

# HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Nurturing children to achieve their personal best*

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

### ★ School Highlights

This week we have welcomed Spring with open arms. The sunshine has brought smiles all round and it has been wonderful to see the pupils embracing the outdoors through forest school, PE lessons or World Book Day scavenger hunts.

### 📅 Save the date

For Red Nose Day we are asking children to wear their usual school uniform for the day but they can accessorise with something red e.g. red socks, a red headband, a red nose etc

- 20<sup>th</sup> March - Red Nose Day

### 📅 Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming families into school next week for Parents' Evening. Please get in touch with the office if you are struggling to make an appointment. These meetings are an important opportunity to catch up with your child's teacher, celebrate progress made and look at next steps.

Have a lovely weekend (hopefully the sun will continue!)



## Parking



We've received feedback from local businesses and property owners about vehicles blocking access during busy school times. Please follow all parking restrictions and avoid stopping in areas that block entrances, exits, or customer spaces.

Your considerate parking keeps our pupils safe and supports positive relationships with our neighbours.

Thank you for your cooperation.



## Key Dates



Please navigate to our [website](#) for information about upcoming key dates.



## Easter Competition



Hillcroft Primary School & Nursery

North Downs Hospital  
Part of Romney Health Care

**EASTER CARD COMPETITION**

**WIN PRIZES**

**NORTH DOWNS HOSPITAL ARE SPONSORING AN 'EGG-CELLENT' EASTER CARD COMPETITION**

Please put your **name** and **year group** on the back of your card and hand in to the office or your class teacher.

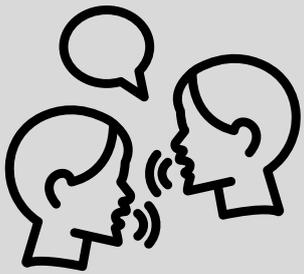
All Easter Card entries must be with Mrs Gear by **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**.

Good Luck!

# CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



To be surrounded by wizards, and princesses, hungry caterpillars and sporting heroes, sleeping beauties and aliens, Lilo and Stitch, an array of Spider people, super heroes and villains and even pirates on World Book Day was nothing short of sensational. For the effort that our young people, their families and staff went to in reminding one another of the 'fun of and love for reading' I extend every ounce of gratitude. Investing in events like this is an investment in the outcomes of our young people. Thank you. Of course every day at Hillcroft is an opportunity to enhance our love for reading, but events like this also have a place to focus our attention.



Families received a message from me this week regarding communication. Speaking politely and respectfully to one another costs nothing but again is a massive investment in how we make people feel. Using language which is rude, loud, negative or upsetting to another person is actively discouraged and has no place at Hillcroft. Such events, when brought to my attention, will receive an investment of my time to help educate those people of the power of positive communication.

As the sun begins to shine, we may be tempted to start thinking ahead to summer holidays and time to relax. However, even with this welcome break from the cold, wet winter, it's important that we remain focused on wearing our full school uniform with pride.



Regardless of your scheduled activities this weekend, I wish you and your family nothing but quality time together.

*Paul Jensen*

We introduce Makaton in Nursery and incorporate small elements into whole school assemblies and as part of our teaching of key vocabulary in Early Years. Follow [this link](#) to find out how Makaton can help your child when they are in the early stages of speech.

## SAFEGUARDING



### Online Safety & Gaming

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

#### Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others

#### Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

#### Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others

#### Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support

To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub: [swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/](http://swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/)

or scan the QR code

#### Further Support

**Professionals Online Safety Helpline:** [saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline](http://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline)

**Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service:** [swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/](http://swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/)

**Report Harmful Content:** [reportharmfulcontent.com](http://reportharmfulcontent.com)

## A message for Mrs Pearson:

WOW! It's been a busy two weeks. We kicked things off with "Let's Talk!", where children answered personalized questions, followed by World Book Day, where we explored which Mr. Men or Little Miss characters best represent us. For the rest of the term, our focus shifts to Empathy, Fantasy, and Reality.

Creativity, play, and the arts form one of the four pillars of Thrive. Research shows that embracing a young person's creative side significantly benefits their emotional well-being and development.

### How to Encourage Creativity at Home

- Let them get bored: Don't "rescue" your child from boredom. Staying in that space allows them to discover who they are and how to manifest their own ideas into reality.
- Get outside: Step into nature to observe and explore. A change of environment offers a fresh perspective and infinite play opportunities.
- Encourage performance: Invite your child to compose a poem, song, or dance. Give them your full attention when they are ready for an audience, but let them choose the topic themselves.
- Lead by example: Start your own creative project—make a card or decorate something just for joy. Sharing your hobbies is the best way to raise courageously creative people.
- Embrace the mess: Creativity is often disorganized. Try not to let the need for tidiness override the process; fighting the mess can inadvertently signal that their creativity is an "inconvenience."

#### ***New date to keep:***

*Thrive Day will be on Thursday 25th June 2026*

*More details to follow.*



## Parent Empowerment Group

A four week online course for effectively supporting children and young people who are experiencing anxiety.

Our FREE\* course covers the following topics:

- ✓ Understanding the science of emotions and anxiety;
- ✓ Using quality time to support increased resilience and wellbeing;
- ✓ Parents supporting each other;
- ✓ Steps to success, building bravery with compassion;
- ✓ Managing your child's worries;
- ✓ Creating a bridge of connection between home and school.

The course receives consistent positive feedback from participants and parents feel that the strategies have improved family life.

*Please note: In order to get the best out of the course, participants need to commit to attending each week, using the tools and strategies at home, and share their experiences within a nurturing and supportive space.*

### Future course dates are :

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	OR	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
From 9.30am until 11am on Teams		From 9.30am until 11am on Teams

To register for our FREE\* course, please follow the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or book, using the QR code:



\* This course is funded by Mindworks Surrey for parents of children & young people living in Surrey only.

# TRAIN WITH US, GROW WITH US



Join us at our in-person teacher training recruitment event at:

**Merstham Park School**  
Redhill, RH1 3PU  
Tuesday 17th March  
6.00pm - 7.30pm

[www.glfitt.org](http://www.glfitt.org)

REGISTER HERE



[X](#) GLFSchoolsTT [in](#) GLFITT [@](#) glfsh [f](#) glfsh [globe](#) glfitt.org [envelope](#) info@glfitt.org

**Nursery  
Admissions  
Deadline  
13 March 2026**



Nursery applications for 2, 3 and 4 year olds are now live for September 2026 starts



**Visit our website to apply!**



[www.hillcroftschoo.org](http://www.hillcroftschoo.org)

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)

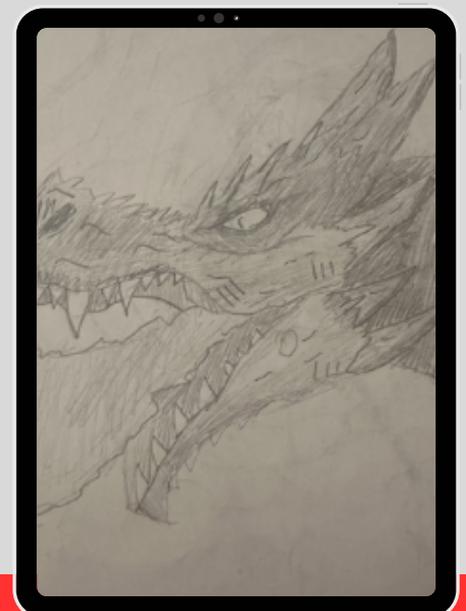
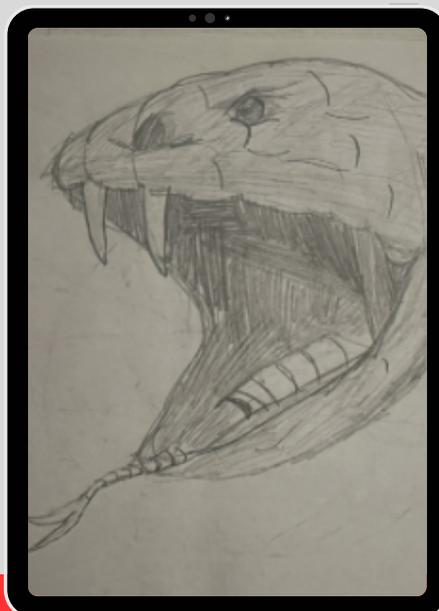


**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026**

# TALENTS AND INTERESTS



Ollie	Year 2	Football
Isla	Year 2	Lego
Joni	Year 3	Litter Picking
Lewis	Year 2	Football
Lucas	Year 6	Art



# 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.