined below:

1. **Communication and Community:** The role of these Parent Ambassadors are similar to that of a Class or Year Group rep; working with the school community to ensure that positive and helpful communication is maintained between school and home.
2. **Project Based:** We know that many parents and carers have skills that could contribute and develop areas of our curriculum. However, we also recognise that many parents are very busy. Therefore, this role would be an adhoc one; sharing the skills that you have and then working with the school on one-off projects.
3. **Parent Forum:** This Parent Ambassador role focuses more upon the School's Key Priorities and Curriculum areas and would act as a termly forum to discuss and collaborate on strategic decisions in relation to these. A parent or carer may have a specific area of interest - such as Reading or Diversity - that we could focus on developing and promoting across the school, alongside myself and the Curriculum leads. If you would like to view the School's Key Priorities please follow the link to the website:

<http://www.hillcroftschoo.org/150/key-priorities>

If you would be interested in any of the above roles, I would be grateful if you could complete a short Google form, using the link below. Please can I ask that this be completed by Thursday 17th December. Once collated, I will then be in touch with further details:

<https://forms.gle/P3AHCMKMFQUHWqGd6>

Once again, I thank you for your continued support of the Hillcroft community,

Ms Swain.

## 'Celebrating World Religions'

This week, we are celebrating Hanukkah, and attach a presentation that the children have watched in their virtual assemblies. Thank you to Lily, Henry and their family for their contribution!

Please follow this link to view the presentations for the different Key Stages:

EYFS: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x9M6qmsN4iEcoSEZnhEb4Vw0\\_IC7rVYv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x9M6qmsN4iEcoSEZnhEb4Vw0_IC7rVYv/view?usp=sharing)

KS1: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xcSNTDFI4ttwu0avMuafgJhjsTQwDsD1/view?usp=sharing>

KS2: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19ZBB\\_KSMdYs8RUVAg1s9zQEYGcl5gxgC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19ZBB_KSMdYs8RUVAg1s9zQEYGcl5gxgC/view?usp=sharing)

If you and your family would like to be involved in any future celebrations of festivals please contact Mrs Jaitly: [I.jaitly@hillcroftschool.org](mailto:I.jaitly@hillcroftschool.org)

### Key dates

As an update to Prize Giving: due to the number of children now learning from home we have decided to postpone this term's remote Prize Giving until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January when hopefully all children will be back in school.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December - End of Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – INSET Day

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – First day back.

### Other News!

#### Christingle:

St. Mary's Church in Caterham is continuing to host their annual Christingle Service this Sunday – the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

If you would like to book a ticket, please follow the below link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christingle-service-tickets-131325446947>

Please note that each ticket is per pew (which will take a family 'bubble' of up to six people) and not per person.

#### The Wildlife Trust's #12 Day Challenge:

The Wildlife Trust has a 12 Day Challenge which has many enjoyable activities for the School holidays.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild>