



Hillcroft Primary School

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture

Inspire

Strive

Friday 10th December 2021

Wow! I can't believe that we only have one week left of term until our Christmas break. And what a busy run-up to Christmas it has been so far...

We have had some fantastically festive activities, including the start of our Christmas performances, a Mufti Day in lieu of Secret Santa gift donations, as well as our Save the Children Christmas Jumper day. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents / carers in their support with the revised audience numbers for the performances as well as all the fabulous donations of gifts. I am sure that the children will – as always – greatly enjoy choosing theirs for their parent / carers next week.

We also had the discos this week, which were great fun; it was so wonderful to be able to host them again following the previous COVID restrictions that have meant that we weren't able to, over the past eighteen months.

A big 'Thank you' needs to go to the Friends of Hillcroft in helping organise and oversee some of the Christmas events. Without their input, many of these would not be able to go ahead – so I'm sure you will all join me in saying a big 'Thank You' to them!

On Monday 8th November, the children all took part in the sponsored event, run by Sports for Schools. International athlete, Fred Afrifa, hosted the event and got the children thoroughly fit with his intense circuit training-they loved it! We are now very proud to announce that through the incredible efforts of the children, the school raised a fantastic £5,626.72! Part of this goes back to Sports for Schools to help them continue to do their amazing job, and the rest is ours to spend on promoting sport and PE even further. We, as a school, have the grand total of £3,123.43! Well done, Hillcroft!

Another 'Thank You' goes to all of those children and families that purchased poppy merchandise during the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal as we collectively raised £428.31 which supports the Armed Forces community past and present.

Lastly, as this is the last newsletter of the term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for all your support during the term and wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

Miss Summers



Thrive

A message from Mrs Pearson.

WOW! I cannot believe this is going to be the last newsletter of the year. What a year it has been. We have had: lockdown with remote learning; then back to school in bubbles; and since September a slice of something more akin to normality! Please, please take care over Christmas and have some fun! May the gift of love, peace and happiness be with you.

Christmas can be a time of happiness, excitement and fun. So, maybe you will need something fun for the children to do to help them should their stress levels rise at all. Here is a fun activity you could try out.

Belly Breathing with Stuffed Animals



Does your child have a favourite stuffed animal? This game is one of the best ways to help children lower their stress levels. Try it with them!

Let your child lie on his or her back and put a stuffed animal/toy on their belly. Have them breathe in and move the stuffed animal up, then breathe out and bring the stuffed animal back down. This helps teach children to use their belly to take big deep breaths. You could also try this with some relaxing music. Here is a link to some, should you want it, but remember to have it playing quietly. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snNGHLvKgms>

Explain to your child that, when the music starts, to breathe in, hold (for a count of 5) and then breathe out slowly.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I will see you all in January 2022!

Mrs Pearson.

PE Cog Champions!

A massive well done and congratulations to this term's PE Cog Champs! These children have gone above and beyond in their PE lessons to really apply the new skills, as well as achieve the cogs' learning goals. We follow Create Development here at Hillcroft, and each half term, the children focus on a different cog; each one interlocking to provide our children with all the fundamental skills they need in order to become healthy, fit and knowledgeable sporting stars.

Autumn term's cogs were 'Personal' and 'Social' and our champs have consistently demonstrated each cog's values - striving for personal bests, and understanding their own strengths and needs in the Personal Cog, and working well as a team, supporting each other through positive encouragement and constructive criticism in the Social Cog. Well done everyone!

Caterham Foodbank.

We received this 'Thank You' from the Caterham Foodbank to thank all the parents and carers for donating so generously during Harvest Festival. It really did make a difference to many people's lives.



Secret Santa!

Next Wednesday – 15th December – is our long anticipated Secret Santa! The children's class has a timetable to choose their gifts. Please note that your child/ children can bring in a **maximum of £6 and purchase up to 2 gifts** to ensure that there is enough for everyone!



Behaviour Awards

A message from Mrs Hardcastle.

On Wednesday 8th December, the Behaviour Ambassadors hosted a tea party for a child in each class that had consistently shown the behaviour STRONG values, and therefore meeting the Gold behaviours' threshold.

We played games and ate cake; a fun time was had by all! I am incredibly proud of all the children that attended.

Well done!



Dates for your Diary

Key Event / Diary entry	Date / Time
KS1 Prize Giving	13/12 9.00am
Year 6 Christmas Songs Around the Tree	13/12 10.00am- Oak 2.00pm- Acer
Year 3&4 Prize Giving	14/12 9.00am
KS1 Pantomime visit	14/12
Year 5 Christmas Songs Around the Tree	14/12 10.00am- Aspen 2.00pm- Larch
PTA Secret Santa	15/12
Year 5&6 Prize Giving	15/12 9.00am
Year 3 Christmas Songs Around the Tree	15/12 10.00am- Maple 2.00pm- Rowan
Christmas School Dinner Day	16/12
Year 4 Christmas Songs Around the Tree	16/12 10.00am- Birch 2.00pm- Cedar
Break-up for Christmas (finishing at normal timings)	17/12
INSET day	Tuesday 4 th January
Children return to school (normal times)	Wednesday 5 th January

In other news...

Surrey Family Learning:

Please follow this link for more information on new, free courses, led by Surrey:

<https://mailchi.mp/95122698732d/family-learning-733636>

Christingle:

Please see the below link for the Christingle services being held at St. Mary's this year:

<https://www.stmaryscaterham.org/services/christmas-services/>



