

*Nurturing children to achieve their personal best*

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

## ★ School Highlights

This half term is flying by! Our students have been busy immersing themselves in learning, from Year 4's Victorian trip to the East Surrey Museum to Nursery exploring Mrs Heaton's car on the playground.

At Hillcroft, kindness is at the heart of our STRONG values. We recently joined a virtual workshop with the charity 52 Lives, focusing on being considerate, generous, and friendly. These qualities align perfectly with our Behaviour Learning Policy, and the children have continued this work through Thrive sessions and whole-school assemblies.

## 📅 Upcoming Opportunities

The coming weeks are just as busy. Please keep an eye on our regularly updated key dates document for more details:

- 5th & 6th February: Healthy Schools Workshops
- 6th February: Number Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> February: Year 4 Residential

## 🚗 A Community Reminder

Please remember to park considerately during drop-off and collection. Inaccessible paths cause significant issues for our community, particularly for those with buggies or wheelchairs. We highly recommend using the free 3-hour parking at the Co-op to keep our local footpaths clear and safe.

Have a great weekend!



## 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



**Nursery  
Admissions  
Deadline  
13 March 2026**



Nursery applications for 2, 3 and 4 year olds are now live for September 2026 starts



**Visit our website to apply!**



**www.hillcroftschool.org**

At Hillcroft we have high expectations of the way we communicate with each other. In the spirit of this message, please see the Makaton signs for 'please' and 'thank you' on this [Cbeebies link](#).

## SAFEGUARDING



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES**

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**STALKING AND HARASSMENT**

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

**TOOLS FOR BULLYING**

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

**FALSE ACCUSATIONS**

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they can be misused to prove ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

**INVASION OF PRIVACY**

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

**DIFFICULT TO DETECT**

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS**

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

**CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS**

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

**USE DETECTION APPS**

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

**HAVE THE CONVERSATION**

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

**Meet Our Expert**

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *The Guardian*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Telegraph*, and *The New Statesman*. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**

**Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.11.2023.**

Please note that as part of our uniform policy 'smart' watches are not allowed to be worn in school.

Thank you for your support with this.





## BAG 2 SCHOOL

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 11<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00am

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**Hillcroft Primary School**

**Reception & Nursery are looking for:**

- jewellery
- jewellery stands
- mug trees
- purses
- handbags
- sunglasses
- non-working phones
- non-working ipads & tablets

**WE NEED your SUPPORT!**



### Parent Empowerment Group

A four week online course for effectively supporting children and young people who are experiencing anxiety.

Our FREE\* course covers the following topics:

- ✓ Understanding the science of emotions and anxiety;
- ✓ Using quality time to support increased resilience and wellbeing;
- ✓ Parents supporting each other;
- ✓ Steps to success, building braveness with compassion;
- ✓ Managing your child's worries;
- ✓ Creating a bridge of connection between home and school.

The course receives consistent positive feedback from participants and parents feel that the strategies have improved family life.

*Please note: In order to get the best out of the course, participants need to commit to attending each week, using the tools and strategies at home, and share their experiences within a nurturing and supportive space.*

#### Future course dates are:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
 From 9.30am until 11am on Teams

OR

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026  
 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
 From 9.30am until 11am on Teams

To register for our FREE\* course, please follow the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or book, using the QR code:



\* This course is funded by Mindworks Surrey for parents of children & young people living in Surrey only.



## Welcome to 2026!

We hope you have had a restful break; we truly believe 2026 is going to be a wonderful year for our school community. While January is traditionally a time for resolutions and fresh starts, at Hillcroft, we embrace this philosophy every single day. We often remind the children that even after a difficult day, tomorrow is a brand-new beginning. Every day holds small, happy moments to celebrate and appreciate, though sometimes we all need a little help to see them. We encourage you to talk with your children daily to hear about their highlights, and perhaps share a little about your day too. We know life is busy, but "making time" for these small conversations can make a world of difference.

Prioritising Our Well-being Good mental health and well-being start from within, but they are sustained through the care and support of others. If you ever find it difficult to see the good in a day, please remember that you don't have to look alone. If you are struggling or simply find it hard to take that first step, please reach out. Whether it's a quick phone call or an email, our door is always open.

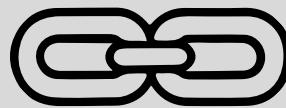
[D.Pearson@hillcroftschool.org](mailto:D.Pearson@hillcroftschool.org) or [tcopard1@glfschools.org](mailto:tcopard1@glfschools.org)

### **Parent Mental Health Day – 30th January**

This focus on community is why we are highlighting Parent Mental Health Day this month. This year's theme, "Supporting Parents, Strengthening Families," focuses on reducing strain and acknowledging how vital a parent's well-being is to the whole family system.

For a wealth of information and supportive resources, we highly recommend visiting the Stem4 website. They offer excellent guidance designed specifically to help parents and carers navigate these challenges.

Let's look forward to a bright 2026 together—reflecting on the good, supporting one another through the bad, and growing stronger as a community.



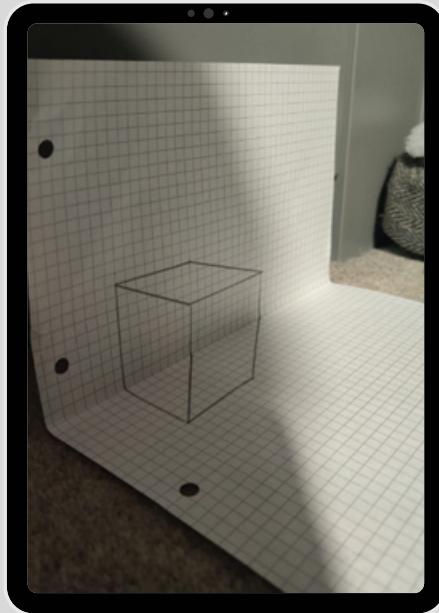
### **"FAMILY THRIVE" Workshop**

We will be running this 6-week course from Tuesday 3rd February 2026 to Tuesday 17th March 2026. The course will be from 5:30pm – 7:15pm.

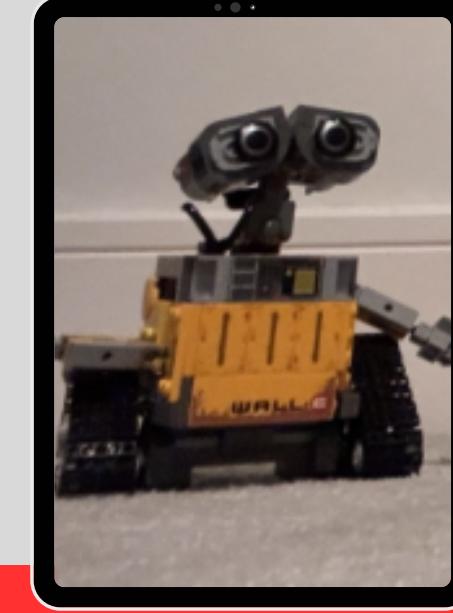
This is the NEW version of Family Thrive.

Email if interested: [D.Pearson@hillcroftschool.org](mailto:D.Pearson@hillcroftschool.org)

# TALENTS AND INTERESTS



Bert	Year 4	Illusion Drawings
Emilia	Year 5	Swimming
Madeline	Year 5	Overcoming Fears
Obie and Rory	Year 4 & 5	Ice Hockey
Poppy	Year 2	Swimming
Kian	Year 4	Lego



# 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.