

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

November 15th 2024

Christmas Fair



Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you to all families who were able to attend the parents evenings this week. Please do get in touch with your child's class teacher if you were unable to make an appointment.

On Sunday 24th November we have our school Christmas Fair. Please do come along from 11 - 3pm and support.

Elf Academy can be booked online.

GLF welcomes your feedback. Please complete the parent survey on page 2.

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



Rabbits

The school rabbits Luna and Dobby love meeting the children and are a great way to teach children about kindness, empathy and understanding the feelings of others.

Baby News

Congratulations to Miss Mayhew on the safe arrival of her little girl, Lola.

Thank you for all your kind wishes.



**Christmas Fair
24th November**

Our aim is to give children and young adults the best possible start in life. To do this, we aim to run great schools for our communities of pupils, parents and staff.

Please help us understand how well we are doing, and how we can do even better by sharing your views in the Stakeholder Voice Survey for Parents.

Our parent and carer survey gives you the opportunity to express your views on how well we support your child's learning and personal development and how we communicate with you. Our goal is to for you to have your say and have your voice heard, so that we can create the best learning environment for your child.

To complete the survey, please [click here](https://edurio.com/poll/J3Hmdg):

<https://edurio.com/poll/J3Hmdg>



Please note that the survey will be open between 15 November and 2 December.

Surveys will take 20-30 minutes to complete and need to be completed in one sitting. Please note, your responses will be anonymous, so please be open.

Thank you for your support and views. If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch.

We look forward to your feedback!



LIFESTYLE NEWS

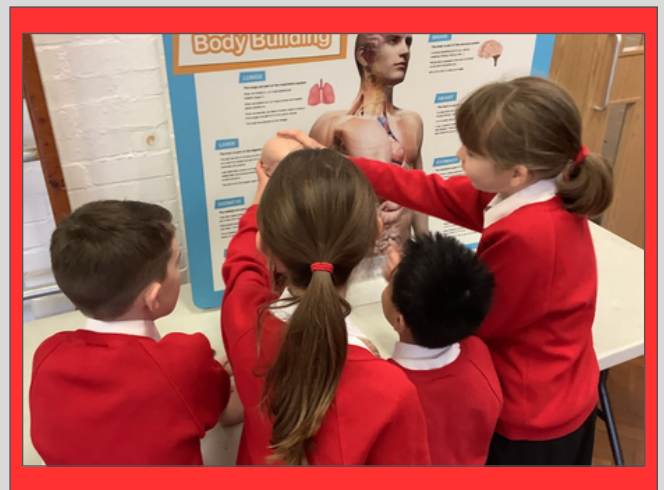


PE Spotlight

Last Friday a group of children from across Key Stage 2 enjoyed some expert hockey coaching from Caterham School's director of hockey. All of the children had fun experiencing hockey on a National League standard surface and came away with new skills and big smiles.

Healthy Living

On Monday and Tuesday, all pupils from Reception to Year 6 took part in an incredible, engaging workshop based around healthy lifestyles. This was delivered by A-Life, a company specialising in supporting healthy, active lifestyles. Pupils worked in groups to complete challenges based around diet and exercise, learning lots of useful information in the process.



Early Years

In Nursery we have been learning about why we celebrate Bonfire Night and exploring fireworks. We also learnt the importance of keeping safe.

This week in Reception, we celebrated Diwali. We discussed how it is celebrated and the different things we might see during Diwali. We made our own Diwa lamps and did some dancing too!



KS1

Year 1 have been on an Autumn walk. They explored their surroundings and looked at how things are changing with the season. We also looked at the different structures and buildings in our local area ready for our next project.

Year 2 have started our learning about the Great Fire of London. We have been comparing life in London in the year in 1666 to modern London.



LKS2

In Year 3 and 4 we have all enjoyed a healthy living workshop. Thank you to A-Life for coming in and giving the children lots to think about.



UKS2

Year 5 and 6 had a visitor this week from Irene Keefe who was a student at Hillcroft in 1944. She talked to the children all about what Hillcroft was like then compared to now. The children were shocked to discover that the toilets were outside and had no roof! The children also learnt about what it was like to be a student at Hillcroft during the war.



TALENTS AND INTERESTS

Every week in our Friday assembly we celebrate the talents and interests of our children. See the superstars we have celebrated over the last two weeks. If your child has a special achievement they would like to share please send some details and a photo to l.bonnell@hillcroftschool.org.

Roman	Year 1	Taekwondo Yellow Stripe
Thalia	Year 2	Knitting
Chloe	Year 2	Dancing
Ethan	Year 4	Football
Sophie	Year 6	Knitting a blanket for Miss Mayhew's baby
Cameron	Year 2	Football
Albie	Year 2	Best fancy dress



TALENTS AND INTERESTS CONTINUED

Ollie	Year 1	Football
Eden	Year 4	Pony Club Rosette
Mimi	Year 4	Pony Club Rosette



YOUR GUIDE TO Group Chats

Group chats are a type of communication involving multiple users that happen on most messaging platforms. While they have been around since the invention of online messaging (think chatrooms!), popular use has grown in the last decade.

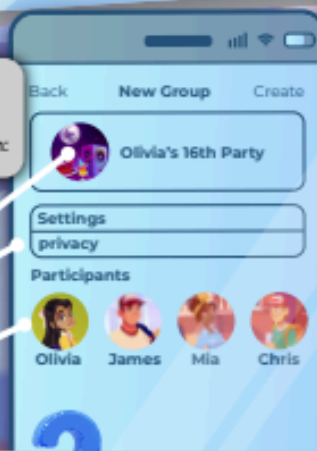
HOW DO THEY WORK?

Once a user creates a group chat on a messaging platform, they can:

Choose the name of the group & select a group photo

Set up the sharing and privacy settings

Add other users as members of the group



Who can be in a group chat?

Anyone can be in a group chat as long as they are a user on that platform. Most platforms have age restrictions (usually 13+) but there are not always robust age verification processes in place.

Why do young people use them?

- Stay connected to friends, family, or teammates.
- Send important information to multiple people.
- Discuss specific interests or events with others.
- Organise meetings for school, work, extracurriculars, etc.

More than 8 out of 10 parents

are concerned their child will be cyberbullied on a group chat.

The Risks of Group Chats

Bullying. Many young people have reported being left out of group chats, experienced bullying within them or have been made fun of in a chat they weren't included in.

Image sharing. Young people may feel pressured to share sexual imagery of themselves. Even if they choose to share an image with just one person, they may lose control if it is shared in a group chat.

Disappearing messages. A function of many group chats which allows users to delete messages or automatically make them vanish after a set time (e.g., on Snapchat) which can present opportunities for bullying or coercion when sharing inappropriate images.

Information leak. Being in a group chat could unintentionally lead to private information being shared, such as mobile numbers or live locations.

Stranger interaction. A young person may not know everyone they are in a group chat with, potentially exposing them to harmful interactions.

Inappropriate content. If someone sends in something that is inappropriate, it may expose a young person to content they were not prepared to see.

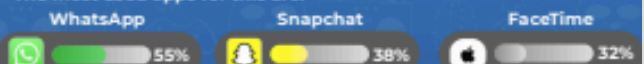
Excessive screentime. Some group chats might be receiving messages 24/7, which could draw a young person's attention at inappropriate times!

When using WhatsApp, images can automatically save to the user's camera roll, unless adjusted in the settings. This may lead to young people unintentionally possessing harmful or illegal images by default of someone else sending them into a group chat.

The most important thing you can do for a young person is to ensure they know who their trusted adults are and that they can always talk to them without fear of consequences. Here are some other preventative steps that you can take:

- Ensure they understand what information should be kept private.
- Talk about appropriate behaviour towards others online.
- Discuss the risks of sharing nude or semi-nude images.
- Enable and review privacy settings together - use our Safety Centre to help!
- Teach how to block, mute and report other users or chats.
- Adjust auto-saving settings on WhatsApp.
- Set family rules and screentime limits on devices.

Group messaging functions exist across various social media and gaming platforms. The most common way 3-17-year-olds interact online is through communicating via messaging/video platforms. The most used apps for this are:



If a young person does seek your help...

- Listen and reassure them that they have done the right thing.
- Include them in any decisions that follow.
- Screenshot evidence of bullying as soon as possible.
- Only ban the use of the platform where necessary for their safety.
- Involve parents or relevant staff if children are at risk.
- Contact organisations who can help.
- Do not respond directly to harmful or hurtful messages.
- If you believe a child is in immediate danger, contact the police without delay.

SOS

NEVER SCREENSHOT AN INDECENT IMAGE OF A CHILD!



Be a STAR and donate a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal OUT SHOPPING?

Please help us make Christmas special for those who are struggling this Christmas.



By adding an extra gift to support Caterham Salvation Army

We believe every child deserves **NEW GIFTS** so they are special. So we are unable to take second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal. Stuck for gift ideas? Suggested gifts are:

- **0-5 years: (Baby and Pre School age):** large dolls / dinosaurs, soft toys, mobiles, bath toys, nursery rhyme and story books, large and wood block puzzles, large cars / lorries, crayons, building blocks / Duplo, musical toys, dressing up outfits; wooden train sets
- **5-11: (Primary school age):** family and trivia games, toys, stationery (colouring sets, felt-tip pens, paints), books, puzzles, construction kits / Lego, art & craft activities, Barbie / action dolls, foot or hoops balls, hair accessories, gloves/hats/warm socks, race track sets
- **11-14: (High School age):** £10 "Amazon" or £10 "One4All" gift cards, toiletry sets or make up.

PLEASE DONATE NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS BEFORE 1st DECEMBER.

Collection points are at Caterham Tesco, Morrisons and The Westway Centre.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help sort, pack and deliver the gifts between 2nd and to 13th December. Do call 01883 330718 for detail of how to get involved.



Christmas
Appeal



The Salvation Army is a Christian Church & registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009959; Social Trust Registered Charity No. 215174 and in Scotland SC037691; The Salvation Army Trustee Company, registered number 00259322 (England and Wales).

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



Thank you to all those families who baked or bought cakes for our Year 1 cake sale. A total of £271.61 was raised. This will go towards funding for our school trip.