# **Hillcross Primary School**



### **2025 Welcome Meeting Updates**

Think, Nurture, Thrive and Be Proud!









# Welcome to Year Five

Cath Reidy
Phase 2 Leader
Curriculum Leader
Class Teacher

Team Aspen



P.E and Healthy Schools
Leader

Class Teacher
Team Beech

Michelle De Silva

Teaching Assistant (Both Teams)

Nida Ghauri

Teaching Assistant (Both Teams)

Michelle Jennings

Teaching Assistant (Both Teams pm)

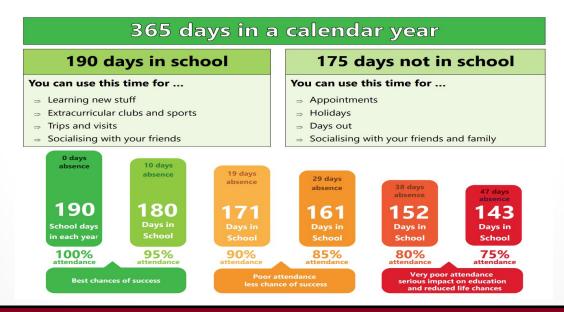
Think, Nurture, Thrive and Be Proud!

School Values: At Hillcross we are aspirational, courageous, honest, respectful and responsible.

## **Attendance**



There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a child misses puts them at a disadvantage and can affect their educational outcomes. Learning is a cumulative process and therefore it is not just the 7-8 lessons worth of learning that a child loses by being absent for one day – not being part of the lesson creates gaps in children's knowledge, skills and understanding that puts them at a disadvantage in future lessons. There is no time in the already packed school curriculum for staff to re-teach lessons to children who have been absent. As a result, each missed day can lead to progressively lower achievement, a lack of confidence and poor self-esteem. Longer absences such as visits to relatives and family holidays compound this significantly, yet there are 175 non-school days a year to spend as family time, visits, holiday and other appointments.



## **Punctuality**



- **Punctuality** is also **crucial to ensuring a relaxed and smooth start to the day**. The staff will **carry out specific work every morning with the specific children**, so please try to arrive as close to **8.30am** as you can.
- School starts at 8.30am each morning (indicated by the school bell).
- At 8.45am a second bell rings and this means that all classroom doors and school gates will be locked. Registers are closed so if you arrive on or after the second school bell you will need to take your child to the school office to sign in and they will be recorded as late- this can upset children greatly too.
- School finishes at 3pm, gates will open soon before. Children will be dismissed directly from their designated door (back playground) to a known adult. If someone different is collecting your child, please inform staff beforehand as we will not let children go with another adult without your permission they will also have to know the unique safeguarding password that you put on your school admissions form. You may request permission for your child to walk home via the form on the school Website. <a href="https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/forms/permission-to-walk-home-year-5-and-6">https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/forms/permission-to-walk-home-year-5-and-6</a>
- School gates are closed at 3.10pm so if you do not enter and exit between these times, you will have access to the Ashridge entrance only.

## Communication



### There are three places that parents should look to ensure they are kept up to date with all relevant information about school life.

- .. Your My Child At School (MCAS) Account/App although the App may be more convenient, we recommend that families log on to their MCAS account from a desktop as regularly as they can as many parents have told us that this is much easier to navigate.
  - a. **Announcements** are short time related messages/updates that will be automatically removed when they are no longer relevant e.g. cancellation of an extracurricular club.
  - b. **Products/Store:** In the Browser, click 'Products, All'. In the App, press 'Store' at the bottom of the screen (Products will appear). In these sections you will find information about events, purchase opportunities and the Hillcross Children's Fund. You also book/purchase tickets for school led events from this section e.g. year group performances, film nights, discos and contributions to the whole school topic etc.

Top tip: If you can only purchase one of these items, it will disappear from the store when you have bought it.

- c. **Trips:** information regarding school trips and visits is sent via email (see section below). On receipt of the email you go to the Trip section and the trip/visit will be in the available section, once you have made your voluntary contribution your booking will appear in the enrolled/named section.
- d. **Wraparound Care:** you would go to this section if you would like to book an ad hoc (one-off) booking for Breakfast Club or After School Club (please indicate 5pm or 6pm pick up). If you would like to book a permanent place at either of these provisions you must email info@hillcross to make this request. You can book Holiday club sessions directly from here.

## **Communication**



#### My Child At School Account/ App Continued

- e. **Clubs:** information regarding Extra-curricular enrichment clubs is sent via email (see section below). On receipt of the email you go to the Clubs section and the clubs option will be in the available to book at the specified time, once you have booked and paid for the club, your booking will appear in the enrolled/named section.
  - Top tip 1: This should not be booked as a families childcare option as they can be cancelled at short notice.
  - Top tip 2: Parents should make a note of when the different clubs are and are not running, the 'next booked session' will tell you when the next session will be.
- f. **Dinner/s:** This is where you book your child a school dinner if you would like the kitchen to prepare a meal for them.e. You select the date, choose school meal, halal meal or vegetarian and press submit.
  - Top tip 1: Booked meals will then turn green.
  - Top tip 2: It is significantly easier to book this via the browser! e. You select the date, choose school meal, halal meal or vegetarian and press submit. Top tip: Booked meals will then turn green. Top Tip 2: It is significantly easier to book this via the browser!
- 2. **The personal email inbox you used to open your Bromcom account** we will send emails when there is a lot of information to share and/or if the message contains information that you may wish to refer back to over time.
- 3. **The Weekly Bulletin published every Friday** an announcement is sent to alert you it has been uploaded and you can go to the website: Virtual Office; Bulletin/Newsletter to read it. The link is here for your ease: <a href="https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/newsletter">https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/newsletter</a>. From September we will be able to put the link to the Bulletin directly into the announcement.

## **School Uniform**



#### **School Uniform**

- Maroon long sleeved cardigan or V-neck sweatshirt with school logo.
- White or maroon short sleeved polo shirt (with or without logo) or white shirt/blouse.
- Grey tailored pinafore dress, skirt, skort, shorts or trousers. Clothing should be knee length and tight pencil skirts are not appropriate, as they are too restrictive.
- (Plain) white, grey or black socks or tights (no leggings to be worn under uniform).
- If your child wears cycling shorts, or similar, under a school skirt or dress, these must be white, black or grey and must not be seen below the hem.
- <u>Plain black shoes</u> (not sling-back, open toed or heeled) <u>or trainers</u> (no coloured markings) with Velcro fastening until children can manage their own shoelaces/buckle. No boots, plimsolls, canvas pumps or coloured trainers.

#### Warm Weather Options

- Pink/white or red/white checked summer dress (not all in one or 'hybrid' versions).
- White/black closed toe leather sandals (in summer).

#### Other compulsory Uniform Items

- Hillcross Logo School Rucksack (Small rucksacks or book bags are available for children in EYFS & KS1). One small discrete key ring may be attached to help your child identify their bag.
- Transparent Water Bottle:
  - From September 2024, Nursery and Reception will have a maroon or white lid. Alternatively, parents can source their own transparent water bottle with a black, white, grey or maroon lid/tint. (If as an existing parent you have purchased a different coloured lid already, you do not need to purchase a new one unless you want to.)
  - Year 1 to Year 6 children will have a house team coloured lid.
     Alternatively, parents can source their own transparent water bottle in their child's house colour (see picture for colour guide).
- Sunhat Hillcross logo hat recommended (no visors as these do not provide full protection).

















#### PE Kit (Year 1 to Year 6)

The PE kit listed is considered to be part of our school uniform and children should wear this to school on their confirmed PE day/s. Trainers for PE should be black, but please remember how often these get lost and that they will be worn in muddy conditions, so do not send your child to school with expensive trainers

- PE sweatshirt with school logo.
- (From Sep 2024) Year 1-Year 6: a plain t-shirt in your child's house colour; nursery and reception children will wear a plain white t-shirt.
- Plain black jogging bottoms or thick black leggings (no logos).
- <u>Plain black</u> shorts, Skort or thick black cycling shorts no shorter than mid thigh (no logos).
- Black indoor plimsolls or trainers for indoor sports (These must not have been worn outside, as they are required to protect the gym floor).
- Black outside trainers for outdoor sports (In the sports arena or field).
- School logo drawstring PE bag to store kit.
- \*Please note earrings must be removed or covered with plasters (please provide plasters).











#### Indoor Shoes for PE Lessons in the Gvm

We ask families to purchase indoor trainers/plimsolls for use in the school gym so that if the weather does not allow for PE lessons to take place outside, the lessons can be held inside. For health and safety reasons, we cannot allow children to take part in games such as football, basketball or tag rugby in bare feet. Whilst we appreciate that there may be periods of time that Teams are lucky with the weather and all their PE lessons take place outside, we cannot predict whether or not this will be the case. If it rains and a lesson has to take place inside, if children do not have indoor footwear, they cannot take part in the lesson. You will be aware that lessons are sequential and skills are developed and built upon each week, which puts those children who miss lessons at a disadvantage.

Please remember to label all items of your child's uniform - this includes shoes, lunchboxes and water bottles.

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## **The Hillcross Curriculum**



At Hillcross, we have designed a bespoke curriculum that is reviewed and developed over time so that it incorporates all elements of the National Curriculum whilst considering the specific needs of the children in our school community.

Careful consideration has been given to what content is crucial for our children to learn and the best contexts in which they can learn this. Our curriculum is accessible and relevant to all children and reflects and celebrates the diversity of our school community and society as a whole.

As part of our Thinking School status, we encourage children to use a wide range of vocabulary effectively to think deeply about and discuss what they encounter reading is an integral part of this.

### The Hillcross Curriculum



During Year Five, we will explore 6 different topics, as well as trailblazers chosen by the children themselves.

Trailblazers are topics which the children are keen to explore and a decision is reached through a democratic vote.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2 Spring 1		Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	
We're the Kids in America	Third Rock from the Sun	It's all Greek to me	Oh I do like to be beside the seaside	Marvellous Mayans	Whole School Topic	
A study of the physical features of North America, investigating climate, mountain ranges and flora and fauna.	Exploring space, our solar system and day and night.	A study of the Ancient Greeks and their impact on the western world?	Studying what it is like to live by the seaside. Investigating Birling Gap, Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters country Park.	MAY-ANswer questions about this Mesoamerican civilisation; culture, plants and animals.	Varies every year	

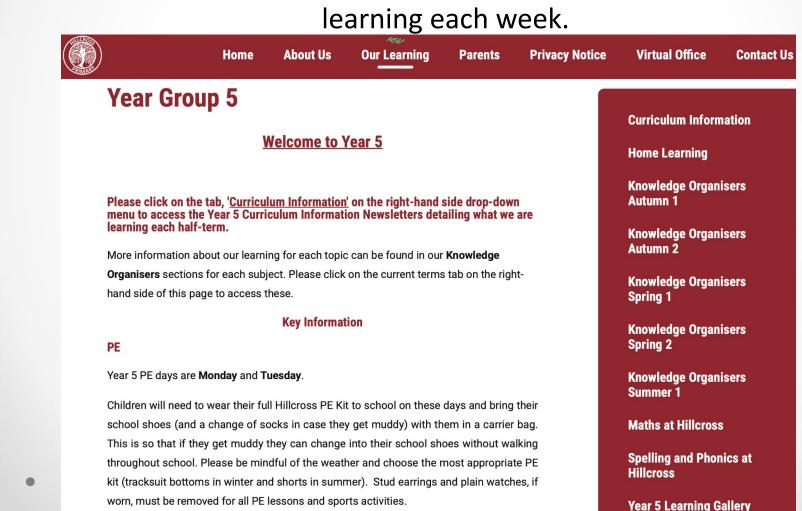
### **Educational Visits in Year Five**

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1
Gurdwara Visit/Speaker	Mission to Mars: LEGO® Explorers Workshop (Natural History Museum)	Greek Day (In School)	Seven Sisters National Park Royal Albert Hall Merton Concert	Portals From the Past Maya Workshop (In School)



### The Hillcross Curriculum

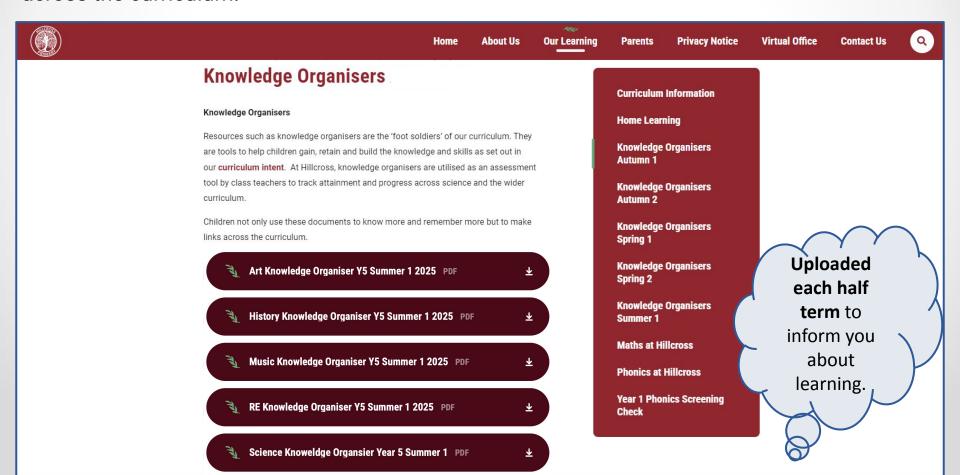
Our school website has an abundance of information to inform you as parents about your children's learning. Also, explore the Year Five page where you can find specific Year Five information, including pictures of our learning each week.



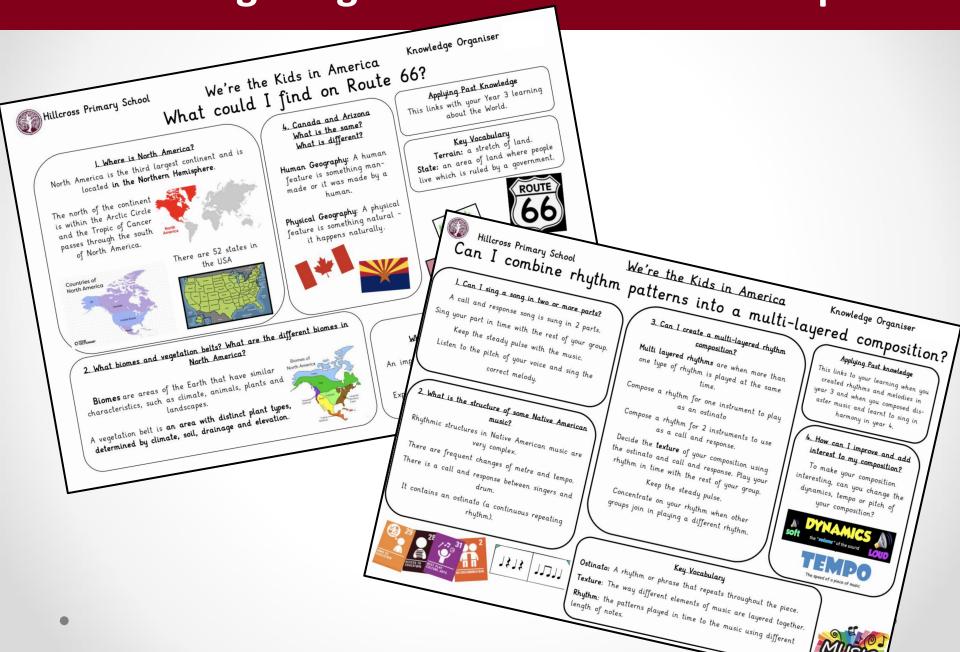
### **Knowledge Organisers**

Knowledge Organisers are the 'foot soldiers' of our curriculum. They are tools to help children gain, retain and build the knowledge and skills as set out in our **curriculum intent**.

Children not only use these documents **to know more and remember more** but to make links across the curriculum.



# Knowledge Organisers - here is an example:



## **Monitoring of Progress**



In Year Five, children's progress and attainment are measured against statements directly linked to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study each term. This performance data and your child's progress is communicated to parents at parents' evening and in the end of year reports.

**Termly Progress Celebration Evenings** also offer families the opportunity to come in and see the learning in the children's Writing, Maths and Wider Curriculum books. Staff won't be available to speak to you during these evenings, it is however an opportunity for you and your children to sit and look at their learning (and the learning environment) together.

At various points across the year, you will either be invited into school or be able to see them in videos (via Google Classroom) to celebrate learning. This includes a Christmas Carol Service.

# **The Learning Environment**



At Hillcross we believe the classroom (or any given learning environment) should be organised to support children's access to and engagement with their learning, helping to build the children's independence as a learner. A positive and safe learning environment will help to ensure children can focus on their learning, develop positive attitudes and give them the 'space' and confidence to take risks and meet challenges set.

We involve children in the creation their class environment to create a sense of ownership which supports teaching and learning and promotes young children's physical, mental and emotional well being. Clear routines and rules will be displayed in the classroom to ensure all children are upholding our values and high behaviour expectations. The children create the Class Charter (linked to the The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child- UNCRC) together.

An environment is not just a physical space; it is a 'feeling', a 'place to be'.

### Class Charter for Team Aspen

As <u>Rights Holders</u>, we will

### As <u>Rights Holders</u>, we have the Right to:

#### **Article**

• 13: share our thoughts freely.

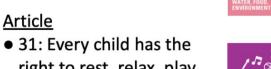
#### **Article**

 28: have access to education.



#### **Article**

 24: Health water food and the environment.



 31: Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.



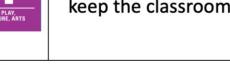
### Respect and listen to each other's opinions, ideas and thoughts.

Respect the Rights by:

- Respect each others' right to learn, ensuring everyone feels safe both emotionally and physically.
- Aspire to do our best, aim high, make marvelous mistakes and believe in success.
- Work collaboratively, using strategies to climb out of the learning pit showing resilience.
- Look after the resources and keep the classroom tidy.

# As <u>Duty Bearers</u>, the Adults will Respect the Rights by:

- Respect and listen to everyone's opinions, ideas and thoughts.
- Support Team Aspen's right to learn, ensuring everyone feels safe both emotionally and physically.
- Support Team Aspen to do their best, have high expectations, make marvelous mistakes and succeed.
- Work collaboratively to support Team Aspen to develop resilience and build strategies to climb out of the learning pit.
- Create a well resourced, calm and inspiring learning environment.



### Class Charter for Team Beech

# As <u>Rights Holders</u>, we have the Right to:

Articles: 28, 17, 29 & 2 - access to education and information, aims of education & no discrimination









Article: 3 - best interests of the child



Article: 2, 12 & 13 - no discrimination, respect for children's views & sharing thoughts freely







### As <u>Rights Holders</u>, we will Respect the Rights by:

- Respect and listen to each other's opinions, ideas and thoughts.
- Respect each others' right to learn, ensuring everyone feels safe both emotionally and physically.
- Aspire to do our best, aim high, make marvellous mistakes and believe in success using a positive mindset when we feel like giving up.
- Work collaboratively, using strategies to climb out of the learning pit showing resilience.
- Look after the resources and keep the classroom tidy.
- Sitting safely on our chairs at all times.
- Being polite (saying 'please' and 'thank you'

# As <u>Duty Bearers</u>, the Adults will Respect the Rights by:

- Respecting and listening to everyone's opinions, ideas and thoughts.
- Being there to listen to questions, worries and concerns.
- Supporting Team Beech's right to learn, ensuring everyone feels safe both emotionally and physically.
- Supporting Team Beech to do their best by having high expectations, being proud of marvellous mistakes striving for success.
- Working collaboratively to support developing resilience, building strategies to climb out of the learning pit.
- Creating a well resourced, calm and inspiring learning environment.
- Making reasonable adjustments where appropriate.

### **Home Learning**

Home Learning is set on a **Friday** afternoon via Google Classroom and must be turned in by the following Wednesday by 8:00am.

Home → Our Learning → Home Learning - Homework

### Home Learning - Homework

We believe home learning is a key way of preparing children for new learning and/or practising key skills they have learnt in school. Performance information shows that those children who continue their learning at home make comparatively better progress than their peers who do not.

There are often conflicting views amongst different members of the school community about homework expectations. Some people think children should be doing more than is asked of them and others think we are not asking for enough! At Hillcross, we have attempted to find a balance by providing some elements of home learning that are non-negotiable and some that are optional extras. We have also tried to incorporate a degree of flexibility for those parents who find it difficult to fit specifically structured tasks into their already busy lives.

Directed home learning tasks will be set every Friday and will be due in by the following Wednesday. All home learning tasks will be uploaded to Google Classroom. Please refer to the Google Classroom links on the right hand side of this page to find out how Google Classroom works.

Please refer to the Home Learning Policy for more information.

Investing time to support your child's home learning can really help improve their progress and achievement. Try to make homework part of the family routine and create the time and space for your child to do their homework without distraction from the TV or radio. Together we can make sure that your child achieves the best possible outcomes.

Google Classroom Parent Guide

Google Classroom Presentation Video

How can I support my child at home?

**Homework Help** 

Google Classroom: Viewing Feedback from Teachers

**Home Learning Policy** 

**Nursery Expectations** 

**Reception Expectations** 

**Year 1 Expectations** 

**Year 2 Expectations** 

**Year 3 Expectations** 

**Year 4 Expectations** 

**Year 5 Expectations** 

**Year 6 Expectations** 

### **Home Learning**

### **Year 5 and 6 Expectations**

- Reading (child reads to parent and/or independently) recorded 5 times a week in line with our Reading Pledge in the Yellow Reading Log.
- Targeted spelling activities as directed by the class teacher completed work will be evidenced via Google Classroom (This may include photos).

After a successful trial last year, children in Year 5 will be given home learning booklets to complete learning in each week. These will consist of:

- A grammar revision booklet
- A maths revision booklet
- A reading comprehension booklet

Each week, children will be expected to complete specific pages from each booklet, which will reflect learning the children have been learning that week so they can practise and apply their skills. These pages will be set on Google Classroom every Friday.

The expectation is that children bring all the booklets in by Wednesday so that teachers can provide and model feedback.



### **Our Hillcross Pledges**



#### The Hillcross Handwriting Pledge

Taking care with our handwriting enables us to communicate with clarify and precision.

As a school, we pledge to teach and demonstrate a fully cursive style and to give you opportunities to learn and practise this every week at school and at home.

In return, you pledge to write using our school cursive style.

The Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gq Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vr Ww Xx Yy Zz



### The Hillcross Reading Pledge Reading is power. We read today for a powerful tomorrow.



As a school, we pledge to share a 'Class Reader' with you every day for 10 minutes.

This could be a narrative, non-fiction or poem.

In return, **you pledge** to read at home for a minimum of 10 minutes every day (we encourage you to read for longer whenever you can).

By following this pledge, you will read over 140,000 words every year! This will not only help you improve as a reader but as a learner.



#### The Hillcross Times Table Pledge

It is better to solve one problem five different ways than to solve five problems one way.



As a school, we pledge to devote 10 minutes every day to practise times tables. This could be through a recall game or a teaching strategy.

In return, you pledge to practise your times tables at home, every day, for a minimum of 10 minutes.

By following this pledge, you will become more efficient mathematicians and be confident in applying your knowledge to different contexts in mathematics.

## A Day in the Life

8.	8.30 9.00 10.30 10.50 11:05 12:00 1:00 2:55							
Mon	EMW Emotional Check-in Library Priority Readers Nessy	9:00 - 10:00 Library  PE (Lesson 1)  Maths (Beech)  9:00-10:30  Maths intervention groups	10:30 - 10:45 Collective Worship	10:50 - 11:05 Break	11:05-12:00 PE/Maths		1:00-1:20 Spelling 1:20-2:20 Whole Class Reading	2:20-2:50 English
Tues	EMW Emotional Check-in Priority Readers Nessy	8:45 - 9:30 PPA Group 1 9:30 - 10:15 PPA Group 2	10:15 - 10:30 Break	10:30-11:15 PPA Group 3  11:15-11:30 Author Collective Worship (Michelle & Nida)  11:30-12:00 PSHE		L u n c h 12:00 - 1	1:00-2:10 Maths	2:10 - 2:50 English (Grammar? & Spelling?)
Wed	EMW Emotional Check-in Priority Readers Nessy	9:00 - 10:00 English 10:00-10:30 Maths intervention groups	10:30 - 10:45 Collective Worship	10:50 - 11:05 Break	11:05-12:00 Maths	: 0 0	1:00-1:20 Spelling 1:20-1:50 Whole Class Reading	1:50-2:20 Geography 2:20 - 2:55 DT

## **Healthy School**



Hillcross has **Healthy Schools Status**. We are very committed to maintaining this standard and aim to promote and support healthy lifestyles and choices for the children, their families and ourselves.

- Year 5 children will engage in two PE sessions each week. PE kits are a vital part of school equipment to help teach the pupils about safety, health and hygiene. Year 5 children will be asked to come into school dressed in their PE kits on a Monday and Tuesday. Children will also need to have a pair of indoor plimsolls or trainers to be kept in school. These will be worn in the gym as and when the PE session is lead in here and are different from their daily trainers.
- All children should have a balanced diet, which includes plenty of water and fruit, alongside their three main meals. Breakfast is essential and we urge all families to ensure their children have a suitable breakfast before coming to school. Throughout their day they will have regular access to fresh drinking water via their water bottle to keep them hydrated and alert for learning.

# Other important Information



#### **Arrival and Dismissal**

A smooth and stress free start to the day is essential for the children's wellbeing and development. In Years 5 and 6, children are allowed to walk to and from school on their own. If you would like to give your child permission to do this, please complete the form on our school website: <a href="https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/forms/permission-to-walk-home-year-5-and-6">https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/forms/permission-to-walk-home-year-5-and-6</a> Permission will then be granted by the discretion of Lisa Francis. Children who walk to and from school by themselves may bring in a mobile phone and this will be locked away safely throughout the day.

#### Friends of Hillcross (PTA)

We are extremely lucky to have an active and hard working PTA, who organise a number of exciting fundraising activities throughout the year. Every parent or guardian with a child in the school are automatically members of the PTA. The aim of the PTA is to bring together parents, carers, teachers and others in the community who have an interest in supporting the school. Our main objective is to enhance the education of the children in the school. We do this by raising funds to enable the school to purchase the 'extras' that cannot be funded from the school budget. More information can be found on the school website.

#### Hillcross Children's Fund

The purpose of the Hillcross Children's Fund is to provide additional materials and opportunities to enhance the learning experiences of our children. Contributions can be made by clicking on the QR Code displayed on the website and around the school, by Parentmail, by cash/cheque, through vouchers from Charity Trusts or by monthly standing order. We recommend setting up a monthly standing order as this is a much easier way to contribute. We suggest a contribution of £10 per month (£120 per year) or you can choose any amount that is affordable to you.

#### The 100 Club

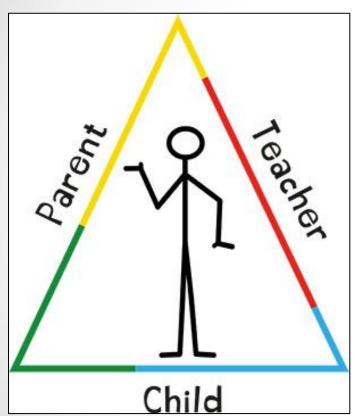
The Hillcross 100 Club as a fun way to raise additional funds for the school whilst also giving those who take part in the lottery style experience the chance to win some cash prizes. It is a monthly draw. Parents can pay £5 per month and are allocated a number (you can have more than one number if you wish to). Each month there are three prizes and the more members we have the more money you could win.

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## Last but definitely not least...

### **Collaboration is key**



Educating a child is a **team effort** and all three members of the team, child, parent and teacher, **need to play their part**. Each player occupying a corner of the triangle has a vital role to play. Take the child out of the picture and everything falls flat. Without the teacher, the triangle falls over and the same applies if we remove the parent. A triangle is a **stable structure** and can take on many forms and sizes and, because every child is different, it has to be so.

Please refer to our <u>Home School Agreement</u> and Acceptable Use Policies (<u>Child</u> and <u>Parent</u>)