

# HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Nurturing children to achieve their personal best*

**September 5<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Dear families,

A warm welcome to all our families, both new and returning. We hope you had a restful summer break and enjoyed time together, making memories and recharging after a busy summer term.

The start of a new school year can bring a mix of excitement and nerves—for children, parents, and teachers alike! At Hillcroft, our entire team is here to ensure a smooth transition and to support you and your child, as you settle into school life.

We're delighted to welcome many new faces to our school community, including Mr Marsh, our Interim Head Teacher. Please do stop and say hello when you see us on the playground.

Warm regards,

The Hillcroft Team

## **Key Dates:**



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



## **Sign Language**

Each week we introduce a new sign to children in our whole school assembly. We will share these signs here and on our Instagram page. Over the next week we will be focussing on 'good morning' and good afternoon.' Click the Makoton image below for a video example.



## **Safeguarding**



Safeguarding remains our highest priority at Hillcroft. Each newsletter you will find useful safeguarding updates that can help you as parents and carers navigate some of the challenges of the modern world. These online safety information posters are a great way to keep up to date with changes online and are posted on our Instagram page as well as being part of this newsletter.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the earliest opportunity. Details for how to do this are on our school website.

<https://www.hillcrottschool.org/115/safeguarding>

## **Behaviour for Learning**

Over the last year we have taken the time to review our behaviour for learning policy. Please join Mrs Gear to find out more about our updated policy and how we can work together to ensure every child reaches their potential. There will be a recording of the session available if you can't make the meeting. This will be emailed to all families.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September - 2:30 - 3:00pm - Main Hall

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September - 4:00 - 4:30pm - Main Hall



# HEALTHY EATING



## **Lunch boxes**

As we gear up for the new school year, we wanted to reach out with a friendly reminder about our school's healthy eating policy. At Hillcroft, we believe that a balanced, nutritious diet is essential for our pupils' growth, development and overall well-being. That's why we kindly encourage that packed lunches brought from home contain a selection of healthy options. A great packed lunch could include a sandwich or pasta pot, some fresh fruit or crunchy salad veggies, a small packet of crisps or a biscuit and a low-sugar drink. Please do not send your child to school with chocolate bars, sweets and fizzy beverages, as these can have a negative impact on our pupils' energy levels and concentration in the classroom. Additionally, we ask that water be the only drink allowed in classrooms, unless there is a diagnosed medical need that has been discussed with our SENDCO, Mrs Skingley. This helps to ensure a calm, hydrated learning environment for all.

## **Birthdays**

We know how special birthdays are for our little ones, and we truly appreciate the excitement that comes with celebrating them.

At Hillcroft, our priority is to create a consistent, healthy environment for all our children. As part of our commitment to promoting good nutrition and in line with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidance and the School Food Standards for older children, we have made the decision to celebrate birthdays without food treats brought in from home. This helps us ensure that our children receive a consistent message about healthy eating and reduces the frequency of sugary snacks.

We still want to help you celebrate your child's special day! We have found that non-edible celebrations are a wonderful alternative. Ideas include donating a book to our Book Corners or sending in small tokens like stickers, bubbles, or bouncy balls for the class.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a healthy, happy environment at Hillcroft.

## My Child's First Device

5 Steps to Make Phones, Tablets, and Laptops Safer

You might be deciding to give your child their first phone, tablet, or laptop (or third, fourth, fifth – even a new update). This is a big decision! The responsibility and freedom that comes with owning a device is a big step for children – and you! It might even be their first “grown up” responsibility.

As a parent or carer, it's important to remember that even if a child is tech-savvy, they need to be taught how to be tech-safe. We know this can be daunting with various device brands, apps, and settings to choose from. Our online safety experts have created 5 steps to help you make that first device (or brand-new model!) safer for the child or young person in your care.



### Remember!

This is an exciting time in your child's life! You want to be a part of that in a positive way that encourages them to share with you and trust you. If you take the time to teach them, they will be empowered in their online actions and behaviours for the better.

1

#### Do your homework

Make sure your home environment is secure and ready for your child to be online. Many major broadband providers offer age restriction settings so check with your provider to ensure these restrictions are put in place.

Many retailers offer free Parental Controls to their customers. You can find Parental Control walkthroughs on most popular provider websites.

Check the device's brand website for simple walkthroughs of where to find privacy settings on your child's specific device.



2

#### Set up the device with your child

Taking the time to sit down with your child and set up the device together will help you both get to know how the device works, allow you to implement SafeSearch filters on search engines, and set up in-app purchase restrictions. You can use the device settings to set up agreed upon restrictions, like Screen Time and App Limits.

Explain why these settings are important to protect children and young people from online risks and that these restrictions will be lifted when they are old enough. Ensure your personal account is set as the Parent account and make sure your parental control PIN number is secure and random.



3

#### Discuss and agree on healthy phone and device habits

Once the device has been set up, take the time to agree on some healthy rules and boundaries for how they will use the device. This can include rules like when and where they can use their device, screen time allowance and which apps are allowed to be used.

Be realistic on what will work in your household. If your child has friends with different rules, remind them that what works for one family might not work for another! As the parent or carer, you are responsible for the way your child uses their device and they will need guidance, especially if this is your child's first independent responsibility.



4

#### Check-in with your child

Check-in with your child about their device use. It doesn't have to be a big sit-down conversation! Informal chats over the dinner table, in the car or while watching television as a family can have the biggest impact. Ask questions like, “Tell me about your favourite app! Why do you like to use it?” or, “How has your device helped you today?”.

Online safety is never a one-off conversation – it's a continuing dialogue. Show your child that you're interested in their responses and thoughts to foster an environment of openness and trust between you and the child in your care.



5

#### Keep Yourself Informed

We live in a digital world that changes daily. The most responsible thing you can do in keeping your child's device safe is to keep yourself informed.

Stay alert to trends and threats that they may be exposed to. With many companies beginning to offer “kid” versions of their platforms, knowing what is safe and what is suspect will help you make the best decision for your child. Luckily, we have some excellent resources to assist you that are reliable and relevant. Visit our website and social media pages.



**ineqe**  
SAFEGUARDING GROUP  
www.ineqe.com



**oursafetycentre.co.uk**  
How to stay safer on popular platforms

# ATTENDANCE

Just to remind parents/carers that if you take your 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 your 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, in the Magistrates Court under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

## 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.