

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

Friday 27th March

School Highlights

What a wonderful Spring term it has been. This term the children have enjoyed a range of enriching activities included a trip to the Formula 1 Broadcasting Centre in Biggin Hill, a Year 5 trip to De Stafford to see their production of Mary Poppins Jnr and a visit to Caterham School to use their planetarium.



Winners!

Year 5 were proud winners of the Mathletics competition hosted by De Stafford. Congratulations to all involved!



Runners Up

Year 4 pupils feeling proud on their trip to the F1 Broadcasting Centre!



Parking



We've received feedback from local businesses and property owners about vehicles blocking access during busy school times. Please follow all parking restrictions and avoid stopping in areas that block entrances, exits, or customer spaces.

Your considerate parking keeps our pupils safe and supports positive relationships with our neighbours. Thank you for your cooperation.

Easter Competition

Thank you to all the children who took part in our Easter Card Competition. North Downs Hospital were thrilled with the entries.



Key Dates



Please navigate to our [website](#) for information about upcoming key dates.

Back to School

Monday 13th
April

A MESSAGE FROM MR JENSEN

With Easter break upon us, we are provided with an opportunity to reflect on our Spring experiences but also look ahead to what Summer might bring.

Throughout Autumn term, students of Hillcroft have achieved so much. With approximately 450 children attending daily and approximately 5 hours of focussed learning, this equates to 2250 learning hours a day, 11 250 learning hours a week and across the Spring term 123 750 learning hours offered. That is a monumental amount of learning - all delivered by dedicated teaching staff, supported by our invaluable Learning Support assistants.

To recognise the efforts of all students, Key Stage Award ceremonies have been held. Although only a select few students receive awards on the day, I am proud of the collective efforts of all students.

To the students who have engaged with the opportunities to learn, thank you. To the staff who plan, deliver and reflect on these learning events - thank you.

With such a volume of learning under our belts, I am confident that all readers would want to wish our students and staff a deserved and restful break.

My gratitude, on behalf of the staff team, is extended to parents, carers and families for your collective support as we strive to deliver wonderful experiences at Hillcroft for all learners.

To finish off Spring term I was invited to the inaugural Nursey Art Gallery in the hall. I was blown away by the colour mixing and dot paintings. These images and the experience of being shown art with such pride by our youngest cohort will stay with me during Easter.

Summer term brings with it challenges and opportunities, for staff and students. In primary schools across the nation, one focus is SATS. I look forward to welcoming our amazing students back in warmer climes and wish you all a safe Easter break.



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



Mrs Page took the choir to Dorking Halls on Monday to perform as part of the Surrey Primary Singing Festival. We are so proud of the way the children represented Hillcroft and they have continued their singing success this week by joining us at the Prize Giving Assemblies. Well done choir!

We introduce Makaton in Nursery and incorporate small elements into whole school assemblies and as part of our teaching of key vocabulary in Early Years. Follow [this link](#) to find out how Makaton can help your child when they are in the early stages of speech.

SAFEGUARDING



Top 10 Tips to Stay Safe Online

- 1** Don't share your personal information 
- 2** Only talk to people that you know 
- 3** Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online 
- 4** Only accept friend requests from people you know personally 
- 5** Always think carefully about what you post 
- 6** Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts 
- 7** Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are 
- 8** Report inappropriate content immediately 
- 9** Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing 
- 10** Never share your passwords 

High Speed Training

Images from www.flaticon.com

A message for Mrs Pearson:

The Royal Mint is holding a writing competition for 7-11 year olds. Students are invited to submit a story of no more than 500 words based on Gold. From buried treasure to secret vaults filled with gold bars and coin hoards, they are asking students to engage their imagination and write about glistening gold.

The winner will receive a gold coin, £5,000 for their school or local library, and their story illustrated by an artist. The competition closes on 17th April 2026 and winners will be announced in May.

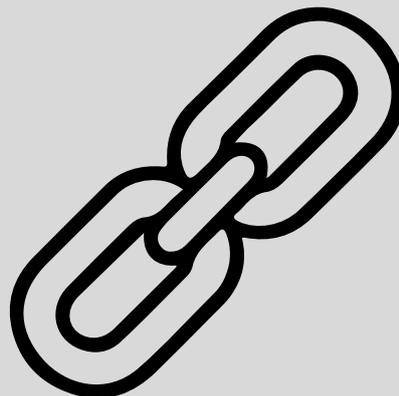
All the information can be found at

<https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/>

New date to keep:

Thrive Day will be on Thursday 25th June 2026

More details to follow.



TRAIN WITH US, GROW WITH US



Hillcroft
Primary School & Nursery

Join us at our in-person teacher training recruitment event at:



Hillcroft Primary School
Caterham CR3 5PG
Monday 20th April
6pm - 7pm

REGISTER HERE



www.glftt.org





Old flowers needed for our Nursery mud kitchen
 If you have any old flowers or petals we would love to use them in our Nursery mud kitchen for potion-making and imaginative play.



SOUTH EAST SURREY DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION
 Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association SESDA Reg. Charity no.281076

Support Evening for Parents and Carers

Monday 20th April 2026
8pm to 10pm

A chance for parents and carers to meet Committee members, who are themselves parents of dyslexic youngsters, and specialist dyslexia tutors, to talk about any concerns they have about dyslexia at home or in school.

Session will include a short talk about a subject that comes up frequently in our meetings.

More details from sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

There will be resources and information for parents about the best way to help at home and how to keep in touch with teachers and SENDCos. Some ideas about how best to support teenagers sitting GCSEs and other exams.

This meeting is free and informal and open to all parents and carers who have an interest in dyslexia.

It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand but not essential.

**Canada Hall, All Saints Church,
 Battlebridge Lane, Merstham. RH1 3HA**

SESDA Helpline: 01737 556 173 and E-mail: sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

East Surrey Hospital Charity
 part of the Surrey & Sussex Healthcare Charity



Surrey & Sussex Healthcare Charity
 Room AD63, Trust HQ, East Surrey Hospital
 Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH
 01737 304668 SASH.Charity@nhs.net

Schools needed! Can your school help local children in hospital?

Dear Hillcroft Primary School

700 people from East Surrey, and West Sussex will spend tonight in East Surrey Hospital. This includes children in hospital following an emergency, or receiving planned care, as well as parents & grandparents. In Outwood Ward, children with cancer will stay overnight in isolation rooms. Often having to stay in the hospital for many days. Away from friends, family, school, and normal life.

We know that being in hospital is hard for children. With your help, we want to change this.

By supporting the Children's Appeal this year, your school community can directly help those children locally who can't be in school.

We need the help of our local community to raise £150,000 to transform the Children's Ward at East Surrey Hospital, with new nicer areas for younger children, as well as a dedicated adolescent mental health space (to feel less like a hospital, and more like an apartment). We hope to enhance the treatment room where children receive medical care, with new wall murals.

With your help, we also hope to enhance the entertainment and distraction available to children of all ages throughout the hospital (including in the children's emergency department), with new gaming consoles, books, and toys. And to transform the children's cancer isolation rooms to feel less like a hospital, and more like a home from home.

Whether you might be able to help in a small or a larger way, we would absolutely love to talk to you about opportunities to work with your school. For an informal discussion – drop me an email anytime at andrew.bickerdike@nhs.net, or give me a call on the mobile – 07966 235171.

Thank you in advance. The support of local schools and our community will make a huge difference for children. When they need us most.

Andrew Bickerdike
 Head of Charity



Registered charity 1054072

Caterham & District Horticultural Society

are hosting a **SPRING SHOW** on Saturday 28th March 2026 in the Westway Centre.

Caterham Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are entering the following class:



A table exhibit of flowers and/or handicrafts by a school or youth organisation. Theme "The World".

Please come along in the afternoon around 3pm and see our table exhibits. We would love local schools to make an entry along with us for the Spring 2027 Show where the theme is "My Recycled Garden"

Contact Mrs K. Murray (Hon Show Secretary) e-mail: caterhamhorti@gmail.com

CATERHAM & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Your Local Gardening Group

Our activities:

- 2 Horticultural Community Shows @ The Westway Centre
- Community Garden @ Westway Allotments
- Annual Question & Answer Session @ The Library
- Plant sale @ The Caterham Carnival
- Speaker Talks, outings & much more.



All levels of interest & abilities welcome

Come & meet us at our shows or at Caterham's Community Garden

For more information on our events please contact us via: caterhamhorti@gmail.com or check our Website: www.caterhamdistricthorticulturalsociety.co.uk
 Facebook: Caterham District Hort Soc
 Instagram: caterhamhorti1



At this year's Spring show you will see a wide variety of daffodils, spring flowers, handicrafts and cooking, along with individual classes for children too.

Caterham & District Horticultural Society membership is £6 per year



9th Caterham Guides meet on a Wednesday at St Mary's Church Hall (jonette.ralph@hotmail.co.uk)

9th Caterham Brownies meet on a Tuesday at St Mary's Church Hall (caterhambrownies@live.co.uk)

4th Caterham Brownies meet on a Thursday at St Francis School (jonette.ralph@hotmail.co.uk)

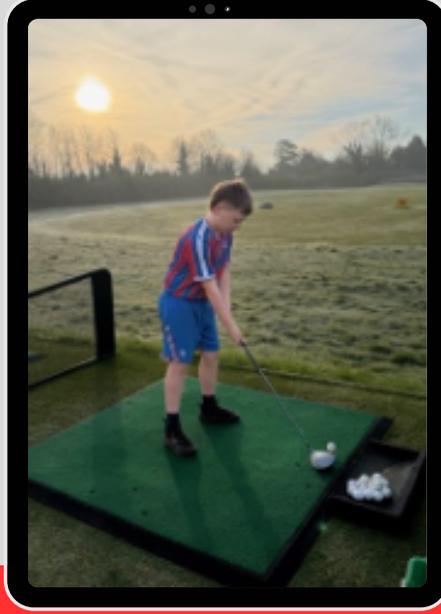
4th Caterham Rainbows meet on a Thursday at St Francis School (jonette.ralph@hotmail.co.uk)



TALENTS AND INTERESTS



Ollie	Year 2	Swimming
Ruby	Year 3	Swimming
Florence	Year 3	Swimming
Mimi	Year 3	Horse Riding
Jack	Year 5	Gold
Ellie	Year 6	Gymnastics



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.