



**Hillcroft**  
Primary School

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Creating Learners of the Future

# Start of Year Newsletter

12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to welcome back all the children, staff and families of Hillcroft following the summer holidays. I sincerely hope you all had a wonderful summer.

The staff and children had a lovely first couple of days with their stunning start activities to begin their new topics. Among other things, Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed making parts of their own superhero costumes, Year 3 had an amazing day with the Birds of Prey visitors to begin their Predators topic and Year 5 visited Egyptian tombs with torches where they found many Egyptian artefacts, which they will be learning about in their forthcoming Pharaohs topic. It was a lovely way to start the school year. One Year 3 child said "I have had the best day today, it has made me want to learn more about predators."

## Staffing

We are very pleased to welcome some new staff to Hillcroft this year who bring with them a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for the year groups they are teaching in. We would like to welcome Mrs Claire Sills to Nursery, Mrs Louise Jaitly to Year 1, Mrs Harriet Tapley to Year 2 and Miss Dayna Suppiah to Year 5. Below outlines the teachers in each year group, the days they each work and the names of the classes.

	<b>Teachers name</b>	<b>Working Days</b>
Nursery-Fir Class	Mrs Claire Sills	Every day
Reception-Ash Class	Miss Danni Robins	Every day
Reception-Elm Class	Miss Alex Dennis	Every day
Year 1-Beech Class	Mrs Louise Jaitly	Every day
Year 1-Willow Class	Miss Louise Campbell	Mon, Tues, Wed
Year 1-Willow Class	Mrs Emma Scott	Wed, Thurs, Fri
Year 2-Chestnut Class	Mrs Harriet Tapley	Every day
Year 2-Sycamore Class	Mrs Carly Gear	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Year 2-Sycamore Class	Miss Louise Summers	Fri
Year 3-Rowan Class	Mr Neil Furhmann	Every day
Year 3-Maple Class	Mrs Jane Hunter	Mon, Tues
Year 3-Maple Class	Mrs Kath Robertson	Wed, Thurs, Fri
Year 4-Cedar Class	Mr Tom Holloway	Mon, Tues, Wed,
Year 4-Cedar Class	Mrs Ingrid Hunter-Murphy	Thurs, Fri
Year 4-Birch Class	Mrs Anne Marie Page	Every day
Year 5-Aspen Class	Miss Sophie Burningham	Everyday
Year 5-Larch Class	Miss Dayna Suppiah	Every day

Year 6-Oak Class	Mrs Alex Swain	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Year 6-Oak Class	Mrs Wyn Samson	Fri
Year 6-Hawthorns Class	Mrs Wendy Macleod	Every day
Year 6-Acer Class	Mrs Jo May	Every day

## Autumn 1 Learning

Each year group has some exciting topics coming up over the next year. The first day of each topic has a stunning start which is a day of engaging and motivating the children about the learning that will be coming up in the remainder of the term. The topics in each year group for Autumn 1 are as follows:

Year group	Topic	
Nursery	Why do you love me so much?	
Reception	Do you want to be friends?	
Year 1	Superheroes	
Year 2	Towers, Tunnels and Turrets	
Year 3	Predator	
Year 4	1066	
Year 5	Pharoahs	
Year 6	Gallery Rebels	

## Homework

In the past few years, homework has taken the form of a homework menu where children have chosen the activity they complete each week. Following feedback from both children and parents, this year, we have made some changes. All children will be given a homework book at the start of the year which will have their homework recorded in it each week. The expectation is that **all** children complete this homework on a weekly basis. Homework is only ever based on work that has been completed in the previous week and therefore it is important children have the opportunity to recap and consolidate their learning. Full information and examples will be given on the homework record and if your child is unsure, please encourage them to ask their class teacher.

Reception and Key Stage 1 will be given a short English and Maths task which should take no longer than 20 mins in total along with weekly spellings from their Read Write Inc teacher and reading every night which should be recorded in their Reading Record. Key Stage 2 will have either a Maths or English task each week which should take no longer than 30 mins in total along with weekly spellings, timetables and reading practice which again should always be recorded in Homework dairies. Homework for the whole school will be given out on a Friday and expected to be handed in the following Wednesday. From this year, if homework is not handed in by the Thursday children will be expected to complete their task during Thursday lunchtime with the class teacher.

## Parent Information Evenings

We will be holding Information Evenings for each year group on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017. We aim to inform you about the next year of your child's education including information such as Curriculum, trips and visits, homework and general expectations. To accommodate as many parents as possible, we will be running sessions at 3.30pm and 6.00pm. The sessions will take place in the following classrooms:

Nursery	Fir classroom
Reception	Elm classroom
Year 1	Beech classroom
Year 2	Chestnut classroom
Year 3	Rowan classroom
Year 4	Birch classroom
Year 5	Aspen classroom
Year 6	Oak classroom

If you are unable to attend these sessions, the slides from the evening will be on the school website following the sessions for information purposes.

## Start of the day procedures

The start of the school day bell rings at 8.45am which is the expected time for children to be in school and for Key Stage 1 and 2 to be lined up on the front playground with the rest of their class, ready for collection from the Class Teacher.

For Early Years, the Early Years door will open at 8.45am and parents are required to take their children through the school into the back playground. Initially, parents can accompany their child into the classroom while they settle into school, however after the first couple of weeks, the children will line up with the rest of their class and the Nursery and Reception staff will collect the children and take them into the classroom. We would appreciate parents then leaving the school building, using the Early Years entrance rather than the main school entrance, as quickly as possible for safeguarding reasons.

Please can I remind parents that we like to get the children into school as quickly as possible for learning to begin and therefore it is not an appropriate time for parents to have discussions with class teachers. If you would like to talk to your child's class teacher, please speak to the school office to make an appointment in which this discussion can take place, giving it the time it deserves.

Registers are taken at 8.55am and therefore if your child arrives in school after this, they will be considered late, receiving a late mark. If this is the case, it is imperative that you accompany your child into school as they will need to be signed in at the school office. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please ensure you telephone the school office before 8.45am to inform us as it is vital we know a child will be off school prior to the registers being taken.

### **End of day punctuality**

In the same way that punctuality at the start of the day is vital, I would also like to point out that it is the expectation at Hillcroft that parents collect their children on time at the end of the school day. Early Years, including Nursery and Key Stage 1 finish school at 3.00pm and Key Stage 2 finishes at 3.10pm. The office staff will **not** be available to supervise any children who are at school after collection time.

### **Communication**

We endeavour to ensure that you feel well communicated with at all times, with latest news being updated on our school website ([www.hillcroftschoo.org](http://www.hillcroftschoo.org)) and the bulletin will continue to be sent home this year on a weekly basis which will include reminders about forthcoming key dates. As with all school communication, these will be emailed to you via the Parentmail system. If you do not have internet access, please advise the school office so that we can ensure you receive a hard copy of any such communications.

We always welcome parents feedback so please remember should you have any ideas or feedback you wish the Leadership team to consider, we have a Parent Suggestion box in the school office which is regularly emptied. Last year, it was feedback from parents in this form which encouraged the Friends of Hillcroft to purchase the additional entrance gate to help the flow of drop off and pick up traffic on the playground.

We pride ourselves on having an open door policy and therefore we encourage parents to discuss any aspect of your child's experiences at school with us, in the first instance with your child's class teacher. We prefer to do this face to face if possible, however we appreciate this can be difficult for some parents, especially with working

commitments and therefore any email correspondence should be via the school email address at [office@hillcroftschoo.org](mailto:office@hillcroftschoo.org). Please be aware if email correspondence is made, there may be a delay in responding therefore it is preferable communication happens face to face or via telephone conversation. If it is not appropriate to contact your child's class teacher, please make contact with Miss Robins as the Lower School Leader or Mrs Swain as the Upper School Leader.

### **Social Media**

To ensure the school can work co-operatively with parents and families, it is essential that any concerns are discussed directly with the school, rather than over social media. As a school, we appreciate that social media is part of everyday life however it is not an appropriate platform for any concerns or worries you have about the school or your child. In many instances, it can be upsetting and offensive to others, which in turn can be damaging. Therefore again, we would appreciate any concerns are discussed directly with us.

### **Expectations**

It is a pleasure to see the children looking so smart. Most are now wearing the new logo jumpers, which are now compulsory, and the new PE t-shirts introduced for this September. We are very grateful to all those parents who have supported the uniform initiative to improve the standards of uniform. We believe uniform is an important aspect to a child's education, giving them pride about their appearance and the school.

Can I also point out that hair accessories worn, such as Jo Jo bows should be of a small size and in an appropriate school colour.

It only leaves me to wish our Year 6 children all the very best as they embark on our annual school trip to PGL in 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 and hope they enjoy this amazing opportunity.

Personally I look forward to the year ahead at Hillcroft Primary School and am confident that together we can continue Hillcroft's journey of success.

Yours Sincerely



Miss K Brazier  
Headteacher