



**Hillcroft**  
Primary School

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Creating Learners of the Future

# End of Autumn Term Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> December 2016

Dear Parents,

## Highlights of Autumn Term 2016-17

As we come to the end of our first term of the year, it gives us time to reflect. As always Hillcroft has had a very busy term and one which has seen many achievements, including:

- Enjoyable and successful Year 6 weekend trip to PGL where the children's attitudes and behaviour were commented on to be exemplary.
- Some very positive feedback about the Welcome Parents Evenings and Parent Consultation Evenings.
- Visit from Lorin Lafave and the Breck Foundation. Feedback about workshop from the children and parents has been nothing but positive.
- Some incredibly well supported charity events, including Stand up to Cancer where £828 was made, Children in Need where £429 was made and the Unicef event where £112 was made. We would like to thank you for your continued generosity.
- Year 5 children very successfully took part in the local swimming gala and achieved the bronze medal.
- Many seasonal celebrations, including the Year 3 and 4 Harvest Festival in October and more recently the lovely performances for Christmas. It's always lovely to see our children perform but our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity performances bought a tear to many people's eyes. I'm sure you will join me in thanking staff and children for their hard work in preparing for these celebrations.
- The brilliantly well organised and well supported Christmas fair which raised £2,000. It would never have been possible without our very diligent Friends of Hillcroft and therefore we would like to thank them for their ongoing support and hard work for the school.

## Volunteers

Thank you to all the many volunteers that give up time to come into school and help with activities such as listening to readers, general help in class and supporting on school trips and visits. We really do appreciate everything you do to support our

children at Hillcroft. ***If there are any other parents who can offer any help to the school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the Spring term.***

### **Attendance**

We are happy to report that 115 children have accomplished 100% attendance across this term which has been celebrated with personal letters home from myself. It is so encouraging to see these numbers this high at this time of the year when there is so much sickness around.

As you have probably noticed, attendance has been an important focus for Hillcroft in the past few terms. This is because we know the significantly strong relationship between high attendance and children's progress in their learning. Our school target for attendance is 96.5% and we are pleased to announce that attendance for this Autumn term is 96.0%, only slightly missing our target. However, we are also pleased to announce that this is higher than attendance in the Autumn term for 2015-16 or 2014-15.

If your child is unwell, please ensure you telephone the school office before 8.45 to inform us of this as it is vital we know a child will be off school prior to the registers.

### **Punctuality and new start of the day procedures**

As well as poor attendance having a detrimental effect on a child's learning, poor punctuality has the same impact. For a child to walk into a classroom late, the teacher will have already started teaching, their friends will have already started learning and they have to walk in feeling panicked and anxious, this is not good conditions for learning.

Can we please remind all parents that the bell is rung at 8.45 and therefore we expect to see all children lined up on the front playground at this time. Learning begins at 8.55 and therefore this is the time we expect children to be in their classrooms for the register to be taken at 8.55. For a child to walk through the school door at 8.55 they would not get to their classroom until 9.00, the register will already have been taken and therefore would be considered late. Punctuality will be a focus in the Spring term and therefore persistent lateness may lead to the Education Welfare Service becoming involved.

The changes to the start of the day procedures have been very successful and we have received some very positive feedback from parents and external visitors. A recent Academy audit of the school reported 'the new systems at the start of the day ensure that the children enter the school building calmly and ready to settle to learning quickly.'

Therefore, from January, Key Stage 1 children will follow the same format as Key Stage 2 where they will line up in front of their bus stop and the class teacher will collect them from the playground at 8.45 and lead the classes in. The Key Stage 1 door will remain open until 8.55 for children to enter through however after they will need to enter school through the main school door. Although class teachers will be on the playground at 8.45 to collect the children, they will be available for quick messages

but unfortunately for any communication of a longer nature, an appointment with them will need to be made at the school office.

For Nursery and Reception children, their entry to school will not change and they will continue to enter through the Nursery entrance at 8.45 when the bell sounds and taken to the Reception block for registers at 8.55.

### **Go Green Awards**

Every term, all children's aim and goal is to stay on green level behaviour by demonstrating a consistent approach to the schools STRONG values and behaviour system and aspire to achieve gold level. If a child does stay on green, they receive the Go Green award. We are pleased to report that 75% of children received Go Green award this term.

### **Cash free School**

From January, Hillcroft is becoming a cash free school. This means that we will no longer be able to accept cash payments for anything. Instead, we will ask all parents to use Wisepay to make any kind of payment eg for school trips, dinner money etc. If you do not have a Wisepay account, please contact Mrs Drewett in the school office for instructions outlining how to set one up.

### **Parking**

As you will be aware from the new banners and signs on the road outside of school, parents are not permitted to park directly outside the school or doctors surgery at drop off or pick up. There are double yellow lines and this is solely to ensure the safety of our children. There have been a couple of reported 'near misses' with children and adults from people parking in this area which is unacceptable. Please can I urge all parents to support the school in ensuring our children can access school safely and securely by parking in the car parks directly opposite the school: Raglan and Townend Car Parks. Parents are NOT permitted to use the staff car park either.

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, we would like to congratulate each and every child for their hard work and achievements for this term. It has been lovely to see so many children achieve so much. Myself and their teachers are very proud of them all.

May we also take this opportunity to thank you, the parents for your continued support. It is essential and important to us that we have good positive relationships with all our parents to ensure we do the best for our children.

Lastly, thank you to all the staff for their continued hard work and dedication to Hillcroft. They, like the children, have had a very busy term and are in great need for a rest.

May we wish all our children, families and staff a very Merry Christmas and very happy and healthy new year in 2017.

Yours Sincerely



Miss K Brazier  
Headteacher