

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

November 28th 2025

Dear families,

Last week we welcomed families and special guests into school for the official opening of our new 2-3 year old Nursery room – Holly Class. It was a wonderful afternoon and we would like to thank everyone who could come. Special thanks go to Mrs Goodier and Miss Jenions for their delicious cupcakes and Mrs Pearson for organising wonderful balloons. The Key Stage 2 choir sang beautifully and it felt like a real whole school celebration. We are incredibly proud of our Early Years provision and the team are committed to ensuring we serve the Caterham community well.

As we enjoy a range of festive activities, we know how challenging changes to timetables can be to our young learners. Please do speak with your child's class teacher if you feel they will need some extra support in the coming weeks. We are here to help.

Key Dates:



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

Key Dates Document

Follow us on Instagram:

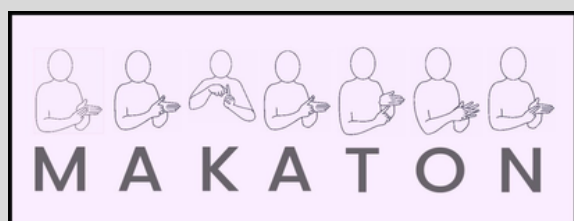
@hillcroftprimaryschool



Sign Language

Each week we introduce a new sign to children in our whole school assembly. This week we have looked at a range of different greetings.

Click the Makoton image below for a video.



Nursery Opening





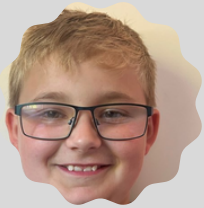
CHILDREN IN NEED



Together we raised £403.64.

Thank you everyone for your donations.

Raising money for Children In Need, is one of our pupils, Fraser. He has committed to cycling 25km in November.



Please see his [Just Giving Page](#) for more information and to support him with his fundraising efforts. Well done Fraser!

St. Mary's Church
Church Hill Caterham

Christmas Fair

Saturday 29th November
11.00am - 2.00pm

A lovely way to start
the Christmas season...

Cakes,
Bottle Tombola,
Jewellery, Jam Stall,
Gifts, Hamper Raffle,
Musical Performances
and
Refreshments



Parish Office: 01883 348751

CLOTHES NEEDED

Early Years would welcome
donations of the following:



trousers
tops
socks
underwear

Our Early Years children enjoy playing outside in all kinds of weather, which often involves getting very wet in the puddles!

Our spare clothes supplies are running very low and we would welcome donations to our collection.

We would also welcome donations of plastic bags to send wet clothes home in.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should it be needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:

6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is a professional development and EYFSP coordinator at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/children/children19/children19.pdf>

TALENTS AND INTERESTS



Thea	Reception	Rugby
Olly	Year 1	Piano
Joni	Year 3	Cooking paella
Matthew	Year 3	Blue Peter Badge for craft
Imogen	Year 5	Rugby
Edward	Year 5	Rugby
Dolly-Rae	Year 5	Best Female of the Year



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/carers per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of 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.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 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 the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carers 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.
3. 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 will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carers per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

SICKNESS AND MEDICATIONS

When should I keep my child off school?

The Following NHS guidelines state;

- Chicken pox; for at least 5 days from the onset of rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
- Diarrhoea and vomiting; return 48 hours after last episode of either.
- Cold and flu like illnesses; if your child has no temperature then minor symptoms can be managed at school. With a temperature, keep them home until this has subsided and they are feeling well enough.
- Impetigo; Keep your child home until all sores have crusted and healed or 48 hours after they have started antibiotics.
- Measles; Keep your child home until at least 4 days after the rash first appeared.
- Mumps; keep your child home for 5 days after the swelling started.
- Scarlet Fever; keep your child home until 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
- Whooping Cough; keep your child home until 48 hours after starting antibiotics.

Children can attend school with;

- Hand Foot and Mouth, if they are well enough.
- Head Lice; Please ensure you treat the child/family according to the treatment, and repeat as instructed. Also, please let school know as soon as you are aware.
- Threadworms; Please treat accordingly and ensure hand hygiene is practiced often.
- Slapped Cheek.
- Tonsillitis.

Calpol may be administered in school if you feel there is a need for your child throughout the school day. Please speak to office staff who will provide a medication form to be completed. Where possible please supply the Calpol/paracetamol as we have only limited emergency supply.

Antibiotics can be administered again with a medication form, however only if the medication is needed 3 or more times a day.

A high temperature is classified as 38 degrees. If your child has a temperature during the school day, we will contact you to come and collect them. Please do not send your child/children into school with a high temperature. Always seek medical advice from your GP.

A message from Mrs Pearson

WOW! I cannot believe we are already half way through this half term and it will nearly be Christmas. We have looked at our feelings and how we can control what we say and do through Kindness. Anti bullying week, we looked at the "Power of Good"

We looked at how we are able to empower everyone to be able to safely speak up and raise awareness when they see/or being bullied whether it's face to face or even on-line. We talked about different platforms for on-line like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and Snap-Chat. I know you may be thinking that the children shouldn't have some of these accounts, but they do.

During our Thrive session and in class we looked at how everyone has the power of good. This could be by the power of being kind, to include others and to speak up if we see someone being unkind or hurt. We want every child to have the power and choice to be kind, to encourage others to speak up and to help to stand up and stop anyone feeling sad and alone.

If you would like to look at the website, there are lots of different videos and activities. <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/anti-bullying-week-2025>

"FAMILY THRIVE" Workshop

We will be running this 6 weeks course from Tuesday 20th January 2026 to Tuesday 3rd March 2026. The course will be from 5:30pm - 7:15pm. To let you know this is the NEW version of Family Thrive and is different from the last one. If interested please message as it is first come basis.

Email if interested: D.Pearson@hillcroftschoools.org



Forest school happens in all weathers, please make sure children are wrapped up warm so that they can enjoy their session.

LAYERING FOR WINTER

A layer-by-layer guide to staying warm and dry.

- 1 Base Layer:** The layer worn next to the skin should be moisture-wicking, like 100% merino or a wool blend. Avoid cotton.
- 2 Mid Layer:** Should be flexible, and leave room for warm air, such as a thick sweater and knit leggings, like Tubes.
- 3 Outer Layer:** Choose a wind-, rain and snow-proof "shell" that will keep the elements out.

MINIMIZE LAYERS - CHOOSE THE RIGHT FABRIC
Opting for less bulky layers increases comfort and mobility! Sometimes two strong but light layers is enough. For example, a pair of moisture-wicking merino long Johns under a quality, weatherproof shell layer to keep the wind and wetness out.

LAYER WINTER CLOTHES EFFECTIVELY

IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE FABRICS, IT IS HOW THEY ARE WORN:

- Keep layers loose. Too tight layers will squash air pockets and push out all the warm air.
- With the right fabrics, you'll rarely need more than three layers total, no matter the weather.
- Keep your layers dry to stay warm. Moisture replaces warm air and saps heat quickly.
- It's not the fabric itself, but the air trapped in your clothes, that keeps you warm.

WINTERIZING YOUR KIDS. TIP # 3

