

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Nurturing children to achieve their personal best



Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into another exciting school year, I would like to thank our children, families and staff for the positive start we have made together. Across the school, classrooms are calm and purposeful, children are working hard, and there is a real sense of ambition and pride in being part of the Hillcroft community.

At Hillcroft, we know that excellent attendance, punctuality and positive behaviour provide the foundations for success. Every lesson matters, every minute counts and every day of learning makes a difference. Thank you to the many families who consistently support us by ensuring children arrive on time, attend regularly and are ready to learn. Where attendance or punctuality becomes a concern, we will continue to work closely with families to ensure every child has the very best opportunity to thrive.

As part of our ongoing school improvement journey, we are committed to listening carefully to the views of our community. During the week commencing 21 September, we will be launching a parent and carer survey. Your feedback will help us celebrate what is working well and identify where we can continue to improve. We want every family to have a voice in shaping the future of our school.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that every child experiences the high expectations, strong relationships and excellent opportunities they deserve.

One School. One Team. One Approach. Every Child a Shared Responsibility.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Jensen
Headteacher



Key Dates

- Year 6 Secondary School applications. You can apply for a secondary school place from 1 September 2026. The closing date for on-time applications for secondary schools is **31 October 2026**.
- INSET Day - **Friday 16th October**. School closed to pupils for staff training

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

HILLCROFT'S GOT TALENT!

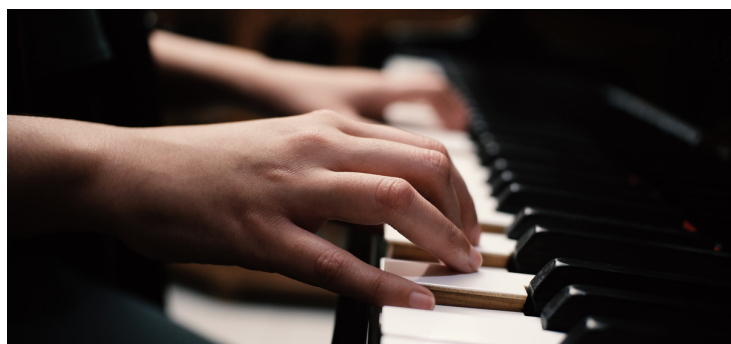
Friday Celebration Assembly

Has your child really sparked in an activity outside of school recently? We would love to celebrate their achievements!

From swimming certificates and sporting trophies to drama performances, music milestones, or chess competitions, please send details to Mrs Bonnell in the office at L.Bonnell@hillcroftschoo.org

A quick note on photos and timings:

- Photos: If you attach a photo, we are happy to display it on screen during assembly. Photos will not be included in the whole-school newsletter.
- Shout-outs: If time runs short in assembly, any achievements we cannot feature on Friday afternoon will be shared and celebrated in your child's classroom.



Good Luck!

A special mention to a number of Hillcroft staff who are taking part in Run Reigate Half Marathon this weekend.

Mr Meyer, Mr Fuhrmann, Mrs Parker, Mrs Parish, Mr Walker and Mrs Gear will all be taking on the 13.1 mile course. Well done team – a great way to stay fit and healthy. We look forward to seeing your medals next week.



SAFEGUARDING

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

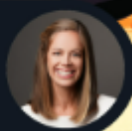
Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



The National College

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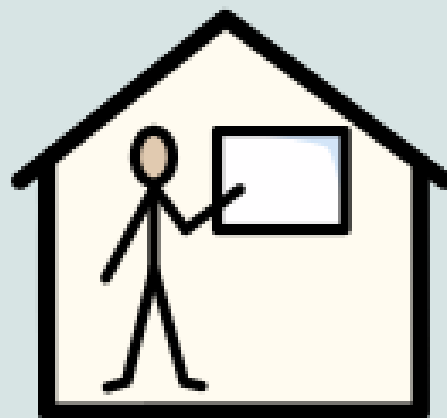
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.08.2025

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.





A message from Mrs Pearson

As we begin another exciting school year, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Thrive Team. As you know, the team works incredibly hard to support the wonderful pupils at Hillcroft and to help them thrive both emotionally and academically.

Holly Class – Cornelia Cooper-Beirne
Early Years / Reception – Vicky Mitchell
KS1 – Dawn Painter
KS2 – Debbie Pearson / Jo Parish
Teacher – Katy Harbourne
HLTA – Louise Hanly

Changes to Thrive Support This Year

This year, we are introducing a new approach to Thrive support so that we can reach as many children as possible and provide timely interventions when needed.

Children accessing Thrive will take part in a 6 week (half term) programme, either through 1:1 sessions or small group sessions. Following this programme, children will usually transition back into their classroom environment unless we feel that further support is required and in these cases, THRIVE has the potential to be extended.

By adopting this approach, we aim to:

- Provide targeted support when it is most needed.
- Help children make positive progress during their Thrive programme.
- Reduce waiting times and enable more children to access Thrive support throughout the year.

In recent years, the need for Thrive at Hillcroft has grown significantly, and we are committed to ensuring that children can access support as and when they need it, rather than facing lengthy waiting lists.

Please note that some children may continue to receive Thrive support for longer periods where this is specified within their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

If you would like to discuss this further or have any questions about Thrive support, please do not hesitate to speak to me. I would be very happy to explain our approach in more detail.

"Helping children build resilience, confidence and emotional wellbeing so they can flourish in school and beyond."

☀ Every Child a shared responsibility. ☀



LEARNING SPACE

LEARNING SPACE WEBINARS

AUTISM AND ADHD WEBINAR

Book a place on our two-hour live webinar for parents/carers of children who may have neurodivergent traits and are curious to learn more; your child does not need to have a diagnosis.

For dates and to register please
[CLICK HERE](#)

Please sign up at least a day in advance to guarantee a place.



PARKING

Please can we remind all our families to be considerate when parking at drop off and collection times. Unfortunately, we have received complaints from local residents who have had their cars blocked in.

The Co-Op offers up to three hours of free parking which can be used.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.



SALVATION ARMY



Christmas WITH CATERHAM SALVATION ARMY CHURCH

Dear parents, carers and guardians,

Caterham Salvation Army Church is inviting you to help us make it a brighter Christmas for families who are struggling this Christmas by donating

- a new, unopened gift for children aged 0 to 11 (pre-school / primary school)
- a toiletry set or £15 (or combinations of £5) Amazon / One4All gift vouchers for teenagers aged 12/16 (High School)
- Please leave the gifts unwrapped as we need to match them to the children referred. Wrapping paper, gift tags or a box of mince pies, chocolate / sweets sharing bags are also welcome.

We look forward to receiving donations up to the end of November, which can be dropped off at local shops with a collection point or at The Salvation Army Church Office at 92 Banstead Road, Caterham, CR3 5QE. (Please call 07407 500920 to check someone is in to receive the donations - please do not leave them on the doorstep).

Are you struggling this year? Do you know a family who is struggling this year? We would be delighted to brighten Christmas with a gift or two. Referrals, with the consent of the parent/carers, should be made to caterham@salvationarmy.org.uk and we will come back to you for further details. It is fine to self refer.

Many thanks for your generosity,
God bless, Ailsa Flinders
Toy Appeal Coordinator

Caterham Salvation Army Church, 92 Banstead Road, Caterham, CR3 5QE | 07407 500920 | caterham@salvationarmy.org.uk



The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and registered Charity No. 214799



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Caterham Salvation Army Church | 07407 500920 | Office 92 Banstead Road, CR3 5QE

0-2 Years
Duplo, rattles, musical toys, mobiles, soft toys, play matt, bath toys

3-4 Years
Playdoh, dress up, dolls, dinosaurs, cars, trains, blocks, books, musical toys, large size jigsaws,

5-7 Years
Craft sets, trains, junior Lego, action figures, books, jigsaw, colouring books, soft toys

7-11 Years
Foot or hoops balls, Barbies, crafting, construction toys, puzzle books, painting sets, warm hats/gloves, rucksacks, books

Families
Family board games, baking kits or hot chocolate kits, wrapping paper, gift tags

12-16 Years
£15 (or multiples of £5) One4All or Amazon gift vouchers, make up, toiletry sets (male and female), nail varnish, after shave, fluffy socks

Treats
Box of mince pies, chocolate or sweets sharing bag, large bag of savory crisps or nibbles

GIFT IDEAS TO "BE A STAR" THIS CHRISTMAS



The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and registered Charity No. 214799

Be a Star!

Caterham Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal 2026

Each year we ensure that Christmas is special for those who may be struggling. The 2025 Christmas Appeal provided 494 presents to families and carers, and also supported those who did not have the means for a Christmas meal.

39 presents went to babies and toddlers

218 presents went to primary aged children

95 presents went to young people aged 12-16 years

126 Christmas hampers were gifted

16 Christmas lunch ingredients were gifted

You can help spread the spirit of Christmas this year to children who would otherwise not receive the joy of opening a gift by donating a NEW UNWRAPPED GIFT.

Or for those who do not have means for a Christmas meal help by giving a financial donation

Help us reach this year's target of gifting 400 presents and 80 hampers.

To get involved or find out more information about the appeal please contact caterham@salvationarmy.org.uk | 07407 500920