



Hillcross Primary School.

Whole School Newsletter 8

This update does not replace the end of term newsletter but there were a few things we wanted to be able to share with parents before the end of term—please read on to find out more.

Staffing

We will be saying good bye to a number of staff at the end of this term and I wanted to give parents enough notice to be able to say good bye if they should wish to.

Jennifer Benson-Breen, Ellie Batzorig and Hayley Dawson have all moved a little further afield during their maternity leave making it difficult for them to travel to and from school each day. We wish them all every happiness in their new homes with their new families! (Jennifer may be able to provide us with some supply cover from time to time so you may see her at school again if we are lucky)

Maria Hughes has been awarded a well-deserved promotion; Setareh Majilesi will be going back to Canada to be with family and pursue new opportunities; Kasia Halota, Bryony Fraser and Niamh Shaughnessy have taken the decision to further their teaching careers in new schools; Naima Rahman is seeking employment closer to home; and Kasia Araszkiwska and Ellie Wahba are exploring the possibility of a whole new career direction.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of them for the wonderful contributions they have made to the school community. They will all be greatly missed.

Lauren Jarvis will be starting her maternity leave from September and we look forward to meeting the new addition to her family in the new academic year.

We are fully staffed for the new academic year and details of who will be teaching and supporting across the school will be sent out to parents on **Tuesday 16th July**. All staff (existing and new) will meet their new classes on this day and will be in attendance at the **Family Picnic on the Field** after school.

Hillcross Water Bottles

Following feedback from parents, staff and children and to support our drive to encourage children to develop healthy eating and drinking habits, from September 2019 we will be adding a new item to our compulsory school uniform list.

Clear plastic water bottles can be purchased from Tuesday 16th July (at the family picnic). The bottles come with four different coloured lids that will correspond with your child's house colour. There is a space on the bottle to write your child's name – the office team have permanent markers they will lend to anyone who doesn't have one of their own. We are aware that typically the water bottle itself lasts for longer than the lid (children do have a tendency to chew this!) and so we will also have available additional lids that can be purchased separately so that you don't have to buy a whole new bottle each time. The cost of the water bottle is £1.50 and lids can be purchased separately for 50 pence. Please make payments by cash.





Curriculum Information Evening

—A one-stop shop for key information you will need across the year.

Thursday 5th September 5:30 – 7:30pm

Please put this date and time in your diary now—if you don't come along you will miss out on important information you need to support your child next year.

At Hillcross we are keen to work in collaboration with families to ensure all children are able to get the very best from their time at the school. Over the past few years we have noticed a steady decline in the number of families who come along to curriculum information events, subject workshops and extra-curricular presentations that take place at the school. We have spoken to a number of families to try to gain an understanding of why this is happening and in essence it is because time is so precious. We have tried running sessions during the day (to accommodate people who have difficulties arranging childcare) as well as in the evening (to accommodate working parents) but this has meant that attendance at both sessions has been minimal and thus information is not getting to families and staff time is not utilised. Using our green 'new ideas' hat and applying the Habit of Mind 'Creating, Imagining and Innovating' we have developed a new idea for the academic year 2019-2020.

We will be running a new style of curriculum evening on Thursday 5th September where parents can come along for one evening, rather than several over the year, and get all the information they will need for the entire school year for each one of their children (should they have more than one). Opportunities will include:

Parent Workshops and Presentations will include:

- ◆ Y6 Residential Trip to Ypres, Belgium
- ◆ Y4 Residential Trip to Carreg Adventure, Wales
- ◆ Sex and Relationships Y5 & Y6 curriculum workshop
- ◆ KS1 SATs – Year 2
- ◆ KS2 SATs – Year 6
- ◆ Phonics Screening – year 1
- ◆ The Hillcross Mission and Vision – looking forward to 2022

There will be information desks relating to:

- ◆ PSHE Information (including SRE & Equality)
- ◆ Thinking tools
- ◆ Maths
- ◆ English
- ◆ Home learning (including how to use google classroom – for families with children in Y4, Y5 and Y6)
- ◆ Healthy School
- ◆ PE and Sport
- ◆ Eco-School
- ◆ The Library
- ◆ The Copse

The admin team will also be on hand to help you with the following:

- ◆ Purchasing Second hand uniform and the new water bottles.
- ◆ Assistance with accessing the website or Parentmail
- ◆ Updating the admin team re school dinners, attendance, contact details, medication – including handing in of new risk assessments (if you haven't already)
- ◆ Information about volunteering in school

We are also hoping to have representatives from Friends of Hillcross, the Governing Body and Chartwells (our school dinner provider) too.



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We do recommend that children are not brought along on the evening as it will be difficult for parents to keep a close eye on them with so much going on. However, we are giving you plenty of notice and you will only need to organise childcare for this one evening - although please bear in mind that there may be other opportunities for parents on offer throughout the year should they become available/relevant.

Please note that this will be a general information evening and staff will not be able to talk to parents about specific children individually. Appointments can be made if you feel this would be helpful – a request for such a meeting can be made with the admin team on the night of the event.

A timetable will be sent out prior to the event so that you can plan your evening and ensure you get to visit all the presentations and information stalls you would like to and we will of course appreciate any feedback you can give us about the event.

	Date	Time	Event/Meeting	
Important Dates				
	Wednesday 10th July	18:00 - 19:30	Y6 Performance to Parents	
	Thursday 11th July	18:00 - 19:30	EYFS Graduation Event	
	Friday 12th July	From 2:45pm	Whole School Topic Finale	
	Tuesday 16th July	15:00 - 16:00	Family Picnic on the Field	
	Thursday 18th July	18:00 - 20:00	Y6 Prom	
	Thursday 18th July	Nursery	Last Day of Term for Nursery	
	Friday 19th July	11:00 - 12:30	Y6 Graduation Event	
	Friday 19th July Reception & Phase 1 Phase 2 & 3	8:35– 13:30 8:35 –13:40	Last Day of the Summer Term (please collect your child/ren at the earlier finish time for their year group)	
	Monday 2nd September	INSET	School closed for pupils.	
	Tuesday 3rd September	8:35 - 15:10	Pupils in Year 1 –6 return to school for Autumn Term	
	Tuesday 3rd September	8:35 - 11:30	All existing Nursery children return for Autumn Term (pupils that are not moving up to reception)	
	Wednesday 4th September *Existing Pupils **New pupils to Hillcross	*8:30 –11:30 **9:00 –11:30	Reception children return to school for Autumn Term	
	Wed 4th & Thurs 5th September	8:30 -9:30	Reception Parents Tissues & Tears Coffee Morning	
	Friday 13th September	15:00 –16:00	Welcome Back Family Picnic	
	Thursday 26th September	19:00 - 20:30	Friends of Hillcross AGM	
	INSET Dates for 2019/2020 Monday 2 nd September Friday 20 th September Friday 14 th February Monday 20 th July Tuesday 21 st July	-	School closed for pupils	