



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 13th January 2023

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year!

We have had an exciting couple of weeks, with lots of lovely learning happening to start off the children's new topics and themes for the term (the website has all of these on). Year 5 were very excited to dress up as Victorians for the day, to start off their new topic... the outfits were great; thank you to all the thought and preparation that was clearly given to them.



Thank you for all your support and positive messages during our Ofsted Inspection this week. Although the experience was intense, we greatly enjoyed the opportunity to share how proud we are of the children, their learning and our whole community. Once we have received their official report we will share it with you all.

We hope you have a restful and safe weekend,
Miss Summers

Key Dates:

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VfUL3rFj7q6N1kw4z6Ju1QRfcX1KWQPK/view?usp=sharing>

Change to Date: Please note, the 'How we Teach Handwriting and Spelling' workshop for parents / carers has changed to Wednesday 18th January between 9 and 10am in the Main Hall (entry through the main hall doors)

3rd February – Lovelace Charity Event (more information to follow)

How we Teach Handwriting and Spelling after Phonics Parents and Carers workshop

Wednesday 18th January 9 – 10am, entrance through the Main Hall doors:

We warmly invite parents/carers to our Spelling and Handwriting workshop on Wednesday 18th January at 9am. You will get the opportunity to find out how, what and why we teach Spelling and Handwriting from Year 2 to 6 at Hillcroft, meet some of our pupils who can tell you what lessons are like from a pupil's perspective and hear from our Writing Lead, Mrs Page. The workshop will be in the school hall and we expect it to last for about 45 minutes.

We look forward to seeing you there,
Mrs Gear and Mrs Page

Reminders and Notices:

Attendance Notice:

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Parking Reminder:

Please can we politely remind parents / carers to avoid parking in the entrance way of Hillcroft Court to drop-off and pick-up as residents are unable to then leave or enter the grounds.

Uniform Reminder:

Please can we politely remind parents / carers that the uniform policy – due to E Safety reasons – does not allow Smart watches of any brand to be worn in school. Please do refer to the Uniform Policy on our website, or by following this link:

http://www.hillcroftschoo.org/uploads/asset_file/Uniform_Policy_Final_-_22-23.pdf



A message from Mrs Pearson.

Welcome back! Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and made lots of lovely memories. 2023 is going to be a good year for everyone.

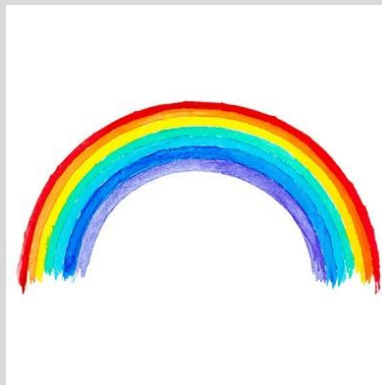
January is a traditional time for resolutions and a fresh start, but we do this everyday. We talk to children if there were any 'downs' in their day and always remind them that it's a fresh day tomorrow. In each day there are good and happy moments to celebrate and appreciate too - sometimes we just need a little help to realise this. Talk to your children daily to find out what sort of day they have had and then let them know about your day too.

Good mental health and well-being starts within and we need the care and support of others to sustain it.

So if you are struggling or find it hard to talk, pick up the telephone and talk to someone.

If you need any help or support this year please email me D.Pearson@hillcroffschool.org

Reflecting on the good, forgetting the bad, and looking forward to a brighter 2023.



It is also Parent Mental Health Day on 27th January, which is free and encourages understanding and awareness of the importance of parents' mental health and its impact overall on the family system. With this year's theme being 'balance', the day aims to get parents and carers to take a moment to reflect on the balance they have in their lives and to take positive steps to make change.

Stem4 are inviting parents to join their webinar on Thursday 27th January at 7pm

(<https://stem4.org.uk/event/webinar-for-parents-carers-building-resilience-in-parents-carers/>)

where they will discuss how improved parent mental health benefits the whole family, and practical ways in which parents and carers can regain equilibrium in their lives and tip the balance towards positive mental health.

Our Children's Talents and Interests

Maddie and Florence - Years 2 and Reception - for showing such creativity in decorating a beautiful cake so carefully at their Grandma's in time for Christmas.

Aubrey - Year 2 - for showing great courage and resilience for overcoming his fear for his first aeroplane journey! Well done!

Amin - Year 4 - for his fantastic embroidery he completed at home! Brilliant!

Eva - Year 2- for taking part in an Irish Dancing competition and winning Second Place! Well done!

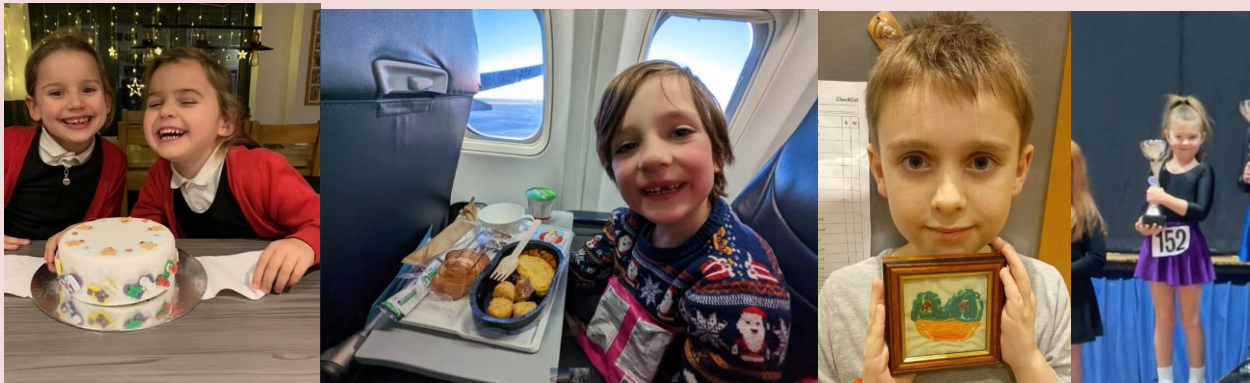
Poppy - Year 3 - for showing such admirable care by choosing a charity a month to donate her money to. A fantastic ethos!

James - Year 6 - for completing some fantastic skateboarding tricks!

Ruby - Year 4 - for showing such brilliant skills for her Football Club - Merstham Wildcats.

Jamie - Year 4 - for creating a family portrait (including her cat Fearnie) for her mother's birthday present - what a treat!

Bella - Year 3 - for showing great perseverance and precision to carefully excavate 16 gemstones from a clay base to then learn all about them! Well done!



All the children receive certificates and are recognised during assembly. Please do continue to let Miss Swain or your child's class teacher know if your child would like to celebrate anything.

A Reading Community

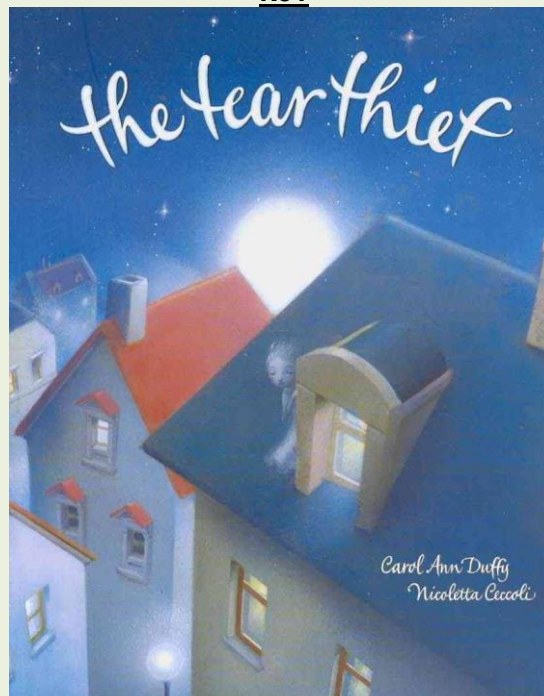
This week, Mrs Hardcastle – Assistant Head Teacher – has shared her recommendations. They will be displayed in the front Reception and please do speak to an office member if you would like to borrow one – all are welcome to!

EYFS



Curl up with a playful collection of poems from best-selling children's author and poet Michael Rosen, perfect for sharing with young friends. In this exuberant compilation, Michael Rosen invites children to joyfully celebrate sounds and the infinite possibilities of language.

KS1



Why does the magical Tear Thief catch children's tears as they fall? Find out in this moving tale about how we express our feelings. Lyrical text by Carol Ann Duffy, one of the most prominent poets writing today, makes this a lovely read-aloud.

In other news...

Parent Mental Health Day on 27th January

Stem4's Parent Mental Health Day on 27th January (PMHD) encourages understanding and awareness of the importance of parents' mental health and its impact on the whole family system. With this year's theme being 'balance', the day aims to get parents and carers to take a moment to reflect on the balance they have in their lives and to take positive steps to make change.

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They have also produced a **Balance** pack, which is attached. You can visit their website here: *Parent Mental Health Day*

Rachael Reynold's School of Dance

RACHAEL
reynolds
SCHOOL OF DANCE

NEW CLASSES

LAUNCHING JANUARY 2023

- ★ Age 4-7 Tap Dance
- ★ Age 8-11 Tap Dance
- ★ Age 12-15 Tap Dance
- ★ Adult Tap Dance (16+)
- ★ Mini Musical Theatre (Age 4-6)
- ★ Adult Musical Theatre (18+)

Book your free trial now. www.rachaelreynoldsdance.com

Eikon:

The Eikon Charity inspires and transforms the lives of children and young people in Surrey. They have some interesting Parent Webinars which are free, including one regarding transition from Year 6 to Secondary School. Please follow the below link to the website for more information:

<https://eikon.org.uk/>

