

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

May 2nd 2025

Dear parents/carers,

Summer term is here and the sunshine has been absolutely beautiful this week. We hope you all had a restful Easter and are ready for a fabulous term.

Our Year 6 pupils and teachers are busy preparing for SATs week. During this week we will be putting on a special SATs breakfast for our Year 6 pupils – more details to follow.

We also wanted to share the exciting news that from September we will be expanding our Nursery provision. We have been successful in achieving a DfE grant and we will be able to offer places for 2 year olds in our provision. Please do check the school website or contact the office if you would like more information about securing a place.

As ever, please do check the key dates regularly as events are added. Thank you.

Key Dates:



Please click in the link below to access our key dates document. This is updated throughout the year and we encourage you all 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



Deaf Awareness Week
Monday 5th May to Sunday 11th May 2025

Physical and Sensory Support "specialist support for living and learning"

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



Hillcroft Primary School

Did you know that our nurseries will be offering two-year old places from September 2025?

Early years funding is changing from...

Your child may now be eligible for 15 hours of nursery funding from the term after they turn two. For more information visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Nursery applications to be made via www.hillcroftschoool.org

Congratulations to Mrs Parish

As many of you will know, Mrs. Parish completed the TCS London Marathon on Sunday, 27th April, despite the challenging conditions. She finished with an incredible time and has raised valuable funds for the Royal Osteoporosis Society.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who supported this worthy cause—your generous donations were truly appreciated. We'll share the final amount raised in our next newsletter.



A message from Mrs Pearson.

As you are all aware, Hillcroft has successfully embedded Thrive throughout the entire school. Every child receives weekly Thrive sessions—whether class-based, group-based, or one-to-one.

In 2022, we were proud to receive five awards for Excellence in Environment, Reparative Practice, Right-Time Approach, Leadership, and Relationships.

The next step was to aim for the highest accolade: the “Thrive School of Excellence” Gold Award. We undertook a moderation visit with Lee Prichard, Head of UK Regional Development at Thrive, as part of the assessment process. During the visit, we shared how Thrive is implemented at Hillcroft and highlighted the incredible support from staff and parents. As a result, we were awarded the “Thrive School of Excellence” Gold Award. This award is valid for three years, after which we must reapply.

Since Christmas, we have been working hard to gather evidence and complete the necessary documentation to renew our Thrive accreditation.

I am now delighted to officially announce that Hillcroft has once again been awarded the “Thrive School of Excellence” Gold Award. We are immensely proud of this achievement, which would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children, and the continued support of our wonderful parents.

A special thank you goes to my Thrive Team: Miss Summers, Mrs Copard, Miss Harborne, Miss Mayhew, Mrs Cooper-Beirne, Mrs Mitchell, Miss Matthews, Miss McNeil, Mrs Painter, Mrs Parish, and Mrs Hanly.

Once I have confirmed a date with Miss Summers, we will be holding a Thrive Day to celebrate this fantastic achievement with the children.



Early Years

Well done to all our children in Nursery and Reception children who took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon but also supported the older children so brilliantly. A real team effort.



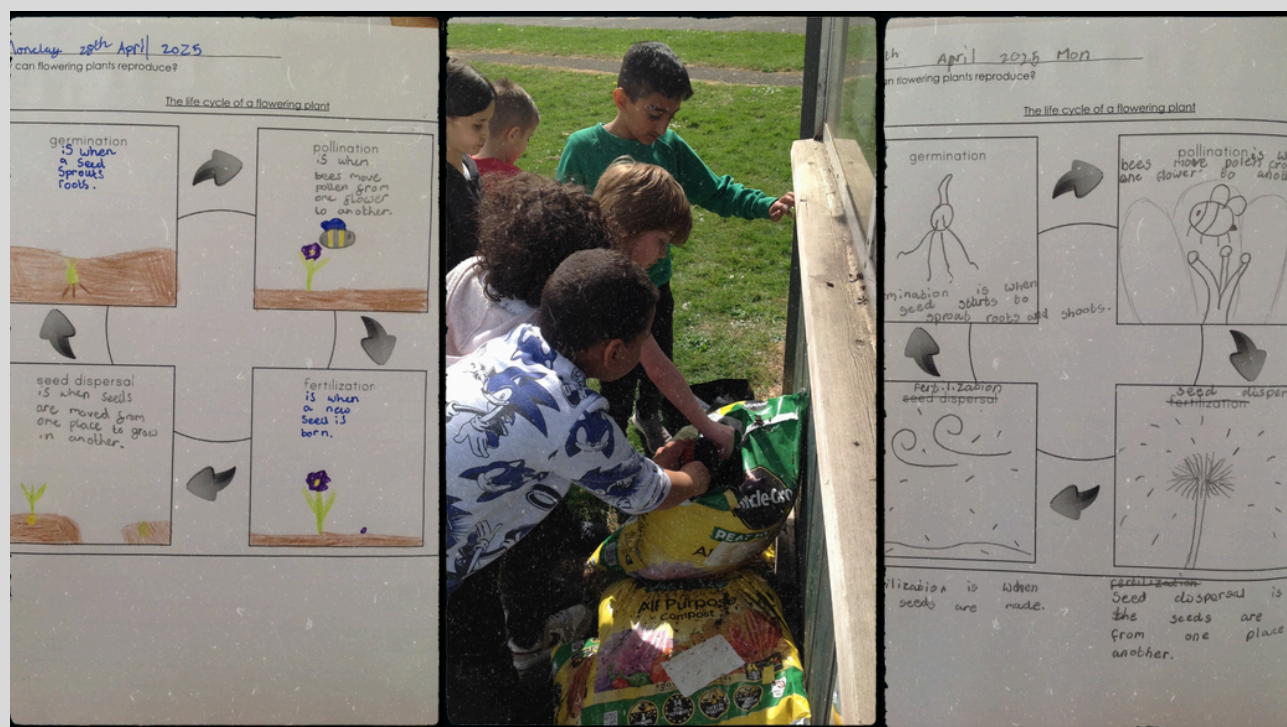
KS1

For their English Narrative topic, Year 1 have been looking at The Katha Chest. It is a story about Bangladeshi katha quilts and follows a six year old girl called Asiya and the women in her family. Mrs Patel brought in some saris and spoke to the children about their cultures and traditions.



LKS2

Year 3 are learning about the life cycle of plants as well as growing their own bean sprouts in class changing variables to see how well grow.



Year 4 have started their topic on climate and biomes by thinking about the negative impact that humans can have on our environment. We looked at the book Window by Jeannie Baker before creating our own artwork illustrating deforestation.



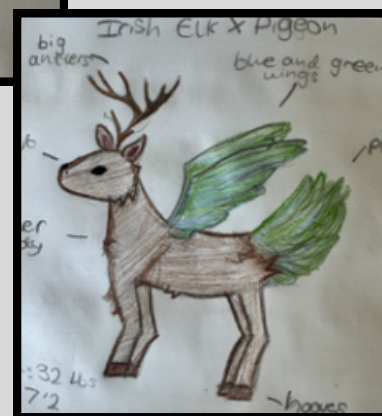
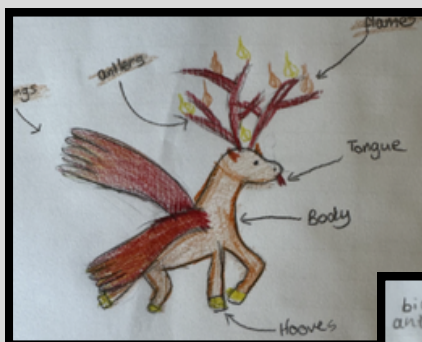
Year 5

Year 5 were very lucky this week and had a day at De Stafford Secondary school, taking part in a day of sporting activities such as spike ball, netball, rugby, judo, trampolining and dance! The children were all very enthusiastic about the sort of activities they will be able to look forward to in secondary school.



Year 6

Year 6 have settled into the Summer term and are doing lots of preparation for their upcoming SAT's. In English, the children have been designing their own hybrid animal which they will then be writing a non-chronological report on in the next week. The children had lots of fun putting two animals together and creating new names for them.

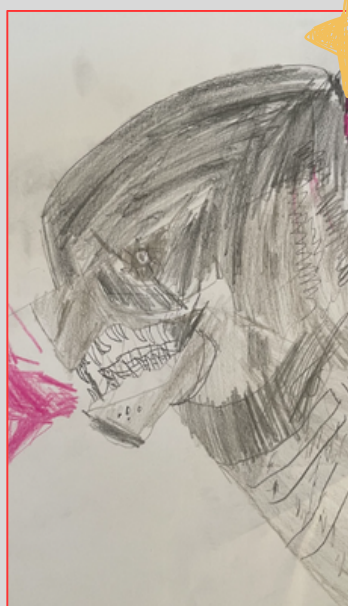
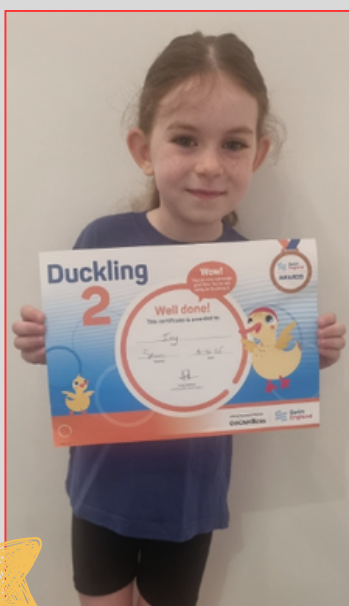


TALENTS AND INTERESTS

Every week in our Friday assembly we celebrate the talents and interests of our children. See the superstars we have celebrated over the last two weeks. If your child has a special achievement they would like to share please send some details and a photo to l.bonnell@hillcroftschool.org.

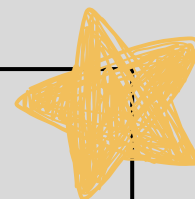


Cody	Year 2	Football - Man of the Match
Layla	Year 1	Swimming
Albie	Year 2	Art
Poppy	Year 1	Swimming
Ivy	Year 1	Swimming

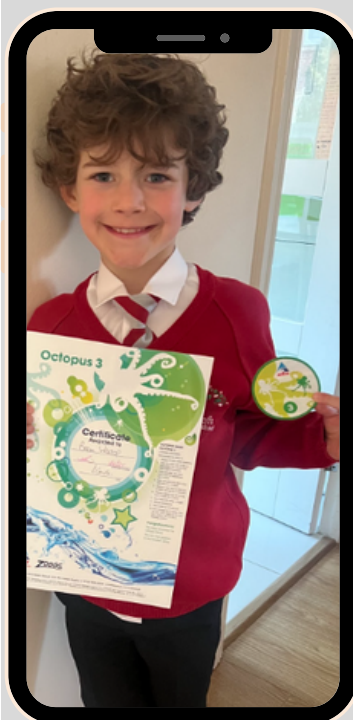


TALENTS AND INTERESTS

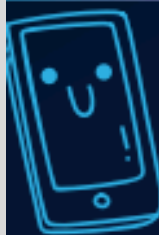
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Beau	Year 3	Swimming
Poppy	Year 5	A hike to the summit of Mount Vesuvius!
Ellie	Year 5	1km run and fundraising for Ukraine
Jamie	Year 6	Dancing



Are Self Help Apps Helpful?



Instead of people turning to self-help books, there is now a rise in the number of us downloading self-help apps – a trend that is increasing with children and young people. Our online safety experts have taken a look at the impact digital self-help apps and services might be having on children and young people, outlining some insights and advice for parents and carers to consider.

In the last two years alone,

8 in 10

children accessed online services to help with their mental wellbeing.

What is a Self-Help App?

If something is described as 'self-help' it means an individual must use their own efforts and resources (alongside the item) to see improvement in themselves. When we look at 'self-help apps', we are seeing digital applications created to help someone achieve an improvement or goal. Some popular topics in self-help apps are: weight-loss, therapy, or sobriety apps.



Online Safety
Shareable by

INEQE

ineqe.com

Why are young people using these apps?



Demand for mental health services is at an all-time high.

Rather than waiting for appointments, access to support through apps is almost immediate and far less gruelling.



Children and young people may not want to open up.

If a child is struggling, it might feel easier to seek help discreetly through an app instead of involving their guardians.



Professional help can be costly in every avenue.

For a child with no independent income or travel means, a free or low-cost app could be their only option.



Accessibility to a service may only be available in-app.

Downloading an app may be the only opportunity a young person has to make use of a service or explore an area of interest.



Social media might encourage downloading certain apps.

The more a young person shows interest in these topics on social media, the more targeted ads and similar videos are shown to them.



Risks



'Alternative' help - Some apps promote themselves as a 'substitute' for professional help. However, the absence of professional advice and monitoring may mean a young person uses certain techniques incorrectly or develops unhealthy coping mechanisms.



Possible misdiagnosis - Without professional intervention or assessment, a young person may begin to use in-app tools or give/seek inaccurate advice that fits in with their own self-diagnosis. It may even inspire destructive behaviour.



Toxic positivity/productivity - Many apps do not consider time pressures of school, work, and extracurriculars and could lead to further negative emotions, such as shame and guilt, or larger struggles with anxiety and self-worth.



Physical hazards - While dietary and fitness apps are unlikely to encourage excessive exercise or eating disorders, their design could aid them. This is especially harmful if a young person doesn't realise they are struggling with a disorder.



Temporary 'fix' - Young people might use self-help apps to avoid or deny the true weight of an illness or struggle. They may use the apps to try and 'fix' what needs proper medical attention.



Vulnerability - Increased vulnerability in community sections of the app could subject a child to harms such as bullying or grooming from other users who wish to exploit their emotional state.



Top Tips



Create an environment of trust and love your child will want to return to. If they choose to discuss their struggles or worries with you, remember to listen actively, use open questions, and be reassuring in your responses.



Ensure the young person in your care receives professional medical help if they need it. This may be uncomfortable to navigate as a parent or carer, but this could save their life.



Have conversation about the suitability of the app. Ask them to describe how it helps them and what they like about it. Mention other options available to them, such as their Trusted Adults or their GP.



Do your research. If you know your child is using a specific app, it might be helpful to look into its ratings and safety settings on your own time or with them.



Encourage the child in your care to disclose the use of self-help apps as a coping mechanism for their mental or physical health issues if there is existing mental health support.



Outline healthy screen time rules for your household. Decide with them on what realistic time allowances should be, and encourage breaks to help them feel more connected to their surroundings.



Talk to your GP about the use of apps. They may be able to recommend apps, medical advice surrounding the use of self-help apps, or further tips for talking to your child.

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 the 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.
1. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 9 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 a 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.

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 NOT receive a third penalty notice - Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer, in the Magistrates Court under Section 444 Education Act 1996

Train to Teach



INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS
GLF TEACHER TRAINING

TRAIN TO TEACH

Hillcroft
Primary School

The influence of a great teacher extends well beyond the classroom into the future.

With training opportunities at Hillcroft Primary School, find out more about our postgraduate teacher training today!

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info@giftt.org



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SICKNESS AND MEDICATIONS

Sickness & Medications/ Common childhood illnesses

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.



SUMMER FAIR



COLOUR RUN & SUMMER FUN

SUNDAY

JULY
06

11AM-3PM

MARKET STALLS * FUN GAMES
HOT FOOD * BAR * RAFFLES
TOMBALAS AND LOTS OF SUMMER FUN

FULL DETAILS COMING SOON