



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 31st March 2023

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

We hope you have had a fantastic two weeks.

We have had a fantastic and exciting time here at school; our Year 5 children performed their Class Assemblies to their parents and carers and the Year 4's performed all that they have learnt this year on the Ukulele to theirs too. We also had our Thrive Celebration day, combining it with celebrating World Mental Health Day - #HelloYellow2023.

The children all partook in lots of exciting activities and had a fabulous time!



This half term we have welcomed four new LAs across the school; Mollie Mills who is based in Year 2, Louisa Smith and Rukhsana Chaudhuri, based in Reception and Year 1 and Przemek Swierzewski in Year 5. We also said goodbye to Susan Selsby who left in March to pursue her dream career as a flight attendant.

Today we say a sad goodbye to Harriet Tapley, Selena Young and Claire Sills who leave us after many years combined at Hillcroft. We thank them for all for their hard work and commitment to Hillcroft over the years and wish them all luck in their future careers.

We hope you have a fantastic Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 17th April.



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF HILLCROFT!

Please remember to sign our 150th Year Celebration Book!

<https://forms.gle/uNShCo6gzQRK4cvM9>

Key Dates: Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar for the Summer Term:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/187lbpWy2Hg1JJ0xOU2FN0I7L3iaL3Den/view?usp=sharing>

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.

Starting conversations:

Parenting the digital world is difficult, no-one can deny that. For many of us we didn't grow up in a world of technology, therefore we don't have 'lived experience', we're just trying our best. "How do I start the conversation?"

The Internet Watch Foundation have put together a brilliant guide for parents.

You can find the guide [HERE](#). Additionally, SWGfL have some great social media checklists which could be useful [HERE](#)

Book Reviews!

Well done to all the children who took part in the Friends of Hillcroft Book Review competition! The reviews were judged by author Philip Ardagh who wrote a personal message to all the children:

"Hello, my name is Philip Ardagh and I have written over 200 children's books so I was very honoured to be asked to judge your book reviews as a part of World Book Day week. It was very difficult to choose a 1st place for each Key Stage because you're ALL winners for enjoying books and taking part.

I loved seeing which books you've been reading and what you liked about them, as well as looking at your fabulous drawings. Choosing first places was very, very difficult because each and every one of you did such an excellent job! Congratulations."

He did pick a winner from each Key Stage, who are listed below and was awarded with a prize during assembly last week:

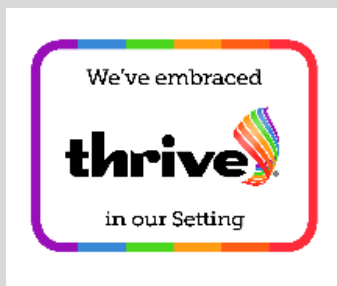
Early Years – Isla for her book review of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'

KS1 – Samuel for his review of 'Captain Marvel'

Lower KS2 – Poppy for her review of 'Ruby's Worry'

UKS2 – James' review of 'The Killing'.





A message from Mrs Pearson.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter Holiday and make many lovely memories. Further to the information in our last newsletters, in preparation for our Thrive/ # Hello Yellow Mental Celebration Day on March 31st we would like to invite parents and carers to take photos of their family doing something that they enjoy which we will then use to create a whole school collage. If possible, please try to include something yellow in the photo too.

If you would like to take part, please can you email the photos to your child's class teacher or send the photo in to school. We recognise that families may wish to do this over the Easter Holidays, so please feel free to send them in up until Friday 21st April.

This week as a whole school Thrive Activity we talked about "Young Carers"; I explained to the children what a young carer is and showed them a wonderful video. If you would like to watch the video, here is the link.

Surrey Young Carers Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G74DRlphydo>

If your family is affected by any of the issues mentioned above, and you and your son/daughter would like support, please contact me at the school on D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org so that we can arrange to talk. If no help is required, the school would still appreciate your sharing of any circumstances that may have an impact upon your child's education as they progress through the school. This will allow us to be aware and offer support as required. Anything you do tell us will be treated sensitively and will not be shared without your knowledge or permission.

Also, a little reminder that on Tuesday 18th April at 9am – 10am Tara and I will be holding a coffee morning in the Treehouse. Entry will be through the carpark, through the white doors. Please pop along and have a chat with us.



Our Children's Talents and Interests

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

Poppy – Year 2 – for completing a 100-piece puzzle all by herself!

Violet – Year 1 – for some amazing drawings of a farm, including this fabulous giraffe!

Maddie – Year 2 – and Libby – Reception – for achieving 'Beaver of the Week' and 'Squirrel of the Week' in their Scout sessions last week!

William – Year 1 – for achieving his 5metre swimming badge and for being able to now swim unaided!

Emilia – Year 2 – for being awarded the TREAD laces at her Rugby club.

Emily – Year 4 – for an amazing poem (please do read it on the page below!)

Amelie – Year 1 – for achieving her 5 metres front crawl badge at swimming.

Jenson – Year 5 – for being awarded 'Cub of the Month' – well done!

Isla – Nursery – and Fraser – Year 2 – for being so helpful to our community and helping with the Caterham Angel litter pick

Rose – Year 3 – for amazing scooting skills!



Our Children's Talents and Interests continued...

Emily's poem:

*Earth of brown and trees of green,
A place where no one's ever been.
Except for woodland creatures – butterflies,
Ready to spread their wings and take off to the skies.*

*Rivers run in streams of blue,
Past trees of chestnut, oak and yew,
As the sky of blue turns to the black of noon,
Spurs of creatures come out soon.*

*It's quite a different story at night,
The soft lighting looks just right,
For creatures that live underground,
Sleeping there, they can't hear a sound.*

*To the naked eye it's peace and quiet,
But to creatures there, it's quite a riot,
A place where no one's ever seen,
Is always full of bushes and grass and tress of green.*

*If you are to encounter such a place,
Make sure to move at a steady pace,
As the creatures there are pretty shy,
Perhaps if you went there, you would see why.*



A Reading Community

This week, Mr Fuhrmann – Year 2 teacher and Outdoor Learning Lead – has shared his 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!

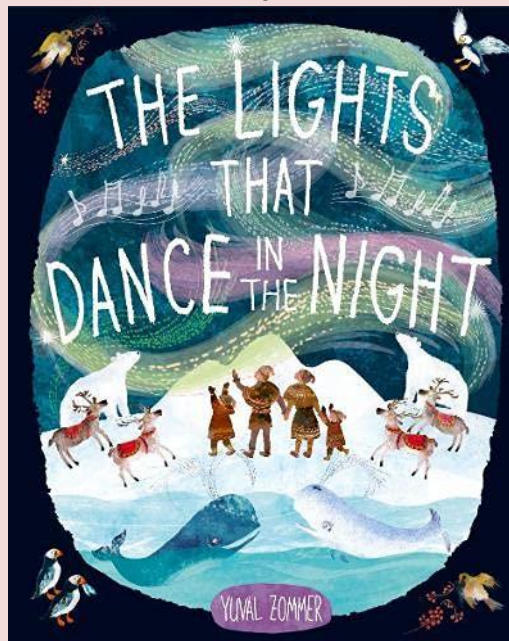
EYFS and KS1

The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak

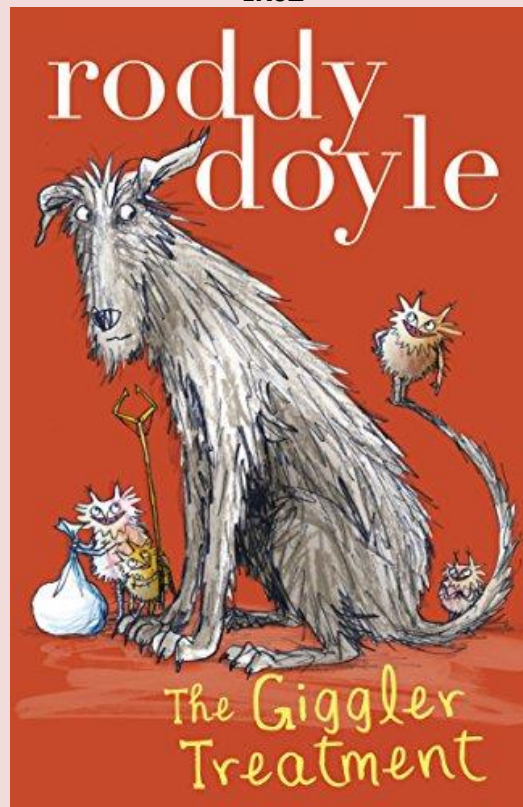
At once disarmingly simple and ingeniously imaginative, 'The Book With No Pictures' inspires laughter every time it is opened, creating a warm and joyous experience to share—and introducing young children to the powerful idea that the written word can be an unending source of mischief and delight. Reader beware - silly voices are a must!

KS1



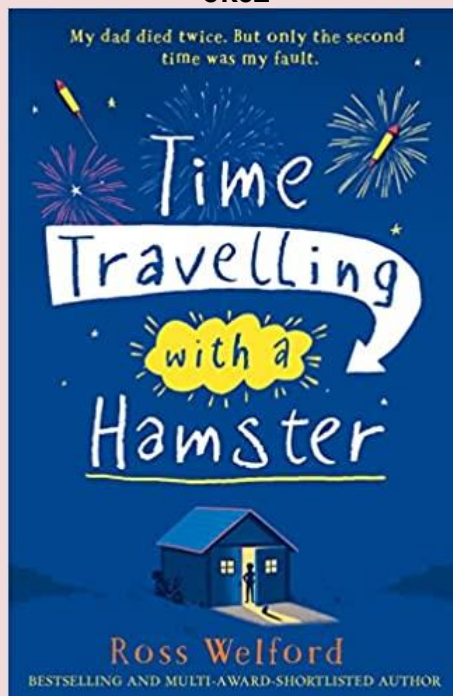
In this wonderfully festive picture book, Yuval Zommer imagines the Northern Lights' fleeting journey from space to Earth. From tiny specs of dust to gleaming rays in the dark, the Northern Lights travel across the Arctic, uniting every creature in a celebration that reverberates through land and sea.

LKS2



A talking dog, the Mack children and the small elf-like Giggles themselves must try to stop the prank that the Giggles have mistakenly set in motion to punish Mr. Mack for being mean to his children.

UKS2



When 12-year-old Al Chaudry learns there is a time machine, made by his father, sitting in the garage of his old house, he has to go and get it - doesn't he? Then he can travel back in time and save his father's life. With his pet hamster Alan Shearer for company, Al is determined to follow his dad's instructions.

Reminders and Notices:

Bags to School:

Our next Bags to School collection is on Monday 24th April. If you are having a clear out between now and then, please feel free to drop any unwanted, good quality clothes, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, bedding, curtains and towels either to the front office or hand it to a member of the leadership team on the gate. We will then store this in school until the collection date.

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

Trust wide parent survey

As mentioned in the Spring edition of The Hummingbird, the Trust Board of GLF Schools has a duty to consider feedback from parents and carers at all schools in the Trust. To support this, we would be grateful if all parents and carers would complete four quick questions by clicking the link [here](#). We appreciate that you may have answered these questions before, either in one of our school surveys or via the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire, but it is helpful for the Trust to review responses from *all* parents and carers, of all 17,000 children in the Trust, collected at the same point in time. This survey should take you less than 5 minutes to complete. Thank you very much for your support.