

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Friday 16th January

Dear families,

Welcome back after a well-deserved break following a busy Autumn term. The Spring term has already begun with plenty of excitement, including the arrival of snow at the start of last week. It has been wonderful to see the children return with great enthusiasm and energy.

In assembly, Mrs Gear spoke about the importance of courage—whether that means trying something new or asking for help when needed. This focus on bravery and overcoming challenges links closely to our school STRONG values.

A THRIVE focus on respect has been considered by the whole school – respect for one another and for ourselves is important in any community.

If your child has tried something new or achieved something outside of school, please let us know by emailing Mrs Bonnell at l.bonnell@hillcroftschool.org. We would love to celebrate these successes in our Friday assembly.

Have a great weekend,
The Hillcroft Team



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](#)

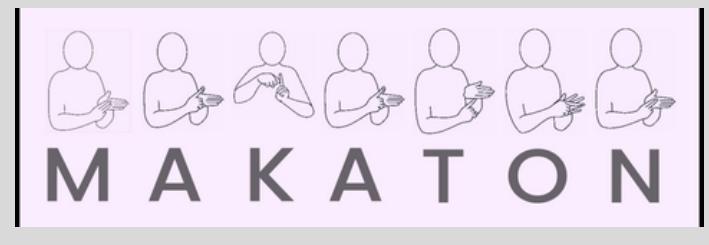
Follow us on Instagram:
[@hillcroftprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/hillcroftprimaryschool)



Sign Language

This term we are learning the song '[Courage](#)' in our school assemblies. To link with this please see the following sign language. This week the signs are 'brave' and 'strong'.

Click the Makaton image below for a video.



Dear families and Hillcroft community,

Welcome to 2026. Though the weather has been cold and wet, our spirits, energy and enthusiasm remains positive and upbeat.

Leading Hillcroft is a genuine privilege. Greeting families and our young people on the gate of a morning, and saying goodbye in the afternoon reminds me of the community spirit that Hillcroft is renowned for. Thank you for your positive engagement at these crucial times.

Huge thanks go to Mrs Gear, Mrs Parker and Mrs Skingley who, as senior leaders, continue to support and teach me on a daily basis. Congratulations to Mrs Gear who I had the honor of appointing as substantive Deputy Head following her commitment to the School as Interim DHT throughout Autumn.

In addition the staff team across the school including cleaners, site staff, Learning Support, Thrive, Acorns, volunteers, SSB members, teachers and admin have demonstrated their commitment to supporting the children who attend Hillcroft but also their families. On behalf of the community, thank you for your efforts and welcome.

Friends of Hillcroft have also shared with me their support for initiatives such as a pond area and enhanced outdoor and Forest School learning opportunities.

However, the biggest thanks goes to the young people of Hillcroft. Thank you for the effort you are putting into your learning and into listening to the advice of adults. I have witnessed parents and staff alike offering support, encouragement and sharing their pride in your growth as young people and your learning. Continue to stay committed to the STRONG values of Hillcroft School.

Wishing you all a sensational weekend.

Paul Jensen
Headteacher



#WakeUpWednesday is a campaign by The National College, which provides weekly guides to parents and educators on online safety, mental health and climate change.

We will continue to use this space to post guides and top tips for helping you to manage online safety at home.

If you would like more information please see the following website:
<https://nationalcollege.com/institutions/national-online-safety>

CAN YOU HELP?



Donate your second hand clothes to school. Bags 2 School will collect good quality adult and children's clothing, paired shoes, hats, belts and handbags.

They do not accept duvets, pillows, soft toys, curtains, towels, cushions or school uniform.

All bags are weighed and the school receive money based on weight.

Please return any bags of clothing to school by Wednesday 11th February at 9:00am



ONLINE SAFETY



Helping Young People Reclaim the Internet

On 19th January, we have the Breck Foundation coming in to talk to our Year 5 and 6 children about the importance of Online Safety for young children.

With their visit, there is an Online Parent Session available, via Zoom, from 18:00-19:00, with the link to follow via Parent Mail.

Parents of children in Year 5 and Year 6 have been sent this information via and it will relate directly to what your child has been taught in school that day.

Please do try to attend this valuable session.

Further information on the Breck Foundation can be found here:
<https://www.breckfoundation.org/>

TALENTS AND INTERESTS



Ruby	Year 3	Parkrun
Leonardo	Year 2	Kung Fu
Joni	Year 3	Lego
Dolly	Year 5	Racing
Frazer	Reception	Bike Riding
Louisia	Year 4	Swimming



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 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/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.
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/carer 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.