



# Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

**Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

**Nurture Inspire Strive**

Welcome back to a new academic year at Hillcroft. A warm welcome to all our new children and families. I hope your children have settled in well and are enjoying their journey at Hillcroft so far.

It has been wonderful to walk the school each day to hear and see children engaged in their learning. This term we embark on our new GLF curriculum which covers science, history, geography, art and DT. The GLF curriculum is designed to make logical and meaningful connections between the different subjects. The curriculum ensures that the content, skills and learning experiences are aligned and integrated in a way that enables children to develop and embed their learning into long-term memory. More information on the GLF curriculum is available on the school website.

Like last year, we would like to continue to open our doors more regularly for parents and carers. Below is a link to our whole school calendar. This is also available to view on the website. These are key dates, with more dates being published nearer the time for specific activities such as trips and visits.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzgww2admfwcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>

This year we also continue to celebrate our children's interests and talents - especially those outside of school. Therefore, if you would like to share these with our community, please email Mrs Hardcastle to be included: [d.hardcastle@hillcroftschoool.org](mailto:d.hardcastle@hillcroftschoool.org)

We hope you have a lovely weekend, and we will see you on the gates on Monday morning!

Miss Summers

## **Key Dates:**

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzgww2admfwcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>

## Curriculum

Children in all year groups have embraced their Wider Curriculum learning with some engaging and immersive learning experiences. As a whole school we are tackling the question of 'How can data help us understand the world around us?'.  
This is what the children are learning about across the school

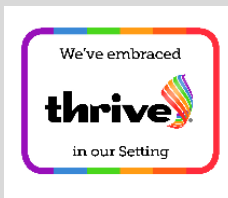
- Children in Early Years will be turning their focus to all things bread, and exploring it with their senses.
- Y1 will be setting the scene and exploring curtains as they start to think about what makes a good curtain.
- Y2 will be thinking all things coats and the different materials coats are made of - including cutting up a coat and pulling out the insides!
- Y3 will be building upon their learning on Wheels Day and thinking about how friction affects a moving object.
- Y4 will continue to explore how temperature can affect states of matter.
- Y5 are looking forward to carrying out various experiments linked to separating different materials.
- Y6 are going to be thinking about the electrical components of a deconstructed hairdryer and what each part specifically does.

### ***Year 3 enjoying their Wheels Day***



### ***Year 6 investigating the most effective method for collecting litter in the classroom in preparation for making their Victorious Vacuums!***





**A message from Mrs Pearson.**

**WOW! I cannot believe the summer holidays are over and we have been back in school for three weeks already. I would like to welcome all our parents and carers. So far, we have started whole-class Thrive with teachers supporting emotional development in class. Some children have started coming out for small groups and/or 1:1 session with Shannon and myself. Shannon and I are looking forward to working alongside the children as well as the adults. If you feel your children would benefit from seeing our Thrive Team, please get in touch with Miss McNeill (KS1) or Mrs Pearson (KS2) at.**

**[D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org)**

**[S.Mcneill@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:S.Mcneill@hillcroftschoo.org)**

**If any parent/carers would like to talk to our Family Support Worker, please contact Tara at:**

**[TCopard1@gfsschools.org](mailto:TCopard1@gfsschools.org)**

**This term we are welcoming the children back in true Thrive style; an emphasis on emotions/feelings and making sure children feel safe and secure in school. Over the next few weeks all the children at Hillcroft will be able to talk more freely about how they are feeling and why each and every one is special.**

**Also, if during the summer holidays, you took some amazing photos of your family making memories, please send them to me for our wonderful display. The children love walking up to the dinner hall and looking at the display. There is even a spot for the teachers! Here is a quick look at it so far....**



## Our Children's Talents and Interests



Phoebe - Year 5, Phoebe achieved 3rd place in a swimming competition on her holiday.



Bella- Year 5, created this painting at home. Well done!



Abbie- Year 4, Now able to do a handspring!



Isla- Year 3, competed in her football team's 1st match this weekend. It was a mini tournament. They won 3 games, drew 1 and lost one. Isla scored one of the winning goals. We are so proud of the whole team.



Amelie- Year 2, took part in her first 2k run and completed it in a time of 12:20. We were very impressed with her determination.



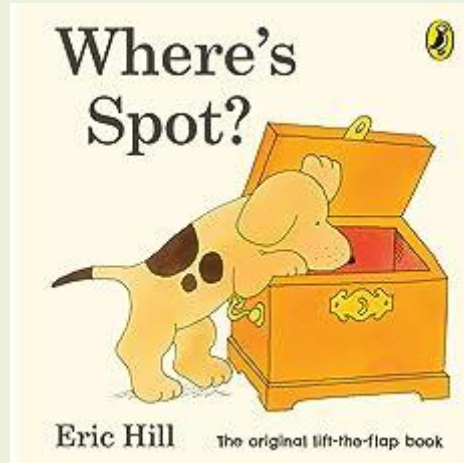
Nikki- Year 5, has made a book about Henry VIII wives. She has worked very hard at home.

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

## A Reading Community

This week, Mrs Gear– Assistant Head & Year 1 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**



**Author: Eric Hill**

**Illustrator: Eric Hill**

Join the hunt to find lovable Spot in Eric Hill's first ever lift-the-flap tale! Lift each flap to find all sorts of funny animal surprises, before discovering where cheeky Spot has been hiding.

**KS1**

## **I WANT MY HAT BACK**

**BY JON KLASSEN**



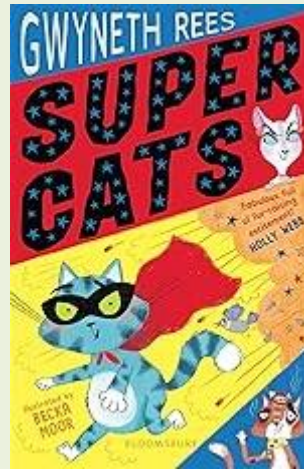
**Author: Jon Klassen**

**Illustrator: Jon Klassen**

In his bestselling debut picture book, the multiple award-winning Jon Klassen, illustrator of *This Is Not My Hat* and *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, tells the story of a bear whose hat has gone. And he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. Each animal says no (some more elaborately than others). But just as he begins to lose hope, lying flat on his back in despair, a deer comes by and asks a rather obvious question that suddenly sparks the bear's memory and renews his search with a vengeance... Told completely in dialogue, this quirky, hilarious, read-aloud tale plays out in sly illustrations brimming with visual humour and winks at the reader who will be thrilled to be in on the joke.

## A Reading Community ... Continued...

KS2



**Author: Gwyneth Rees**  
**Illustrator: Becka Moor**

Cats with superpowers! This brand-new series from bestselling author Gwyneth Rees is every young animal lover's dream come true. Perfect for fans of Holly Webb, Alex T. Smith, and those who want their animal stories with a bit more action!

Tagg's life changed forever when he discovered that he's no ordinary kitten. His parents have super powers! Will Tagg have super strength like his dad, or amazing claws like his mum? All he knows is that his power will be AWESOME.

### **In other news...**

#### **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.

#### **School Packed Lunches:**

A polite reminder, that we are a Healthy and Nut Free school, so please could packed lunches consist of the below:

- **A healthy, balanced range of food**
- **Nut free**
- **No chocolate bars of sweets BUT chocolate biscuits are acceptable**

#### **School ties (KS2):**

We have noticed an increase in children not coming to school in ties this year, and borrowing them from the office. If your child does borrow a tie, please can you ensure that it is returned to the school office. School ties can be easily purchased via our school website and are £4.95 each.

## E-Safety Update from Mrs Winsor

### **Updated Supervision Features for FB Messenger and Instagram**

In June 2023 Meta rolled out some new parental features for FB Messenger and Instagram. As of 30th August, these updates are now available globally.

Specific updates for Messenger:

- View how much time the child spends on the app.
- Updates on their contact list.
- Notification if the child reports someone.
- View who can message their child.
- View who can see their child's stories.

Specific updates for Instagram:

- Before being able to message someone, who doesn't follow them, people must now send a text only invite to connect (in other words, no more unwanted explicit photos from people you don't follow). No further interaction can take place unless the recipient accepts the invite.

In all these are quite positive steps, there is further information [HERE](#).



### EYFS / KS1 Phonics- Early Reading Parent Workshop



#### Phonics Workshop

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we do all we can to make sure every child learns to read quickly.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves.

You are warmly invited to attend our Phonics Workshop on **Tuesday 3rd October at 8:45am.**

Please enter the school via the hall entrance in the staff car park.

The workshop is aimed at families with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

However, everyone is welcome. If you are unable to make the workshop, a recording and slides will be available on the school website afterwards.

In the meantime, make sure you read to your child every day.

Visit <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/> for more information and helpful videos.



## Are you interested in Training to Teach in your local schools?

COME ALONG TO OUR GET INTO TEACHING EVENT AND FIND OUT HOW YOU  
COULD EMBARK ON A CAREER WITH EXCELLENT PROGRESSION  
OPPORTUNITIES WHERE NO TWO DAYS ARE THE SAME



Thursday 5th October  
17.00 - 18.30 @ Glyn  
School, The Kingsway,  
Ewell, Epsom KT17 1NB

To register to attend please click  
[HERE](#) or scan the QR code below



At Inspiring Future Teachers - GLF Teacher Training, we offer all the benefits of being part of a large national programme whilst at the same time providing locally delivered school-based training in either a primary or a secondary school. We have a very strong history of providing exceptional Initial Teacher Training since 2013, with high employment rates within our partnership schools and beyond.

Our 'Get into Teaching' evening is open to anyone interested in training to teach in either the Primary or Secondary sector - start date September 2024.

The event will include a presentation from our team of experts explaining how school-based teacher training works as well as offering you the opportunity to ask questions about the options available to you and what it's like to teach. You will also get one-to-one advice on the entry requirements, application process and the financial support available to you.



Hear what our trainees have to say about our programmes



If you have any questions please email our team at [info@glftt.org](mailto:info@glftt.org)  [www.glfscitt.org](http://www.glfscitt.org)