



Hillcroft Primary School

Friday 1st March 2024

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Nurture Inspire Strive

Dear Parents & Carers,

A new half term means a new project at Hillcroft! This half term there is a focus on Fine Art so children will be exploring their enquiry question through the lens of Art. Here are the enquiry questions for each year group so you know what all children are learning across the school:

- Nursery - What is an artist?
- Reception - What is an artist?
- Y1 - How is art used to represent the natural world?
- Y2 - How has art been used in popular culture?
- Y3 - How can portraiture be used to represent individuals?
- Y4 - How does art represent different periods of history?
- Y5 - How does art represent human achievements?
- Y6 - How is modern day art influenced by the past?

Please do take the time to talk to the children at home about their learning so they can share all of the exciting things that are going on in school.

In other news, I would like to share with you that Donna Hardcastle our Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Lead is leaving Hillcroft at Easter. Mrs Hardcastle joined the team in 2016 and has been instrumental in driving the school forward during this time. She is moving on to work for Surrey County Council as a SEND Advisor. I am sure you will join me in wishing her luck in her new role. To replace Mrs Hardcastle, we have successfully recruited Mrs Skingley who has a number of years' experience as a SENCO across the primary sector.

Finally, I would like to thank James in Reception for donating the money in his money box to the school fund. The money donated is going towards some new books and resources for the Reception classrooms. Thank you, James!

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Summers

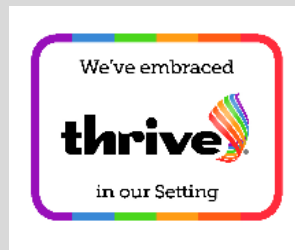
Key Dates:

Please see link to whole school Key Dates calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bNyLzggw2qdmfvcFkypQe-ZxIRc6hJTGnHXv9cLGrM/edit>

Comic Relief- Friday 15th March

Hillcroft are participating in Comic Relief 2024 on Friday 15th March by inviting children to wear something Red, instead of their school uniform in return for a voluntary donation of £1. Donations can be given to the class teacher on the day of the event.



A message from Mrs Pearson.

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely half term and made some lovely memories. Firstly, I would like to say a massive thankyou to all those parents who kindly gave towards a collection for me whilst I was off sick. The kindness touched my heart and I felt very loved. Thank you.

What does it mean to validate feelings?

When children are feeling different emotions, it is good to validate these feelings so that they know you are acknowledging, accepting and respecting the emotions that a child is experiencing. It involves communicating to that child that their feelings are real, understandable and legitimate.

Validation does not necessarily mean that you agree with the content of the feelings but rather you are recognising that the emotions of the child are valid and meaningful for them. I would always say to the child "I can see you are feeling sad/scared/angry"

Acknowledging Feelings

Acknowledge the child's emotions directly by using phrases like this.

**I am here to support you through this..*

**I am sorry you are going through this..*

**I understand this is difficult for you..*

**Your feelings matter to me..*

**It's ok to feel the way you do..*

Empathy

Put yourself in the child's shoes and try to understand their perspective.

Non – Judgement

Avoid passing judgement on the child's feelings and just listen to me.

Support

Express your willingness to provide support. You will help them. Let the child know that you are there for them and that their feelings are important to you.

Date to remember!

Our next Thrive workshop will start in the Summer Term. We are looking at running them on a Tuesday Night starting on 4th June to 9th July. If you would like to book a space, please email me as they will go very quickly. D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org

A Reading Community

This week, Mrs Parker, our Assistant Headteacher & Year 4 teacher, shares her recommendations:

EYFS

The Runaway Pea by Kjartan Poskitt

It's time for tea, but one pesky pea has decided to ping himself off the plate in search of a party!

The rogue pea shoots, flings and bounces across the kitchen as he embarks on his perilous adventure - but will he find the fun he is looking for or is the kitchen a scarier place than he thought?

KS1

The Lion inside by Rachel Bright & Jim Field

*In a dry dusty place where the sand sparkled gold, stood a mighty flat rock, all craggy and old.
And under that rock in a tiny house, lived the littlest, quietest, meekest brown mouse.*

Fed up of being ignored by the other animals, Mouse wishes he could roar like Lion. But, as he discovers, even the biggest, bossiest people are scared sometimes ... and even the smallest creatures can have the heart of a lion!

LKS2

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is the second book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has been drawing readers of all ages into a magical land with unforgettable characters for over sixty years.

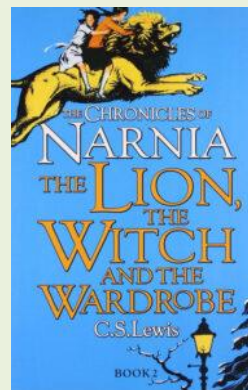
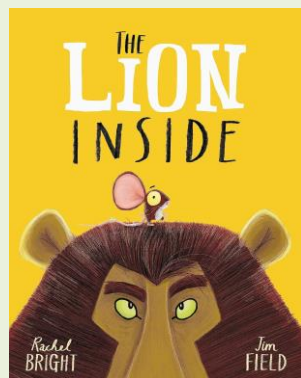
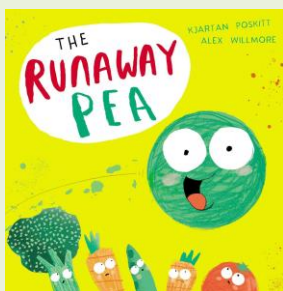
UKS2

Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin

Syms Covington has landed the job of a lifetime - cabin boy and fiddler on Charles Darwin's Beagle - but when he is separated from the crew during a storm, his life takes a truly extraordinary turn.

Shipwrecked on a Galapagos island, he makes a discovery that could change the world - and make his fortune. But should he share his find, or will it lead to the extinction of a legendary species?

There's one person who could help, but he's busy writing a book ...



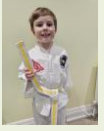
Our Children's Talents and Interests



Aurora, Year 1- has enjoyed being a scientist last weekend, experimenting with what sinks and floats.



Bella, Year 4- finished her first canvas painting of a spring lake landscape. She was really proud of the final piece.



Elliot, Year 1- took part in his first grading assessment at the weekend in taekwondo. He achieved his yellow stripe belt & is very proud.



William, Year 2- was very pleased to win player of the week at his rugby club this week.



Toby, Year 5- attended his first rugby training session last weekend. He got awarded players 'player of the week'. We are very proud of him.



Isla, Year 3- cut her hair and donated 11 inches to the little princess trust. She also raised £120 in the process for them. This is an amazing achievement, and we are very proud of her.



Henry, Year 5- Henry, his older sister and mother were extremely kind to bake Challah bread for Larch Class to try out.



Delilah, Year 1- turned 6 and got her first ninja kart and took it out for the first time on the track. She has got to work hard for her driving test which is booked for a few weeks' time so she can race properly with her big sister Dolly-Rae who is currently the only girl on the track.



Dolly-Rae, Year 3- is currently third in the winter points championship after scoring at 2nd, 4th, and 3rd this weekend. This is her getting her trophy from the world saloon stock car champion 2023 (Dolly's idol).



Florence, Year 1- went ice skating last week and after knocking her confidence falling over initially she persevered and was eventually able to skate around the help of her polar bear aid. Well done Florence.



Teddie, Year 3- he was a very brave boy when having his broken teeth mended. He got a purple minion as a treat.

Our Children's Talents and Interests..cont



Autumn, Year 5- has auditioned for a part in the Musical, Buggy Malone. She has successfully been given a role in Fat Sam's gang.



Zach, Year R- On Saturday, Zach completed his first karate grading and gained his red belt, he was very nervous going in, but came out beaming!



Darcie, Year 3- she learned to roller skate after getting her skates for Christmas. She's very good and picked it up very quickly.

In other news...

Computing Update from Mrs Winsor

KS2/3 Game - Digital Explorers

London Grid for Learning have created a fabulous new (free) board game for KS2/3 children exploring online safety themes. On the same download page there is also a student-led film plan to get parents engaged with online safety. You can download both [HERE](#).

Sals shoes Collection



Children tend to outgrow their shoes before they outwear them and feet in shoes are protected feet. Feet protected from injury and infection; and in areas of low sanitation the spread of infection.

Shoes are relatively difficult to recycle because of all the different components they are made up of. So Sals shoes find your preloved children's shoes new feet.

In their first year Sals shoes collected just under 5,000 pairs of shoes. 10 years on, they have now found new feet for over 5,000,000 pairs of Sal's Shoes in 61 countries around the world, including increasingly here in the UK.

At Hillcroft we would like to collect your preloved children's shoes and donate them to Sals shoes for them to find new feet. We will have a collection box labelled in the reception area starting on Monday 5th February. Let's see how many pairs of shoes we can collect!

If you would like to find out more information about Sals shoes, please visit their website at www.salsshoes.com

Attendance Notice

A reminder to 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.

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers in school to hear children read or support on school trips. If you are able to offer any support, however big or small- please email Mrs Page on a.page@hillcroftschoool.org. Your time and support is really appreciated.