

# HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Nurturing children to achieve their personal best*

**October 11th 2024**



Dear Parents & Carers,

Autumn is here and it has been lovely to see our very youngest children out exploring the grounds and thoroughly enjoying an Autumn Walk.

Thank you to all those families who were able to join our Virtual Reading workshops. The slides for these are available on the school website. Please keep an eye on the key dates for future workshops.

## **Key Dates:**

Please click in the link below to access our key dates document. This is updated throughout the year and we encourage you all to check it regularly to ensure you have up to date information about the key events happening in school.

**[Key Dates Document](#)**



## **Talents and Interests**

If your child has achieved their latest swimming certificate or excelled at football club, we want to know!

During our Friday assembly we share photos and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of children outside of school.

We may not be able to share all achievements each week. On these occasions class teachers will share within their classes so achievements can be celebrated with classmates.

Please send photos with a brief description of the achievement to  
[l.bonnell@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:l.bonnell@hillcroftschoo.org)



Please check the key dates document for Open Classroom timings. These are taking place for children in KS1 and KS2 in the last week of this half term.

# VISION AND VALUES

Hillcroft's vision encompasses everything that we are working towards as a school, for all stakeholders. Our vision is about driving the school forward and seeking to motivate and unify everyone to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children during their time at Hillcroft.

Hillcroft's vision statement is:

## **Nurturing children to achieve their personal best**

Hillcroft Primary is a caring and supportive school which nurtures its community to build trusting relationships and develop a love of learning to achieve their personal best.

Through this vision we aim to provide the following for all our children, staff and families:

### **Trusting Relationships**

At Hillcroft Primary School,

- We nurture positive, healthy relationships between all
- We nurture all, to feel confident in themselves and their choices
- We nurture a supportive relationship between home and school.

### **Love of Learning**

At Hillcroft Primary School,

- We inspire holistic and enriching learning opportunities that embed a love of learning
- We inspire learners to grow in confidence by providing risk taking opportunities
- We inspire all learners to explore and thrive.

### **Personal Best**

At Hillcroft Primary School,

- We strive to have high expectations of ourselves and others
- We strive to achieve our personal best
- We strive to recognise and celebrate the achievements of all.

This vision provides a roadmap for the school's direction and a framework for offering all children the best possible education. It is important for us that all children, staff and families not only know and understand the vision, but that they are also committed to its implementation and success.

# KEY PRIORITIES

We feel, as a school, that it is important to share our vision and our key priorities. Having key priorities in place does not mean that other areas of the school community / curriculum will not still be worked on, however it is vitally important that we have a number of priorities that we focus on and drive forward throughout the year to further improve the school and the education that we provide the children with at Hillcroft.

Hillcroft Focus Areas 24/25:

Strand	Strategic Priorities
<b>Strand 1: Quality of Education</b>	To continue to strengthen high quality teaching ensuring that our ambitious and inclusive curriculum creates a culture of high aspirations ensuring ALL children make exceptional progress from their starting points.
<b>Strand 2: Behaviour and attitudes</b>	To ensure consistency of approach to behaviour across the school and further embed robust systems promoting ALL pupils' positive behaviours and attitudes.
<b>Strand 3: Personal Development</b>	To continue to strengthen our highly ambitious dawn to dusk offer to deepen personal development through providing ALL children with a wide, diverse and rich set of experiences.
<b>Strand 4: Leadership and management</b>	To continue to ensure that highly effective leadership has a positive impact on the QofE and pupil outcomes. To continue to drive all revenue streams, working within the budget set for the school.
<b>Strand 5: EYFS</b>	To ensure our highly effective Early Years provision is continually adapted to meet the needs of ALL children.



## Early Years

In Nursery the children have been exploring the great outdoors. They have explored our large school field on the hunt for different coloured Autumn leaves. Part of the challenge was making sure they could all put on wellies and coats to keep their feet dry. Well done!

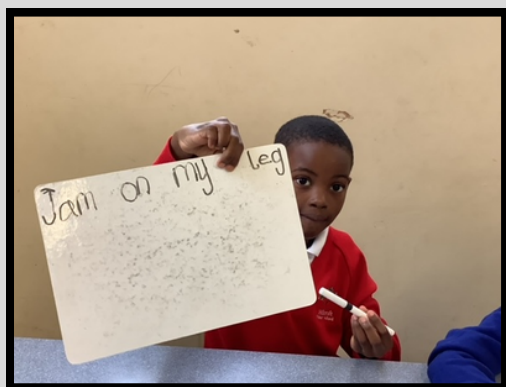


In Reception, children have continued to build their knowledge of different sounds. Every day the teacher spends time with the children teaching and reviewing the sounds and beginning to blend them into words. All with the help of 'Fred' the frog.

## KS1

Year 1 have been continuing to look at different materials. They have used vocabulary such as **opaque**, **transparent** and **translucent** to describe them.

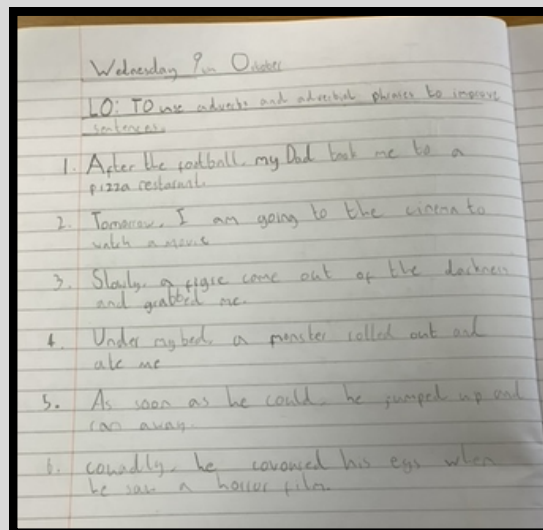
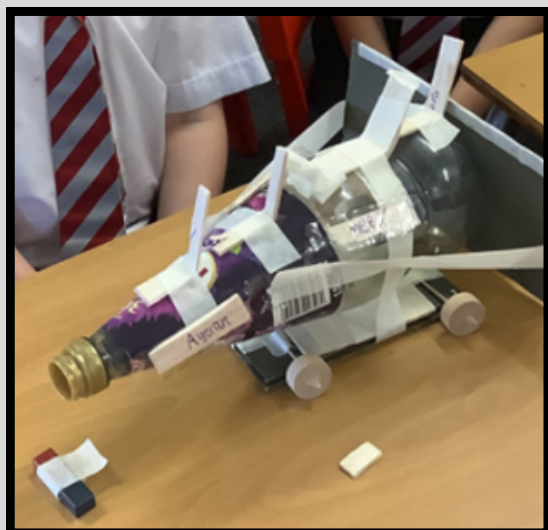
Year 2 have been bringing in their teddies from home. Their Autumn 1 project will be to make a coat for them. This week they have been considering different materials and their properties.



## LKS2

Year 3 used their learning about wheels and axles to make magnet powered cars. They have used a range of materials and considered how they could be joined.

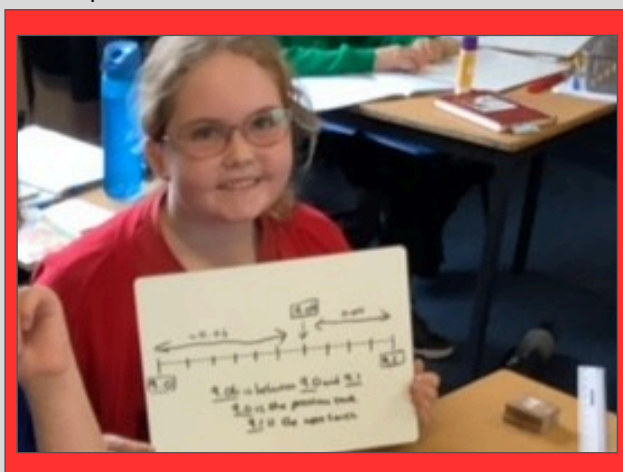
Year 4 have finished their first book of the half term, The Queen's Nose. Children have also been using adverbs and adverbial phrases to improve their sentences.



## UKS2

Year 5 have been learning all about rounding in their Maths lessons. They have used number lines to support their learning and deepen their understanding.

Year 6 have started looking at features of non-fiction texts. They have worked with a partner to identify the key features in preparation for writing their own non-chronological reports. They will be imagining their own planets and giving detailed descriptions of them.





# ALL ABOUT ROBLOX

**7**  
www.pegi.info

Online Safety  
Shareable by

**INEQE**  
SAFEGUARDING GROUP

    
ineqe.com

Have you ever dreamed of creating your own videogame? Roblox is an online gaming platform that allows you to do just that - create games for others or play games that others have created! It is popular with children and young people all over the world who are interested in the world of online gaming.

## YOU CAN FIND ROBLOX ON



PC, Mac, iOS, Android, Xbox  
- even in some VR headsets!

## Roblox Numbers

**Over 50 Million**

DAILY ACTIVE USERS.



**67% of users**

ARE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD



**72% of session**

HAPPEN ON MOBILE DEVICES



**Users play 2.6 hours**

ON AVERAGE PER DAY



## PLAY

To play any game in Roblox, it's simple. Visit any experience, press the green 'play' button, download relevant software, and head on in!

## CREATE

To create your own Roblox game, you'll have to install the Roblox Studio. This will equip you with easy tools to help you build your idea!

## What is a Server?

A server is part of the gaming system that allows you to interact with other players online. Most games have a public server, but there is an option to create your own private server and invite your friends to play together - without any strangers! Every server has a maximum capacity, which can vary.







## GOOD TO KNOW!





Roblox has parental controls and safety settings enabled by default for children under 13 - which is why registering with a real DOB is important!

## Top Tips

## Pros

-  Encourages creativity and imagination.
-  Demonstrates the benefits of teamwork.
-  Grows further technical and design skills.
-  Teaches critical thinking/problem solving.

## Cons

-  Adds to screentime fixation and distractions.
-  Creates opportunities for cyberbullying attacks.
-  Uses online chat that allows stranger interaction.
-  Suggests paid for options to 'improve' experience.



## [Ask open questions]

"What do you like about Roblox?"



## [Talk about privacy]

"Let's make this both safe AND fun!"



## [Know how to report/block]

"We can figure it out together."



## [Encourage creativity]

"Tell me about the games you like best."



## [Discuss online safety]

"Here's why we don't talk to strangers..."



## [Set spending boundaries]

"You can use chore money for Roblox."

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## A message from Mrs Pearson

This half term in Thrive, we have been looking at different emotions and ways to lift a low mood. Everyone feels sad sometimes and that is completely normal. Our feelings come and go all the time. However, if you are feeling sad or low and it lasts for longer and starts to affect your everyday life then try some of these helpful tips.

- 1. Share your feelings with someone. It can be helpful to talk about how you are feeling.**
- 2. Challenge any unhelpful thoughts. Remind yourself that thoughts are not facts.**
- 3. Take care of your wellbeing and make sure you get enough sleep, food and water daily.**
- 4. Start your day with a positive thought and end your day with three good things that have happened during the day.**
- 5. Some daily exercise that makes your heart pump faster. It might be hard, but it can make you feel much better.**
- 6. Take time out every day (10-15 minutes) to do something you enjoy and that relaxes you.**
- 7. Music is very powerful. Listen to your favourite music.**
- 8. Relax in a hot bath with a candle lit.**
- 9. Keep a mood diary and write down your feelings.**
- 10. Sit and watch TV as a family.**

Ask your children what they have learnt about their emotions. Ask them how do they calm down when feeling angry? What do they do when they are feeling hurt? Who can they speak to when feeling sad? All these emotions have been spoken about this half term.

If you can have a look on YouTube at these amazing feelings and emotions stories.

The Colour Monster! The Feelings Doctor

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYzXeP3c\\_L0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYzXeP3c_L0)

Coping Skills for Kids - Managing Feelings & Emotions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs-MyQgfH3A&t=13s>

7-Minute Emotion Regulating Activity to Help Kids Calm Down!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORRdf\\_nLc\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORRdf_nLc_I)

## Important news

We are also running a Family Thrive Workshop in November. This will run for 6 weeks starting on Monday 4th November to Monday 9th December.

Times will be 5:30pm – 7:00pm. If you are interested in coming, please email [D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:D.Pearson@hillcroftschoo.org) or [t.copard1@glfschools.org](mailto:t.copard1@glfschools.org)

# COFFEE MORNING FOR SEN PARENTS



## Tandridge Family Centre

**The last Friday of  
each month  
10.30-12.00**

### **Connect Café Coffee Morning for SEN Parents**

Come along to the Tandridge Family Centre and meet other parents and carers with SEN children.

Share your experiences, struggles, ideas and tips  
in a supportive environment.

The session runs every last Friday of each month. Check on website for updates  
and term timetable or follow the QR code for email.

This is not a playgroup, but young children are welcome.

For more  
information scan  
the QR code or  
call: 01883  
723496



**Tandridge Family Centre, Wolfs Wood,  
Oxted, Surrey  
RH8 0HJ**



**Changing childhoods.  
Changing lives.**



# HILLCROFT NUT SAFETY STATEMENT

Hillcroft school has a NO NUTS policy to protect the health and wellbeing of staff members, children and volunteers who suffer with nut allergies.

Many nut allergies are serious and so we ask that both staff and child lunches and snacks do not contain nuts of any kind and that products with nuts in the ingredients are not used. This includes items like peanut butter, Nutella spread and snacks, certain cakes and cereal bars among others.



Please always check the ingredients of a food if you are unsure before sending it in with your child. Any nut products found in snacks or lunches will be confiscated and will be unable to be consumed. The school office should be informed immediately if a child has an allergy to nuts.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



In October we celebrate Black History Month, focusing on some of the key figures and moments from the Civil Rights movement both in Britain and abroad. We will be introducing this with an assembly, and there will be themes running through our life skills lessons.

Towards the end of the half term, every year group will have the opportunity to watch a film or TV series bringing to life some of the issues which we will then be examining in class. Hopefully this will then feed into discussions both at home and in school around racism and equality.

# ATTENDANCE

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of the receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
1. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 9 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at a flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you NOT receive a third penalty notice - Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer, in the Magistrates Court under Section 444 Education Act 1996