



# Hillcroft Primary School

**Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

**Nurture**

**Inspire**

**Strive**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

As we near the end of this half term I just want to say again a huge thank you and well done to the Hillcroft community. I have spent a lot of time this week going into live lessons in each year group to see the children and the innovative ways in which teachers are teaching. I continue to be amazed at what the staff are doing and am very grateful to them all for their hard work. The children are producing some lovely learning which I am really enjoying looking at. This is a testament to their hard work but also, I know, to the work that you are putting in behind the scenes as well. Thank you all.

The current national measures are driving the R rate down and we hope to be able to start welcoming back more pupils from 8 March at the earliest. It is important to reiterate however that we do not see this as a 'return to school' but more of an expansion of the numbers of pupil's already in school and receiving a face-to-face education. As soon as there are any announcements, we will begin our plan for a return to school and I will, of course, keep you updated.

In the meantime, I hope that the February half term is a restful and happy family time for you all. We look forward to welcoming you all back to either remote learning or critical worker provision on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Miss Summers**

## Reminders...

**INSET Day** – A reminder that Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February is an INSET day. School will be closed for all children and no remote learning will be set.

**Half Term** – School will be closed throughout the February Half Term (14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb). School will reopen for critical worker provision on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Spring 2 Parent's Evenings** – These are scheduled for the week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> March. More details will follow, after half term.

### Lovely learning...

Once again, we have received some wonderful learning from children – below are just a few examples!

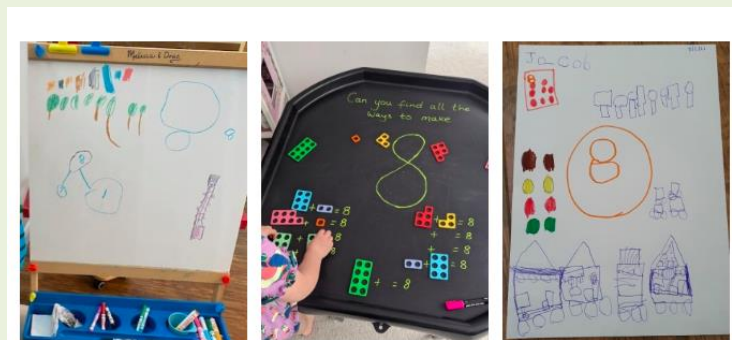
Sabina has been creating Bronze Age jewellery out of salt dough. She has used some great detail and use of texture in her designs.



Year 4 have been designing and making Viking helmets linked to their topic, Traders and Raiders.



Reception have been learning all about the number 8 this week!

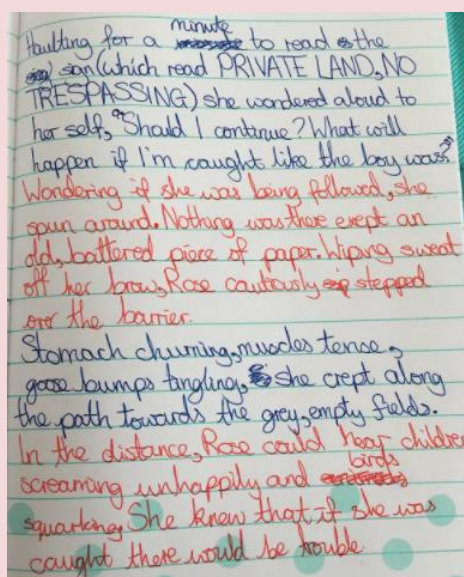


Nathan, Imogen, and Jacob.

In Year 6, they are using the story of Rose Blanche as a stimulus for their writing. Through her careful choice of words and literary devices, Rose has managed to capture the worrying scene perfectly.

**Just as the Mayor dragged and forced the helpless child towards the van, a soldier laughed cruelly at him. In the soldier's eyes he thought seeing the boy kicking, struggling and trying to get free was funny but the boy was terrified. The Mayor threw the boy into the back of the van aggressively. The van made a thud and the underneath of the van rattled. A group of pale faces loomed in the back of the van. Their faces were pale with fear. A few metres away stood Rose watching the whole thing. In her head she had so many questions. Why are they taking him? He hasn't done anything? Has he? She didn't care if they did something wrong. She will help them. She will follow them. Just imagining the worry on their faces, made her feel worried for them. She could never imagine being in their shoes. Just as the van set off, curiosity took hold of Rose and she couldn't hold herself back. She knew the right thing to do was to follow the van. Rose knew all of the short cuts around the village. Concern crept over her for the children in the back of the van. She was worried for them. Rose followed the van through potholed lanes, tyre-worn routes and roads drowned with mud. She was so concentrated on trying to help the children. She was oblivious to any noises around her or the icy wind blowing against her face and she continued to follow them.**

Hannah, in year 6, has been able to show how the character is feeling through her actions, whilst creating an unsettling atmosphere.



Veenna has been using her maths measuring skills this week to bake a cake- it looks delicious!



Brooke, in Nursery, has created her own Jack Frost picture using resources around her home.



Caitlin and the rest of Year 5 have been busy this week writing a narrative based on the short film 'One Small Step'.

As he sat at the table with his birthday girl, Dad watched eagerly as she blew out the candles on her cake. Unable to contain his excitement, he handed Luna a perfectly wrapped cardboard box. She looked at him for a minute before tearing the box apart to get to the present. Questions flooded Dad's mind: What does she think? Should I have made her something better? When Luna saw the boots, his questions were immediately answered. Excitement in her eyes, she was mesmerised by the sight of the boots in the box. Breathtaking, untouched, perfect.

Then, as she put the boots on, Luna hopped into the box, her father squeezed in with her. Suddenly, the box started to raise itself, before taking off into space! Whirling through the galaxy, whizzing round and round, the pair were flying past planets in minutes! "Slow down Luna! Don't go any closer to the sun!" Dad cried, but she didn't hear, instead she kept racing past the dangers of space. Soon after, Luna was tucked up in her bed, dreaming about what a wonderful day she had.

Day after day, week after week, year after year, her hard work had shown her how independent and confident she could be. But yet again, she had received 'another' failing grade.

Eventually, the letter Luna had been waiting for for months had finally arrived. Dad glanced at her across the table, not blinking, his lips were trembling. Then he saw that her head had fallen, meaning only one thing, she didn't get accepted. Thoughts flew through his mind: Maybe it was a mistake? I wish I could do something!

As she ran upstairs, Dad called to her, "You can do it, I know you can."

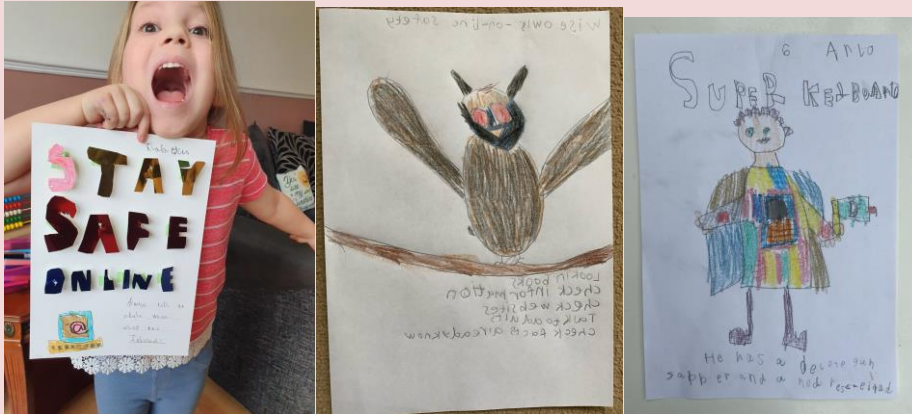
The next day was miserable, all Luna wanted to do was get home and forget about the letter. But when she reached the workshop, she was speechless, Dad wasn't home.



## Safer Internet day...

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, was Safer Internet day. Children embraced the day through a whole school assembly, live lessons, a selection of activities and entering a Breck foundation competition.

KS1's task was to create a poster reminding people how to stay safe online. Well done- they all look amazing!



## Other News!

### Half Term Soccer Schools:

Virtual Soccer School is a school that young people can join in with from home and is the perfect way to keep children active and engaged next week. Please follow the below link for more information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZeT8RxD45v0CKxGHYigcMPV50GmVwtQ7/view?usp=sharing>

### World Book Day:

World Book Day 2021, are helping schools and nurseries/pre-schools distribute the £1/€1.50 book tokens to children and young people who aren't able to be at school/nursery by offering a digital version of the book token. Please see below link for more information:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/digital-book-token/>

### Surrey County Council, Family learning:

There will be four 6-week course starting after half term focussing on supporting children with English as an Additional Language. If you are interested in this, please enrol by going to the SAL website and clicking on the course that is of interest:

[https://adultlearning.surreycc.gov.uk/Page/ProspectusList?search\\_DESCRIPTION\\_operator=Contains&search\\_DESCRIPTION\\_type=String&search\\_DESCRIPTION\\_value=EAL&search\\_TOPIC\\_operator=Equals&search\\_TOPIC\\_type=String&search\\_TOPIC\\_value=FAMLRN](https://adultlearning.surreycc.gov.uk/Page/ProspectusList?search_DESCRIPTION_operator=Contains&search_DESCRIPTION_type=String&search_DESCRIPTION_value=EAL&search_TOPIC_operator=Equals&search_TOPIC_type=String&search_TOPIC_value=FAMLRN)