

HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing children to achieve their personal best

October 17th 2025

Dear families,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding half term, we want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support. Your partnership makes such a difference to the life of our school. We are especially grateful for the incredible generosity you've shown through your donations to the Caterham Food Bank. Your kindness will make a real impact on families in our wider community – thank you.

Next half term we will have our first parents evenings of the year as well as the build up to Christmas. Please can we remind you that school is closed on Friday 24th October for an INSET day and Friday 19th December.

Thank you,

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:

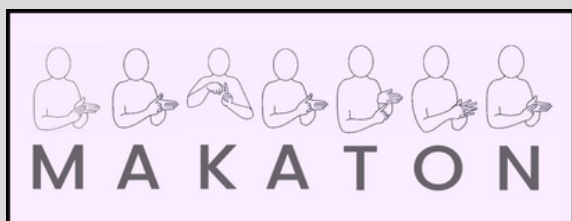
@hillcroftprimaryschool



Sign Language

Each week we introduce a new sign to children in our whole school assembly. This week we have looked at a range of different greetings.

Click the Makoton image below for a video.



Open Classrooms

A reminder of our open classroom times for next week.

Monday 20 th October	Year 5 Year 6	2:30 – 3pm
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 1 Year 2	2:15 – 2:45pm
Wednesday 22 nd October	Year 1 Year 2	2:30 – 2:50pm

Year 4 parents, please join Mrs Parker in the hall after open classroom for a short presentation on the Year 4 Multiplication Check.

Parking Reminder

Please can we kindly remind all families to park considerately around the school. Parking is not permitted outside the doctor's surgery, the library, or on the pavement outside HSL.

We encourage families to use the Co-op car park, which offers free parking for up to three hours.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

What is MINECRAFT

7
www.pgsf.info

Did you know...
Minecraft has 141 million active
players across the whole world!



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Have you ever imagined what it would be like to create your own world? Minecraft is a multi-platform game that can be played online or offline. This adventure game allows players to explore and create worlds using building blocks (alongside their imagination!) to customise and interact. It is extremely popular with children and young people all over the world.

The Basic Building Blocks



Break - Players break existing blocks to build and explore Minecraft environments and worlds.



Build - Anything that a player can imagine can be created with in-game resources and items.



Repeat - With no end goal or finish line, Minecraft is a game players can return to again and again.

Five Playing Modes



Survival - Players collect resources and build structures while surviving 'mobs' in their own world.



Adventure - Players travel to the worlds and places created by other Minecraft players (multiplayer).



Creative - Players are given the freedom to play without the danger of mob attacks in their own world. We recommend this mode for primary school aged children. As their skills develop, they can try more advanced game modes.



Hardcore - Players participate in the survival mode but with an enhanced level of difficulty. They cannot respawn if they die, unlike the other modes where they have limitless lives. This is only available for the Java edition.



Spectator - Players can fly around and observe worlds without interacting with it. This is only available for the Java edition.

Minecraft Buzzwords



Biomes - Different terrains of the world (e.g., jungle, desert, etc.)



Creeper - In-game characters that damage worlds by exploding.



Spelunking - When players explore in-game caves to mine resources.



Steve - The basic male default skin in the game before customisation.



Mobs - Short for 'mobile entity', creatures that attack other characters.



Zombie - In-game characters that come out at night and attack players by touching them.



Pro's



Fosters creativity and imagination in play!



Teaches teamwork and planning with others.



Stimulates critical thinking and problem solving.



Easy to use and customise gameplay modes.



Con's



Children and young people may experience addiction to the game.



Creates opportunities for in-game bullying and 'attacks'.



Suggests spending 'Minecoins' on premium items and materials.



Uses online chat that allows interaction with strangers.

Keep your Minecrafter safe by...



Asking questions about the game. We recommend you set up an account with your child and help them explore.



Turning off 'mobs' by going to creative mode if children are prone to being scared of those sort of experiences.



Creating healthy screen time habits, since Minecraft has an addictive nature.



Learning together how to report and block unwanted users, configuring safety settings and privacy settings on different devices and consoles.



Talking with them about safe online gaming practices. Explain why age ratings are important and discuss the dangers of interacting with strangers online.



Making sure they know not to share personal information such as their date of birth or location.



AGE INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT WARNING

Parents and carers should be aware that the multiplayer mode can expose children and young people to content and language which may be inappropriate for their age, including 'bloody' battles and other mature themes.



TALENTS AND INTERESTS



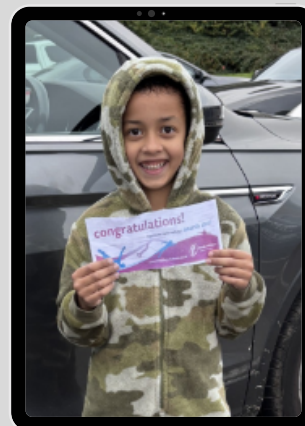
Poppy	Year 2	Speedway Mascot
Benjamin	Year 2	Art
Nathaniel	Year 4	Westminster Mile
Gabriella	Year 5	Westminster Mile
Edward, Fraser, Maddie, Imogen	Year 5	Rugby Festival
Ollie	Year 2	Riding a bike



TALENTS AND INTERESTS



Ivy	Year 3	Headstand
Libby	Year 3	Rugby
Edward	Year 5	Lego building
Liam	Year 3	Drawing
Florence	Year 3	Trampolining
Cali	Year 2	Swimming



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 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.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 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 the 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.
3. 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 will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

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.

WOW! It's the end of the first half term and in Thrive we have covered so much. We have looked at our feelings and emotions, World Mental Health day, Emotional Wellbeing month of October and our "Young Carers".

The topic I would like to talk about is "Young Carers" The children watched a video and had a talk about "What is a young carer?"

A young carer is a person under the age of 18 who provides regular practical, emotional, or physical support to a family member or friend who has a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. They may perform tasks such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, giving medication, or offering comfort during a crisis. These responsibilities can put pressure on a young person's schoolwork and social life.

Research shows that as many as one in five children and young people are young carers. There are around 800,000 young carers aged 11-16 in England alone. Young carers are now showing more in Primary Schools.

The responsibility of a young carer is wide and varied. It can include:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping
- Physical care, like helping someone out of bed
- Emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions
- Helping to give medicine
- Helping someone communicate
- Looking after brothers and sisters

What impact does being a young carer have?

Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying, and stressful. For young carers, this can negatively impact their experience in education and have a lasting effect on their life chances.

Another problem for young carers is recognising themselves as young carers. It's usually only when they reach secondary school that they realise their home life is different from their friends'. This is why this is important to me to make everyone aware that you may have a young carer at home and would like them to get extra help and support. I run a young carers group weekly at Hillcroft for the children to talk and have some time to be their self.

Please watch the video below and look on the website and if you think your child maybe a young carer and you would like to talk to me about this then email or see me in the playground.

Young Carers Video: <https://youtu.be/G74DRlphydo>

Actions for Carers in Surrey: <https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/who-we-help/young-carers-under-18/>

NEWS UP-DATE ABOUT "FAMILY THRIVE"

We will be running this 6 weeks course after Christmas. To let you know this is the new version of Family Thrive and is different from the last one. If interested please message
D.Pearson@hillcroftschoools.org

THE SALVATION ARMY



The Salvation Army Caterham Christmas Appeal 2024

The Caterham Salvation Army ensures that children, families and those in the community who might miss out at Christmas will have the joy of opening a gift and experiencing a full Christmas.

The 2024 Christmas Present Appeal provided 285 gifts to children and young people & families.



210 presents went to children up to 11 years



75 gift vouchers and gifts went to young people 12-16 years

The Be a Star Christmas appeal also supports those who do not have means for a Christmas meal.



109 Christmas food hampers were gifted



135 festive food treat bags delivered.



31 families gifted Christmas Lunch in a Bag

Christmas Day Community lunch for 64 people supported by 22 volunteers

At The Westway Wellbeing Centre, The Salvation Army and Caterham Churches Together, working together with donations and support from Caterham Waitrose, Rotary, Dial-a-ride, local school children who made Christmas cards and gift bags for each guest attending and individuals that gifted the cost of a lunch. With the many volunteers who helped as hosts, drivers, cooks and all the efforts in preparations for the day



We would like to say a massive *thank you* to all who donated and volunteered with the 2024 Be a Star appeal to make Christmas special for so many.

To get involved with further projects or Christmas 2025 please get in touch
Email caterham@salvationarmy.org.uk

The Salvation Army is a Christian church and registered charity in England (214770)



Be a STAR and donate a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal

OUT SHOPPING?

Please help us make Christmas special for those who are struggling this Christmas.



By adding an extra gift to support Caterham Salvation Army

We believe every child deserves **NEW GIFTS** so they are special. So we are unable to take second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal. Stuck for gift ideas? Suggested gifts are:

- **0-5 years: (Baby and Pre School age):** large dolls / dinosaurs, soft toys, mobiles, bath toys, nursery rhyme and story books, large and wood block puzzles, large cars / lorries, crayons, building blocks / Duplo, musical toys, dressing up outfits; wooden train sets
- **5-11: (Primary school age):** family and trivia games, toys, stationery (colouring sets, felt-tip pens, paints), books, puzzles, construction kits / Lego, art & craft activities, Barbie / action dolls, foot or hoops balls, hair accessories, gloves/hats/warm socks, race track sets
- **11-14: (High School age):** £10 "Amazon" or £10 "One4All" gift cards, toiletry sets or make up.

PLEASE DONATE NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS BEFORE 1st DECEMBER.
Collection points are at Caterham Tesco, Morrisons and The Westway Centre.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help sort, pack and deliver the gifts between 2nd and to 13th December. Do call 01883 330718 for detail of how to get involved.



Christmas Appeal



The Salvation Army is a Christian Church & registered Charity No. 214770 and in Scotland SC009151, Social Trust Registered Charity No. 219174 and in Scotland SC017091. The Salvation Army Trustees Company, registered number SC274122. England and Wales.

CATERHAM ROTARY CLUB

APPEAL FOR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION!



Are you able to donate any of the following items:

- Clothing, Shoes and Handbags
- Books
- Bric-à-brac
- Small Electrical Items (Hairdryers, Table Lamps, Radios etc)

Note: Clothing and textiles that are not in perfect condition should be cleaned and placed in a bag clearly marked 'TEXTILES FOR RECYCLING' separate from other donated items. for example: a dress with a broken zip, or old towels or sheets.

Please donate any items at **Scouts, 105 Godstone Road, Caterham, CR3 6RF** on the following dates/times:

THU 30 OCT
3.00PM - 5.00PM
FRI 31 OCT
9.00AM - 1.00PM
SAT 1 NOV
9.00AM - 1.00PM



ALL ITEMS TO BE DONATED BY 1:00PM ON SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

For more information call:
0787 814 949 | events@caterhamrotary.org.uk

Caterham Rotary Registered
Charity Number 254116