# **Hillcross Primary School**



## **2025 Welcome Meeting Updates**

Think, Nurture, Thrive and Be Proud!







# Welcome to Year Two



#### **Carina Morris**

Class Teacher and Phase Leader
Team Cedar

#### **Hiba Badel**

Teaching Assistant (Both Teams)

#### **Holly Arnot**

Class Teacher (Fridays)
Team Cedar

#### Vicki Lowe

Class Teacher Team Yew

#### **Isobel Desa**

Teaching Assistant (Both Teams)

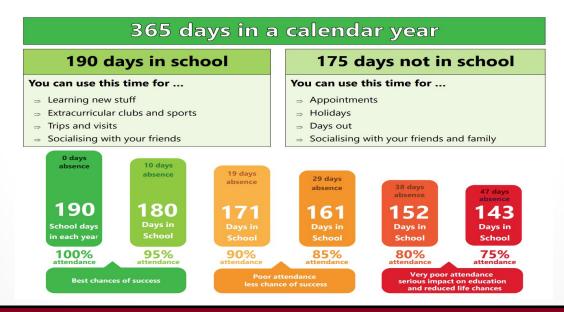
#### **Beth Wozniak**

**Cover Supervisor** 

## **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 class doors 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.
- **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.

## **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.
- White, grey or black socks or tights (no leggings to be worn under
- · 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
- Plain black shoes (not sling-back, open toed or heeled) or trainers (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 (no 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:
  - o 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
- 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).
- Plain black shorts 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 Gym

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.

# **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.

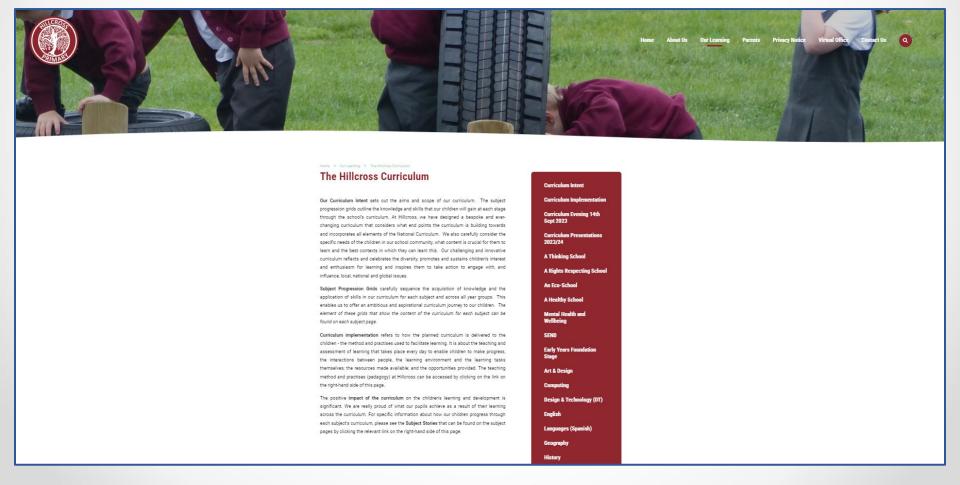
### The Hillcross Curriculum

During Year Two, we focus on these 6 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	
London Landmarks	Hearts and Lanterns	Under the Sea	Disaster Strikes	A Journey to Discovery	Whole School Topic	

### The Hillcross Curriculum

The Hillcross website has an abundance of information to inform you as parents about your children's learning. Please take to have a look at each of the subjects to find out more.



# **Monitoring of Progress**

From Year One, 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 Topic 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 and Year 2 performance in Spring term.

### **KS1 Sats**

Although end of KS1 assessments became non-statutory from the 2023/24 academic year onwards, we will continue to assess the attainment and progress of our Year 2 children using previous end of KS1 assessment frameworks and optional SATs papers which the children will sit in the Summer term.

### The children will complete:

- 2 x reading papers
- 1 x math arithmetic paper
- 1 x math reasoning paper
- 1 x spelling paper
- 1 x punctuation and grammar paper

# **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.

### Class Charter for Team Cedar

As <u>Rights Holders</u> , we have the Right to:	As <u>Rights Holders</u> , we will Respect our Rights by:	As <u>Duty Bearers</u> , the Adults will Respect your Rights by:			
Article 3:	<ul> <li>using kind hands and kind feet.</li> <li>only walking when we are inside the building.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>listening to you.</li> <li>acting with empathy and compassion.</li> <li>making your learning</li> </ul>			
Article 12 and 13:  12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS  13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY	<ul> <li>using our inside voices.</li> <li>respecting each other and each other's ideas.</li> <li>respecting and looking after our classroom</li> <li>interesting and active planning and slearning in a way that can understand.</li> <li>being firm, but fair.</li> </ul>				
Article 28:	<ul><li>environment.</li><li>always trying our best and give things a go.</li></ul>	• challenging you to do your			

always focussing during

learning time.

## **Educational Visits and Workshops in Year Two**

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1
London bus tour	Florence Nightingale Museum  Christmas Journey at St Martins Church	iMax cinema (TBC)	Year 2 Great Fire of London performance	African drumming and dance workshop



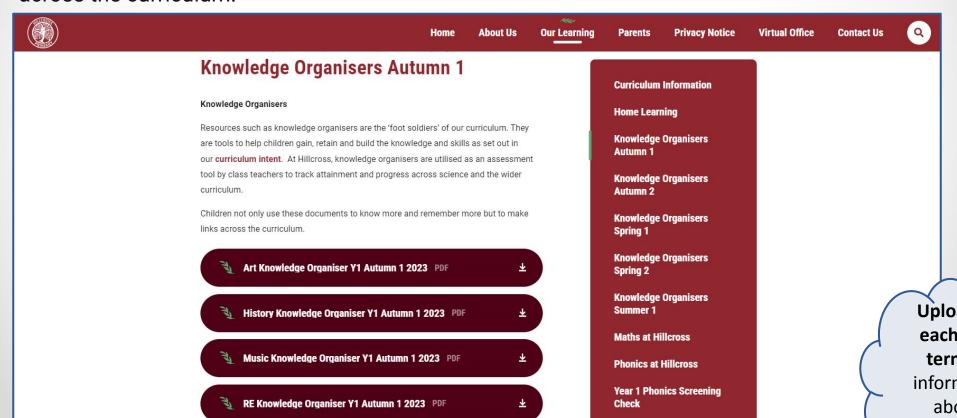




## **Knowledge Organisers**

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.



Science Knowledge Organiser Y1 Autumn 1 2023 PDF

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## Knowledge Organisers- here are some examples



#### Hillcross Primary School

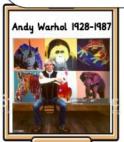


#### I, Who was Andy Warhol?

- He was an artist in the 1950s.
- He was a pop artist—this is someone who uses popular items to inspire their art.
  - He used who used primary and secondary

### 4. Can I use secondary colours to make a print? (Using London Landmarks)

- Create a design in my stamp linked to London landmarks.
- Mix a range of secondary colours to paint the background then print my design on top.



#### Applying past knowledge

This learning links to Year I when you looked at creating tints in primary colours for your William Morris designs.

# London Landmarks Can I use secondary colours to make a London print?

#### 2. How did Andy Warhol make his art?

- He used bright colours.
- Used silk screens to print his art work.

#### 5. How successful was my line pattern?

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Did}}\ \ensuremath{\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{use}}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{the}}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{way}}$  through?

Did I use a range of secondary colours?

Did I use a range shades and tints?



#### Year 2 Knowledge Organisers

### 3. How can I make secondary

 mix 2 primary colours together to create a secondary colour.



#### Key words

Pop art - is a style of art based on simple, bold images of everyday items, such as soup cans, painted in bright colours.

**Primary colours**—are used to create all other colours. They are red, **yellow** and **blue**.

**Secondary colours**—a secondary colour is created when 2 primary colours are mixed together.







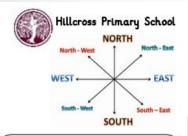








## **Knowledge Organisers- here are some examples**



#### Applying past knowledge

This learning links to your work in Year I where you created a map of school for Paddington

Key words

#### London Landmarks Paddington Bear comes to London

I. How will Paddington bear know where London is?

- 2. How can we help Paddington bear find London?
- Use key vocabulary, north, south, east and west to quide Paddington to London.
- Explain what it is near and far from London. 'London is in the south of England', 'London is east of Wales', 'London is near Brighton'.



#### Year 2 Knowledge Organisers

#### 3. What could Paddington Bear do in London?

London?









LONDON

### - What landmarks did we see in

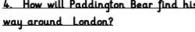
London Eye, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace.







- landscape or town that has importance or makes a place easily recognizable
- Map is a drawing of all or part of Earth's surface. Its basic purpose is to show where things are.
- Direction-The word direction is made from the root direct meaning to quide.
- Physical geographical features examines the nature and environment and with it, natural hazards and their effects
- Human geographical features-focuses on where people live, what they do, and how they use the land.
- Key-Explains what the different symbols a map mean.
  - Compass-a tool for finding the direction you want to go in.



- Use the maps to guide Paddington around London using north, south, east and west.

- Use symbols to create a tour map for Paddington.



Capital





### **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**

When your child enters Key Stage 1 there will be **statutory home learning set for them each week**. While we understand that this may be a **new aspect to school life** for some we also understand the importance of learning at home and continuing to work on there knowledge and skills with support from parents and guardians.

#### Year Two - Weekly Expectations

- Reading (child reads to parent) recorded 5 times a week in line with our Reading Pledge in the Yellow Reading Log.\*
- Phonic/Spelling Key word activities as directed by the class teacher- completed work will be evidenced via Google Classroom (This may include photos).
- A maths activity will be set on Google Classroom each week completed work will be evidenced via Google Classroom (This may include photos). This includes opportunities to practise fluency using 'Numbots' through the Times Table Rockstars website.
- Reading Comprehension once a week.
- Parents are asked to <u>supervise</u> daily handwriting practice for 5 minutes every day making reference to the
   Handwriting videos on the school website for accuracy. Parents are encouraged to buy whiteboards and dry
   wipe pens for their children to practise handwriting at home as children tend to find this method of practice
   more appealing and it is also more financially and environmentally sustainable than using paper.

\*The children are able to change their books more frequently if they wish to do so.

To support your child at home, we will share information about our weekly focus in reading & maths lessons on Google Classroom, which will include suggestions for things you can do and/or areas for you to focus on when working with your child at home. This does not have to be evidenced and it is for your reference only.

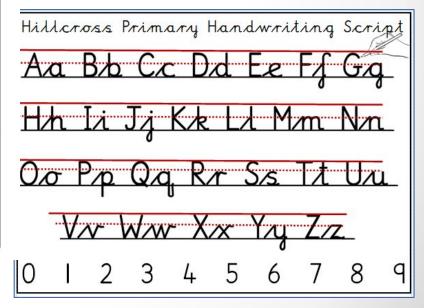
For more details, please refer to the Year 2 Home Learning page:

https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/our-learning/home-learning-homework/year-2

#### Year 2 Spelling Words

door	only	after	prove
floor	both	fast	improve
poor	old	last	sure
because	cold	past	sugar
find	gold	father	eye
kind	hold	class	could
mind	told	grass	should
behind	every	pass	would
child	great	plant	who
children	break	path	whole
wild	steak	bath	any
climb	pretty	hour	many
most	beautiful	move	clothes





# A Day in the Life



Hillcross School Weekly Timetable/ Team Cedar/Year 2/Autumn 1/Week 2/ Week beginning 8th September 2025

Monday	8:30- 8.50 EMW	English Lesson 1		Spelling 9.50-10.10	Break 10.10- 10.25	Whole school Collective Worship 10.30-10.5	Maths Lesson 1		L	Mastering number	Geography	Guided reading and reading for pleasure
Tuesday	8:30- 8.50 EMW	English Lesson 2		Spelling 9.50-10.10	Break 10.10- 10.25	Collective worship 10.30-10. 50	Maths Lesson 2		U	Mastering number	Science	Guided reading and reading for pleasure
Wednes day	8:35- 8.45 EMW	PPA Session 1	PPA Session 2		Break 10.30- 10.45	PPA Session 3	Author collective worship (in class)	N	Mastering number	English Lesson 3 Spelling	Guided reading and reading for pleasure	
Thursday	-8:35- 8.45 EMW	English Lesson 4	Phonics Break 9.50-10.10 10.10-1 0.25		Collective worship 10.30-10. 50		Maths Lesson 3	С	Mastering number	Art P4C	Guided reading and reading for pleasure	
Friday	-8:35- 8.45 EMW	English (Grammar Lesson) Visit library across AM	Phonics 9.50-10.10 10.10- 10.25 Visit library across AM		Collective worship 10.30-10, 50	Visit	Maths Lesson 4 Hibrary across AM		Mastering number	<u>re</u> <u>PSHE</u>	Radical Reading	

### Routines



Encouraging independent self-care skills will build on the expectations from reception in terms of looking after belongings, organising personal possessions and using the **toilet**. The children will enter their classroom independently, ensuring they have all the required equipment for the day. Please help your child to be organised.

- Children in Year Two will be required to bring in a Hillcross water bottle or coloured water bottle each day. These should be clearly named.
- The Year Two children will be using the outside learning area as much as possible and should bring a coat and/or sunhat each day into school.
- Children should bring in a small Hillcross rucksack. They should keep their Yellow Reading Record book in their bag everyday, as this is where the teacher will record how the reading session went and provide a focus for you to work on . We ask that all parents write / sign their child's Reading record daily to inform staff of how their child's reading skills are developing. Staff will then reply to any messages and questions in this book on your child's day. There aren't necessarily specific days that your child will read, as on some days the teacher could read with 8 children, but on another only 2 due to events taking place. Please return it daily.

## **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 2 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 2 children will be asked to come into school dressed in their PE kits on a Wednesday. 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.
- 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.
- Fruit is provided by the government fruit scheme and children in Year Two will continue to have access to this daily. Please don't send in additional fruit for your child.

# 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.

# Other important Information



#### 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

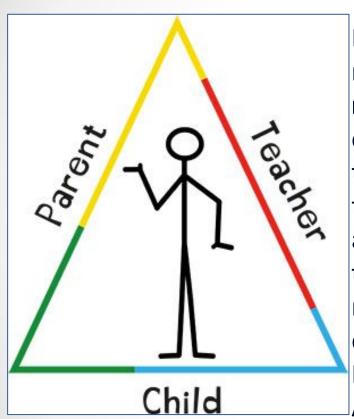
The purpose of the Hillcross Children's Fund is to provide additional materials and opportunities to enhance the learning experiences of our children. Contributions can be made by clicking on the QR Code displayed on the website and around the school, by Parentmail, by cash/cheque, through vouchers from 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.

# 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>)