

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

May 16th 2025

Dear parents/carers,

Firstly, congratulations to Year 6 for completing their SATs this week. They have all worked incredibly hard and we are proud of their resilience and positive attitude.

In celebration of retaining our Thrive Gold award we have planned a day of celebration on Friday 27th June. Please do keep an eye out for more information about this very special day.

Next week we have our open classrooms which are always a real celebration of the learning the children have completed each term. For parents in Year 1 there is also a brief meeting at 2:45pm on 21st May to give you some more information about the upcoming phonics screening check.

Please do check key dates for upcoming sports days and other key events.

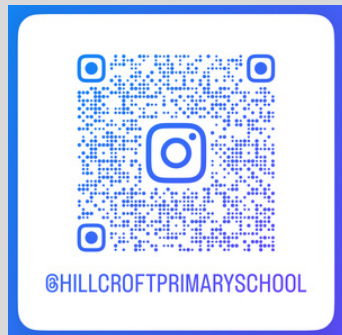
Thank you

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



VE Day

Thank to everyone who helped us celebrate VE day. The whole school took part in celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of this historic day. The children took part in a 2 minute silence and enjoyed eating lunch outside .



Coming Soon!

This June, we're thrilled to welcome some very special arrivals to our school – ducklings and rare grey partridge chicks! The eggs will be delivered on 3rd June, and we can't wait to care for them as they hatch and grow.

This hands-on experience will offer the children a truly unforgettable opportunity to learn about life cycles, responsibility and nature up close. It's sure to be a highlight of the term!



As you will know Mrs Parish recently completed an amazing achievement of running the London Marathon. She did this to raise money for the Royal Osteoporosis Society which is a charity close to her heart as well as to Mr Fuhrmann and Miss Harborne which is why Brunel and Newton chose this as their charity for this year. We teamed up with the TCS Mini Marathon in schools for the children to run their own mini marathon and collected donations for their effort. We are pleased to say that we have raised a staggering **£1927.90**. This will make an enormous difference to the charity along with the rest of the sponsorship that Mrs Parish was able to raise.

Thank you so much for all the donations.



A word from Mrs Parish:

When I mentioned that I was running the London Marathon for the Royal Osteoporosis Society to Miss Harborne and Mr Fuhrmann they both said how they wanted to support me with my fundraising as they have both been as affected by Osteoporosis. To have the school involved with the fundraising has been wonderful and I can't thank the school staff, children and families enough. Watching the children take part in the mini marathon made me so proud of every single one of them as they all wanted to run their own marathon. I was blown away with the support I received from all of the children and was thrilled with the amount raised. Together, with your kindness and help I have raised **£5242** for the Royal Osteoporosis Society which is an incredible amount and will help so many people, like my mum, who is living with osteoporosis. Thank you all once again from the bottom of my heart.

Early Years

In Nursery as part of our 'Lifecycles topic', we have been looking at our baby photos this week and sharing them with our friends. We have been talking about what we needed help with as a baby and what we can do independently now we are bigger. We loved looking at all the photos!



This week in Reception we have been learning about life cycles. In Elm class our butterflies emerged from their cocoons! The children loved experiencing the life cycle of a caterpillar in real time, and enjoyed releasing our butterfly friends into the wild. In Ash class the we learnt about the life cycle of a frog, and completed a challenge to correctly put the different stages in order.



KS1

As part of our current RE Topic, Mrs Kyle (Daisy and Stanley's Mum) came in to share her Jewish traditions.

We tasted Challah Bread and Stanley wore the Kippah. We were very lucky to look at some very special Jewish artefacts like the Star of David and Menorah.







LKS2

Children in year 3 have been sculpting flowers as part of their wider curriculum topic



In Year 4 this week we have been learning about teeth. We looked at the names of different types of teeth and the jobs that they do. We then compared human teeth with those of other mammals to discuss similarities and differences.

Thursday 15th May





NAME	TOOTH	FUNCTION
Incisors		biting, cutting, meat 5-8 top & bottom Point to pierce Food & pull out
Canines		Piercing slice 4-2 top & bottom water side up & down meat
Pre-molars		biting, grinding food, crush help chew and get food into
Molars		same as pre-molar but slightly bigger

This is an omnivore.
You can see it has
sharp and not sharp
teeth. This is because
it eats meat and
plants. Examples of omnivores are:
Raccoons, birds, humans.

This is a Carnivore.
You can see it has
sharp teeth to chew
lots of meat. Examples
of carnivores are:
lions, tigers, jaguars.

This is a herbivore.
You can see it
has not sharp teeth
to graze on plants.
Examples of herbivores
are: elephants, giraffes,
sheep.

Thursday 15th May 2025

NAME	TOOTH	FUNCTION
Incisors		biting food & tearing food into small chunks - omnivore & 5-8 top & bottom
Canines		Piercing - 4-2 for meat & help with pre-molars
Pre-molars		help chew meat & grind food - hold the food in
Molars		grinding as pre-molars teeth bigger

This is a
skull of an omnivore.
There are others that
humans.

This is a
skull of a carnivore.
They have these teeth
because they need to
chew all the meat.

This is a
skull of a herbivore.
They have these teeth
because they need to
graze on plants.

Year 5

Year 5 went to Frylands Wood Outdoor Centre on 6th May, and took part in archery, pioneering, orienteering, climbing and an assault course. We worked on our STRONG values and teamwork, and were all exhausted afterwards, but had a great time.



Year 6

Year 6 have done us all proud this week with their effort in their SATs tests. Well done!



Following our parent survey, we have listened to your comments and wanted to keep you informed of the positive steps we are taking.

What are the benefits of being part of the Trust?

Being part of GLF means our children get the opportunity to take part in events such as the Boundless Festival. We will keep you updated by sharing in the Newsletter and on our Social Media the support we have received.

If I can't attend a school workshop, is there a way to find out the information that is shared?

We endeavour to add all information from school workshops to the website. In addition to this we will put links to any information in a dedicated section on our school newsletter. Events will be signposted on social media as well as on our key dates document.

WORKSHOPS

Please see links below to all workshops that have been delivered this school year. Whilst we always hope you are able to attend these we recognise that this isn't always possible. We will continue to review how we deliver workshops in order to ensure we reach all members of our community.

[Read Write Inc Workshop](#)

[Clever Never Goes](#)

[Early Maths](#)

[Spelling Shed](#)

[Wider Curriculum](#)

[Behaviour for Learning](#)



Hillcroft
Primary School

A message from Mrs Pearson.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is hugely growing and is in every single school.

What is EBSA?

Emotionally based school avoidance is a term referring to reduced or nonattendance at school by a child or young person. Rather than the term 'school refusal', the term EBSA recognises that this avoidance has its root in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. It is also a term used to describe children and young people who experience challenges in attending school due to negative feelings (such as anxiety).

What causes EBSA?

There may be just one underlying cause, but of course there are more likely to be several, with EBSA often resulting from a complex interplay between home, school and within child factors. Some examples could be to do with: Social anxiety - fear of ridicule, isolation, social rejection, loneliness.

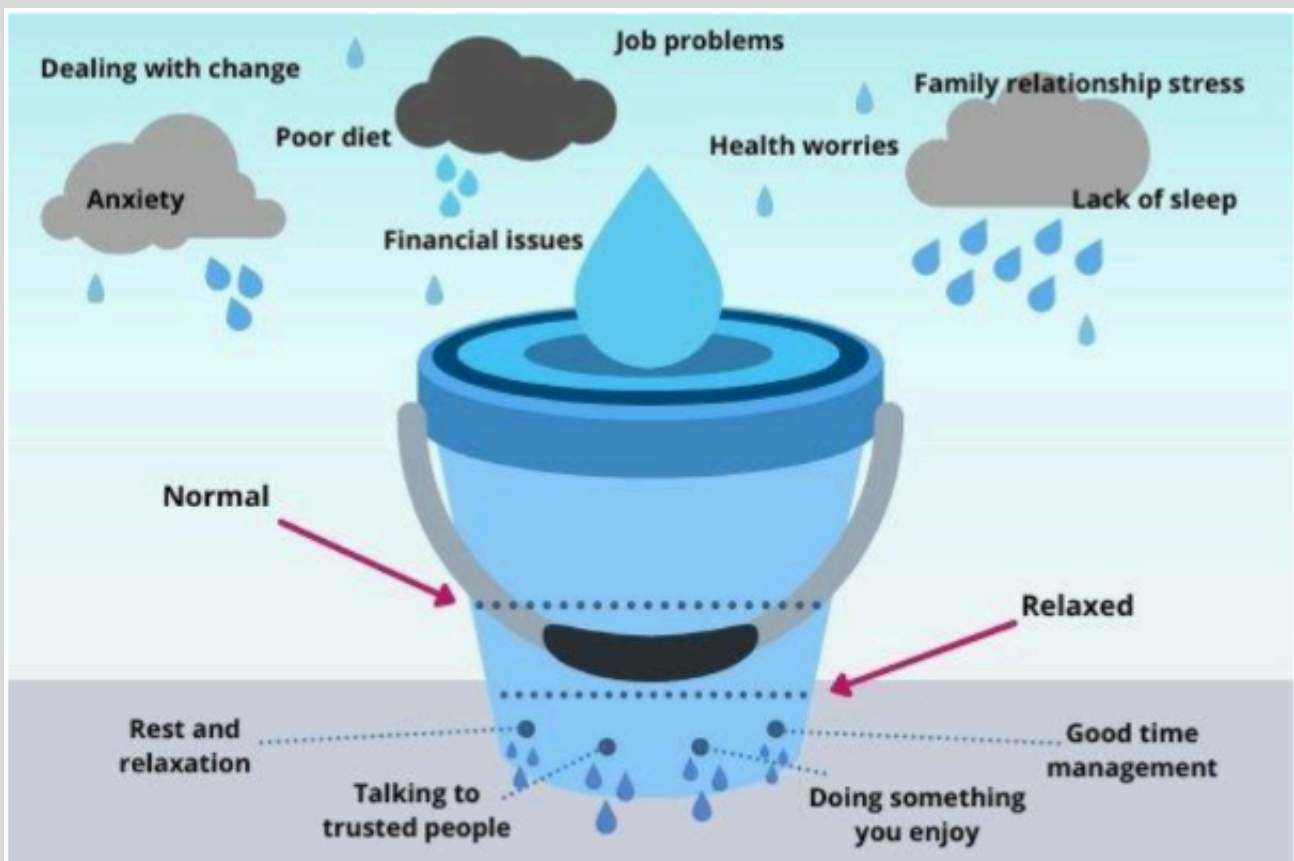
When considering EBSA, we need to explore anxiety and stress; what it looks and feels like and how we can support our children when they experience anxious thoughts and feelings. Anxiety is a physiological response to potential threats and can feel quite scary. We need to support our children to recognise the early signs of anxiety and develop relaxation techniques so that they can manage their feelings. It is understandable that many of our children are anxious currently. There have been lots of pressures and changes that have been out of their control over the last few years. School closures, home working, reduced social interaction, reduced freedom, fear of contracting Covid-19 to name a few, have all impacted on our children's mental and physical wellbeing. Anxiety can feel different for different people. Some examples of what it can do to our body and mind are shown below.

What anxiety does to our mind and body...



To stop our children feeling overwhelmed we need to either reduce their stressors or increase their ability to cope. Supporting them to view situations differently or manage the stressors that are within their control will help, while increasing their coping strategies if the stressor isn't within their control.

Some useful coping strategies we use when seeing your children for Thrive are, sport and exercise, walking outside, playing with pets, art, and craft activities, talking to friends and trusted adults, writing in a journal, listening to music, baking, watching a film, enjoying a hobby, creating and using a self-care box.



If you would like to know more about this subject, this is a wonderful website and there is also a workshop video to watch which is an hour long, but it gives you so much information and support.

This is definitely worth a watch.

<https://www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Page/19956>

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@hillcroftschoool.org.

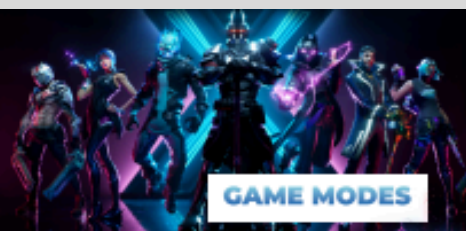


Jamie	Year 2	Football
Joni	Year 2	Swimming
Leo	Year 5	Football
Edward	Year 5	Running
Jaxon and Lewis	Year 5	Football



ALL ABOUT FORTNITE

Fortnite is an online multiplayer video game. It was developed by Epic Games in 2017 and has become extremely popular with children and young people. This is a 'shooter style' game, meaning players battle it out against opponents with multiple weapon styles, but it also uses construction tools that allow players to create and personalise their own game components.



GAME MODES

CREATIVE

Create games like racecourses, challenges, and arenas using building elements (similar to Minecraft) that other players engage with.



SAVE THE WORLD

Team up with friends to defeat invading monsters and defend helpless citizens. *This is the only 'pay to play' mode Fortnite offers.*



BATTLE ROYALE

Compete in a 'last team alive' match with up to 100 other players, with the option to join 'squads' of up to 4 players or be a solo player.



ZERO BUILD

Zero Build - Face off against other players in a tactical shoot out that requires skill in weapons and evasion without the option to build defences and fortresses.



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BATTLE ROYALE IS KING

Chances are, if a gamer you know is talking about Fortnite, they're referring to the Battle Royale version. This is by far the most popular mode of Fortnite. Why, you ask?



MOST UPDATED - Runs on regular seasons (like a television series!) that change the game's look and feel while keeping the same known play structure.



POP CULTURE ICON - Uses several pop culture references and characters to engage with a wide range of audiences (i.e. a Darth Vader character option).



EASY TO PLAY - Actions and movements (even dances!) are relatively easy for players of every skill level to learn and equip their characters with.



FUN AND FLASHY - Creates a world full of bright colours, catchy music, and customisable characters that players will enjoy getting lost in.

WARNING

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While most Fortnite game modes are free, the platform is full of in-game purchases that offer premium options (e.g. different outfits, new characters or weapons, etc.) which promise to 'increase' game play experience. These options are purchased with V-bucks (in-game currency) or Battle Passes (an exclusive collection of new items and tasks that releases every season). Children and young people may feel like they are missing out if they are unable to buy these items, especially if the friends they play with have them.



POSITIVES VS. NEGATIVES

- + Teaches players teamwork and cooperation with others.
- + Encourages strategic thinking and problem solving.
- + Downplays violence by not depicting blood or death.
- Gameplay is **addictive** and might lead to overplaying.
- Online environment could encourage **cyberbullying**.
- Chat element can allow interaction with strangers.

TOP TIPS

TOP TIPS FOR THE PARENTS AND CARERS OF GAMERS


- ? **Ask questions.** Let them tell you about Fortnite and why they like to play it.
- 👤 **Get involved.** Set up a free account and ask your gamer to help you get started.
- 📺 **Healthy habits.** Outline household rules on screentime that everyone follows.
- 🔒 **Privacy first.** Learn how to block and report users, and set up parental controls.
- 💬 **Discuss safety.** Talk about the importance of safer online gaming practices.
- 👤 **Personal info.** Remind your gamer to never share personal information with others.

Did you know...

Up to **4 million** active players log on and play Fortnite every day!

12 This game is suitable for players aged 12 and up!

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SAFEGUARDING GROUP

 oursafeschools.co.uk

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5.4.2022

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



**THE WESTWAY
CARNIVAL COSTUME
WORKSHOPS**

Are you looking forward to the Caterham Carnival but struggling to find the perfect outfit? No need to worry! We are here to assist you in crafting a unique and eye-catching ensemble that will ensure you stand out!

Join us for our creative workshops on the following dates:

- Saturday 24th May 10am-12.30pm
- Friday 30th May 4.30pm-6.30pm
- Saturday 7th June 10.00am-12.30pm

Join us for an exciting event and help us make this our largest procession yet to continue the wonderful Caterham tradition! The procession will kick off at 11:45am at Queen's Park, as we make our way towards Westway Common.

the westway



**CATERHAM
FESTIVAL
2025**

STREET PARTY
Sunday 1 June 1-6pm
High Street, CR3 5UX

LITERARY FESTIVAL
Sunday 1 June to Monday 9 June
Various Locations

SCARECROW FEST
Sunday 1 to Saturday 28 June
Various Locations

BARN DANCE
Saturday 7 June 7pm 'til late
Sunnydown School, CR3 5ED

GHOST WALK
Wednesday 11 &
Thursday 12 June 7.30pm
The King & Queen, CR3 5UA

FINALE FUN DAY
Saturday 21 June 12 noon 'til late
Westway Common, CR3 5PP

CAR BOOT SALE
Sunday 6 July 9am onwards
Westway Common, CR3 5PP

FOOD FESTIVAL
Sunday 12 October 10am-4pm
Croydon Road, CR3 6PB

For full details of these events, visit
www.caterhamfestival.org

**CATERHAM
FESTIVAL**

SEND UPDATES



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

Support Evening for Parents and Carers including Transition to Secondary School

Advising parents how to help pupils make the change from
Primary to Secondary as smooth as possible.

plus

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.

**Monday 9th June 2025
8pm – 10pm**

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

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

SESDA Helpline: [01737 556173](tel:01737556173)

E-mail: sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com



SEND Support Secondary Transition Coffee Morning

Friday 13th June at 9am

This session is a chance to hear from and chat with SEND Support Advisors [SSAs] from Surrey's Learner's
Single Point of Access (L-SPA).

They have SENCO experience supporting children with additional needs in a range of settings including
Secondary schools and can provide guidance on how children are supported across their transition from
Year 6 to Year 7. The focus is on mainstream secondary schools.

The informal presentation will include:

- talking about how secondary schools support transition
- outlining the basics about how secondary schools are organised to make sure they know their students
- explaining how secondary schools support children using the Graduated Response
- suggesting ways in which families can support a positive transition into the secondary phase
- answering any questions



Please RSVP to register your interest to attend, so we can gauge numbers: info@hillcroftschoool.org

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