



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 10th February 2023

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

What a wonderful two weeks we have had here at school! Last week, our year 4 parents and carers greatly enjoyed the Year 4 class assembly, and then the whole school enjoyed taking part in the Lovelace Dance-a-thon – thank you to all those parents and carers who donated money to Lovelace's charity – Delight.

This week we have seen our Open Classrooms welcome many parents and carers into our children's classrooms to be able to spend time with them looking at their learning – thank you to all those who were able to make it.

We also had a hugely popular School Disco last night – thank you to all the members of our PTA and volunteers who worked tirelessly in enabling it to happen. The children loved it!



Year 4 Class Assembly



Whole School Dance-a-thon



Open Classroom – Reception

We'd also like to thank one of our parents – Miss Saunders – for so kindly donating some copies of the book 'A Better Day' by Dr. Alex George to the school, to support children's understanding of mental health. It is a truly great book and will be hugely valuable to the children's development. Thank you! If you are interested in reading more about the book, please follow this link:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Better-Day-Positive-Mental-Handbook/dp/1526364441>

As always, please do check the calendar link on the next page for updated dates for your diary.

We hope you have a wonderful Half Term and will see you back at school on Monday 20th February.

Miss Summers

Key Dates:

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VfUL3rFj7q6N1kw4z6Ju1QRFcX1KWQPK/view?usp=sharing>

Changes and additions to dates:

Thinking Day - 22nd February - 'Thinking Day' is a date when members of the Guiding and Scouting movements think of others all over the world. Therefore, if your child is a member of one of these organisations, they are able to come into school in their uniforms that day to help celebrate.

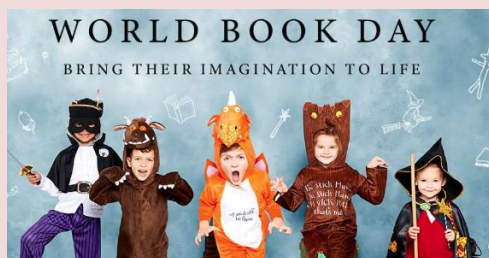


World Book Day – we have moved our celebration of World Book Day until Friday 3rd March due to possible Strike Action taking place on Thursday 2nd March.

There will be activities going on all week in school, and on Friday 3rd March, children are able to come to school dressed as a character from a book, or bring in a prop which symbolises a character. For instance: a wand for a wizard in Harry Potter.

To support parents / carers with costumes, Friends of Hillcroft are kindly running a 'Costume Swap' in the Reception area the week before World Book Day (Monday 20th - Friday 24th February). The PTA have costumes already which will be on display - any donation would be welcome if you would like one. Any unwanted costumes would also be welcome, if you can drop them off in the Reception area.

Please see the previous Parentmail sent out earlier this week for full details.



Breck Foundation – to support in our awareness and education of E-Safety, we have organised for the Breck Foundation to visit our children on Friday 24th February. They also offer a virtual Parents / Carers presentation the day preceding this (Thursday 23rd February) in the evening at 6pm.

Please see the previous Parentmail sent out earlier this week for full details.



Our Children's Talents and Interests

Well done to all the children below on their fantastic achievements!

Madeline in Year 2 – for passing her swimming badge and now being able to wear goggles in her lessons – Well done!

Florence in Reception – for passing her 5 metre Swimming class – what a wonderful achievement!

Neve in Year 4 – for reaching her Swim Level 3 following her passing her Level 2 with flying colours! Fantastic!

Elanah in Year 6 – for being promoted to a full blue belt in Japanese JiuJitsu at the Christmas grading of our club. Well done!

Poppy in Year 3 – for being so thoughtful for her mother's birthday and taking her to Painshill Park for a birthday treat! Well done!

Albie in Year 3 – for earning a white stripe on his yellow belt in Karate this weekend meaning he is almost ready for his next grading. Congratulations!

Coby in Year 2 – for having his focus and determination in creating a fantastic Sonic the Hedgehog powerpoint at home in his own time! Well done!

Fraser G in Year 2 – for being awarded Player of the Week in his rugby team! Well done!

Nathan in Year 2 – for writing such a fantastic story entitled 'Nessy's Secret' – well done!



E-Safety updates!

As part of our continued dedication to ensuring our children stay safe online, Mrs Winsor – Computing and E-Safety Lead – will include an update to useful resources in each newsletter for parents / carers to use at home.

Jack Changes the Game – for 5 to 8 yearolds. Child exploitation and online protection safety centre have released a new learning activity and picture book (PDF) which can be used by parent/carers at home. The book is all about online friends and how online friends are not always as they seem. You can see all the resources for free download:

<https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/resources-tab/parents-and-carers>

Find the Fake! Internet Matters have a great little quiz for parents and their children to test their knowledge around areas such as fake news, disinformation, misinformation, and how to stop it from spreading. You can find the quiz [here: https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/find-the-fake/](https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/find-the-fake/)



Join us for a coffee and a chat!

Meet other parents and find out how we can support you and your child at Hillcroft.

Mrs Tara Coppard (FSW)

Mrs Debbie Pearson (Lead Thrive Practitioner)

Every half term, starting on Friday 24th February between 2 and 3pm in the Treehouse.

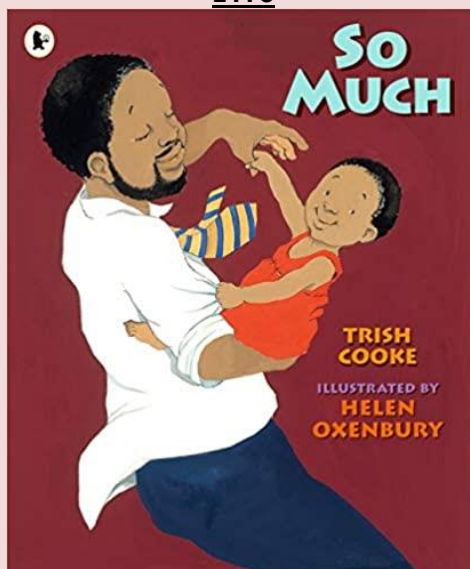
We look forward to welcoming you then!



A Reading Community

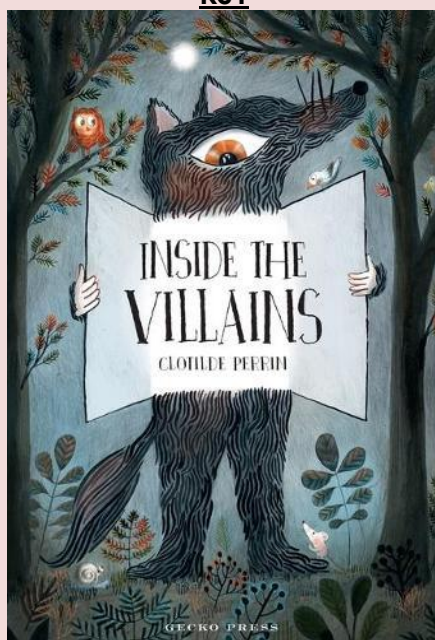
This week, Mr Walker – Year 5 teacher and Maths Lead – has shared her recommendations. They will be displayed in the front Reception and please do speak to an office member if you would like to borrow one – all are welcome to!

EYFS



Celebrate the warmth of Afro-Caribbean family life in this picture book from Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury. Mum and baby are home alone when – DING DONG! – Auntie and then Uncle and Nannie and Gran-Gran and the cousins come to visit. And they all want to hug and kiss and squeeze and eat the baby right up – because everybody loves the baby SO MUCH!

KS1



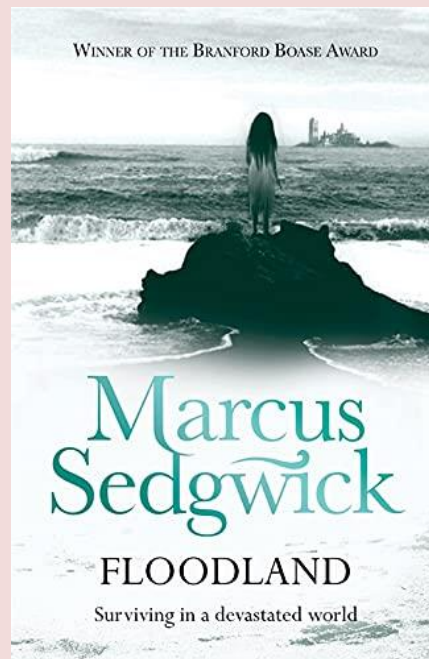
An extraordinary pop-up book that reveals the secrets of the most famous fairytale villains: giants, wolves and witches. Lift the flaps to see the devilish tricks inside each villain's head, what's beneath their disguise, who was the victim of their last meal (now comfortably settled inside their stomach!). Read all about each villain on their personality card, which shows strengths and weaknesses, favourite pastimes, physical characteristics, their best meal and—of course—their favourite books.

LKS2



There is nothing more special than a book that speaks directly to you. Uncover true love, delve into magical realms and learn a little something from each story. Each unique tale aims to encourage girls to be who they want to be, to teach morals and to entertain. Some are inspired by old fairy tales; others are brand new and based squarely in reality, so there is something for every girl out there.

UKS2



Imagine that a few years from now England is covered by water, and Norwich is an island. Zoe, left behind in the confusion when her parents escaped, survives there as best she can. Alone and desperate among marauding gangs, she manages to dig a derelict boat out of the mud and gets away to Eels Island. But Eels Island, whose raggle-taggle inhabitants are dominated by the strange boy Dooby, is full of danger too.

The belief that she will one day find her parents spurs Zoe on to a dramatic escape in a story of courage and determination that is handled with warmth and humanity.

In other news...Caterham Library updates:

The library has teamed up with **Citizens Advice** to provide a **free energy advice morning**.
Wednesday 1 February, 10.30am-12pm at Caterham Valley Library
Caterham Citizens Advice will give a brief presentation on "the energy advice programme", focused on helping people who are struggling to pay their energy bills. They will cover areas such as fuel options, tariffs, energy grants, and energy efficiency.
Tea and coffee will be provided as part of our warm welcome offer. There is no need to book a space.

They have **half term entertainment** across Caterham libraries:

'Crafternoon' for children aged 3+

Monday 13 February, 2.30pm-4pm at Caterham Hill library

Get creative with our craft materials!

£1 per child, no booking necessary.

Make a rainbow love heart caterpillar for Valentine's Day! For children aged 4+.

Tuesday 14 February, 12pm-1pm at Caterham Valley library.

£2 per child, book your space at the information desk in Caterham Valley library. Booking is essential as places are limited.

Storytime for children aged 2 to 5 years

Friday 17 February, 10.30am-11am at Caterham Hill library

Free to attend, no booking necessary

Board games for children aged 4+

Friday 17 February, 11am-12pm at Caterham Valley library

Book your space at the information desk in Caterham Valley library.

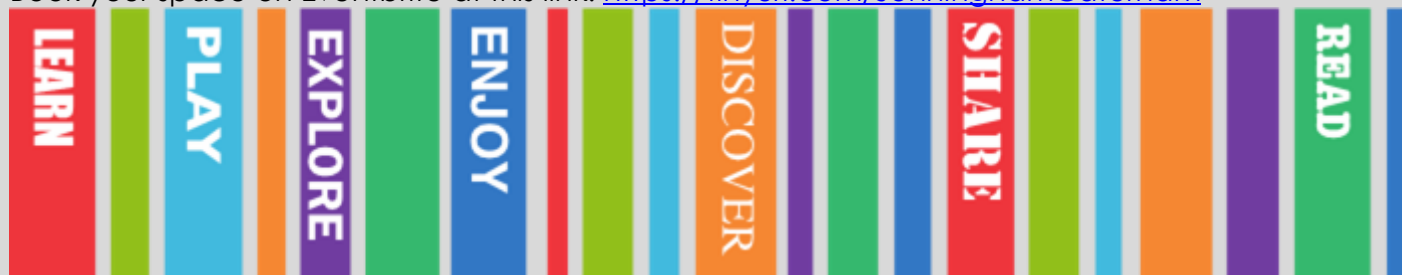
Finally, we invite you to celebrate **World Book Day** at Caterham Valley library with **John Ingham**, local author and journalist, discussing his latest book '**Blood Eagle Saga**'!

Thursday 2 March, 7pm-9pm at Caterham Valley Library

£5 per person, ticket includes refreshments.

Deep frozen midwinter in a Viking warlord's longhouse. From the snow emerges a white-haired saga-teller, Snorri, who offers to entertain the drunken warband. Sven Ravenfeeder agrees – but drops a noose around Snorri's neck and tells him: "If we like your story, you will live..." So begins the Blood-Eagle Saga – a tale of greed and betrayal, courage and cowardice, that takes rival Viking longships across the Atlantic to a new world of depravity.

Book your space on Eventbrite at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/JohnInghamCaterham>



You can find all additional Surrey libraries events advertised on our [events and activities page](#).



**SATURDAY 03RD JUNE
2023**

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

12.00PM - 8PM

CATERHAM. CR3 5ED

II SUNNYFEST 23 II

LIVE MUSIC | GREAT FOOD | FAMILY FUN



**JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FESTIVAL,
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WITH A PAYING ADULT**

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TICKETS ONLINE OR BUY IN
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SOLUTIONS CATERHAM**





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📍 CATERHAM



We create a fun, safe and welcoming environment for children to develop their individual footballing ability and enjoy the game



Indoor sessions so we can train all year round



Lots of touches of the ball to aid development



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Caterham
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Price: £70 for 8 sessions

Sessions start 21st February 2023

Book your free session

www.wemakfootballers.com/caterham



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.hillcroftschoool.org/uploads/asset_file/Uniform_Policy_Final_-_22-23.pdf