

Hillcross Primary School: Whole School Newsletter 1

Vision 2025: To enable a resilient school community of compassionate global citizens, with a focus on well-being and mental health, fairness and environmental sustainability.

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. We look forward to seeing Year 1 to Year 6 children on Tuesday 5th September and our existing Nursery children on Wednesday 6th September. Please note that our new Reception classes start on Thursday 7th September so that we can carry out home visits for families new to the school.

Due to having less staff in the admin team, please remember that **the school office is closed to families on a face to face basis** and all communication should be made via email or telephone. Messages can also be given to members of staff in the playground at the beginning and end of the day.

We will be **welcoming three new members of staff**— Katie Sharp (year 1 teacher), Rosie Short (Year 5 teacher) and Niamh Guerin (School Business Manager)—as well as lots of new families. We know you will extend them a warm welcome and offer them support as they navigate their way around a new school environment.

I encourage all families to look at our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which has been reviewed in light of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023—visit the school website. Although this may seem more relevant to school staff, **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility** and the shared commitment of our families has always been instrumental in ensuring that children, and adults, in the Hillcross community are happy and safe.

A key date to have in mind for the beginning of term is our annual **Curriculum Evening on Thursday 14th September from 5pm -7pm**. This is for parents/carers only and you can come for the whole session or just for those elements that are of interest to you. I wanted to highlight a change to the timetable in relation to the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) workshop, which will now be a general introduction to our school curriculum and topic coverage and will be relevant to all year groups. This short session will be followed up later in the term with an evening workshop where the curriculum can be explored in more detail.

The SRE Workshop for Y4, Y5 and Y6 - will take place Tuesday 3rd October 6.15-7.45pm

The SRE Workshop for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3 - will take place Tuesday 7th November 6.15-7.45pm

To book a **FREE** place, please purchase your no cost ticket via your child's ParentMail account and this will secure you a place at the workshops. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

I am very excited about the year ahead as we build upon last years successes.

Best Wishes,

Lisa Francis,

Headteacher

Change to the beginning of the school day from Tuesday 5th September.

The government have recommended a school week of a 32.5 hours. This means that when we open the school gates at 8:30am, the children will be able to go straight into school instead of waiting until 8.35am. To help families, we will continue with our flexible registration period and keep doors and registers open until 8.45am.

Donations to School



We welcome donations from families that reduce our spending requirements but please **DO NOT** send any toys, books, furniture or other 'treasures' that you think may be of use to the school without checking with us first (email photos/description to info@hillcross.nerton.sch.uk). This is because some donations cannot be used in school, others replicate things we already have or a few do not meet the necessary safety requirements. The school then incurs the cost of getting rid of the items which can become expensive and time consuming.



Nurturing our children to think critically and creatively within a collaborative community.
School Values: aspiration, challenge, compassion, responsibility and respect



Curriculum Information Evening Parents Only

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

Thursday 14th September 2023, 5:00 – 7:00pm

We hold a curriculum evening for parents at the beginning of every school year where parents can come along for one evening (rather than several over the year) and find out the main things they need to know for the entire school year. Children are not allowed to attend this event due to space constraints but we hope that you will be able to make arrangements for childcare for this one evening or alternatively book the crèche that we will be operating on the evening, via your ParentMail app.

Please note that this will be a general information evening and staff will not be able to talk to parents about specific children individually. Phone calls or face to face meetings can be made if you feel this would be helpful – a request for such a meeting can be made with the admin team at the event or at any time across the year by speaking to one of the team or emailing info@hillcross.merton.sch.uk.

Parent Workshops and Presentations will include:

- **Y4 Residential to PGL & Y6 Residential to Ypres** – find out why these trips is an absolute must for your child's personal, social and emotional development!
- **Sex and Relationships Curriculum Workshop (all Year Groups)** – hear about the curriculum content (what we do and do not teach) so that you are prepared for any questions they may ask at home.
- **Phonics Screening (Year 1)** – what is it and how can you help your child to achieve their best.
- **Multiplication Check (Year 4)** – what is it and how can you help your child to achieve their best?
- **KS2 SATs – Year 6** – find out what you need to know to support your child to achieve their very best whilst maintaining their positive wellbeing.
- **The Hillcross Mission and Vision** – hear from the Headteacher about the focus for the year ahead.

A timetable is on the next page of the newsletter so that you can plan your evening and ensure you get to visit all the presentations you would like to. **Please note there is a separate Phonics Workshop for Reception Families on Friday 15th September at 8:45am.*

There will be information desks in the hall relating to:

- **Thinking tools** – this is a unique Hillcross approach to enabling children to think critically and creatively in their learning and more generally in life.
- **Maths Mastery** – find out how we teach maths, it's very different to the way many people learnt when they were at school!
- **English** – Grammar, Punctuation and Fantastic Writing, how we teach writing at Hillcross.
- **Pre-loved school uniform, whiteboards and water bottles** can be purchased.
- **School Dinner Tasting** – an opportunity to taste the food that children have for their school lunch
- **Guided Reading Book Sales** – your chance to purchase the books the children will be reading across the school year.

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

- Assistance with accessing ParentMail
- Information relating to school dinners, attendance, contact details, medication/medical risk assessments
- Information about volunteering in school

You are also welcome to have a look around the school and visit our subject specific learning spaces!!!!

Crèche

Following feedback from last year, we have made arrangements to offer a crèche facility for those parents who do not have an alternative. This will be **offered to pupils at Hillcross only** (no younger/older siblings) **at a cost of £5 per child** (e.g. if you have 3 children it will cost £15). This is a set price no matter how long you stay at the event. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis and a minimum number is required in order to make it financially viable for the school to provide. **To book a place please make payment via each child's ParentMail account and this will secure their individual place.**





Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility

Curriculum Evening Information Continued.....

Please note, if you are unable to attend for any reason, information relating to the above areas can be found on the school website and the presentations used on the evening will be uploaded to the relevant Year Group page. Parental Communications will be sent at relevant points across the year and we may invite families to other opportunities to find out about different events/ways of helping their children throughout the year as they become available/relevant.

Curriculum Evening: Parent Workshops/Presentations 2023

	Studio Hall	Aspen Class	Oak Class		Rowan Class	
5.05pm	Mission, Vision and Values Lisa Francis, Headteacher Whole School	Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Tanja Doig, AHT & PSHE Leader	Phonics Screening Carina Morris, Phase One Leader Year One parents (and Reception families who want to know for next year)		Y4 Residential to PGL Lisa Francis Year 4 parents (and Year 3 families who want to know for next year)	
	Studio Hall			Elm Class		Maple Class
5.35pm	Y6 Residential to Ypres Lisa Francis Year 6 parents (and Year 5 families who want to know for next year)			Multiplication Check Lee Christy, AHT Year 4 parents		KS2 (Y6) SATs Cath Reidy, Phase 2 Leader Year Six parents
	Studio Hall	Aspen Class	Oak Class		Rowan Class	
6.05pm	Mission, Vision and Values Lisa Francis, Headteacher Whole School	Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Tanja Doig, AHT & PSHE Leader	Phonics Screening Carina Morris, Phase One Leader Year One parents (and Reception families who want to know for next year)		Y4 Residential to PGL Lisa Francis Year 4 parents (and Year 3 families who want to know for next year)	
	Studio Hall			Elm Class		Maple Class
6.35pm	Y6 Residential to Ypres Lisa Francis Year 6 parents (and Year 5 families who want to know for next year)			Multiplication Check Lee Christy, AHT Year 4 parents		KS2 (Y6) SATs Cath Reidy, Phase 2 Leader Year Six parents





Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility



We are extremely lucky to have an active and hard working PTA (Friends of Hillcross), who organise a number of exciting fundraising activities throughout the year.

Every parent or guardian with a child in the school and all staff are automatically members of the Friends of Hillcross. The aim of the FoH is to bring together parents, carers, staff 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.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Friends of Hillcross, please

email: friendsofhillcross@yahoo.com

Save the Date for Autumn Term Events

Welcome Back Coffee Morning - Friday 8th September 8:30am

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Friday 22nd September 8:30am

EYFS Disco - Monday 16th October 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Phase 1 Disco (Year 1 - 3) - Wednesday 18th October 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Phase 2 Disco (Year 4 - 6) - Wednesday 18th October 4:15pm - 5:45pm

Winter Fair for Christmas - Friday 15th December from 2:30pm

*Please note tickets for the autumn term disco's will be available to purchase on the PTA platform shortly <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhillcross>

Personal Belongings

Children should not bring any personal belongings with them into school. This includes any items or equipment they may use in lessons or clubs such as pencils or tennis racquets. In almost all cases we have everything the children need to access all aspects of school life but if they do need to bring anything into school this will be requested via a ParentMail communication. In line with our promotion of reading, the only exception to this is if your child wishes to bring the book they are reading at home in to school to read at playtime, lunchtime or in other free reading times. Please note however that if they do choose to bring a book in to school, we cannot accept any responsibility if they get lost or broken. For children with additional needs, there may be exceptional circumstances from time to time when a reasonable adjustment can be made, but this must be discussed and agreed with a senior leader first.

Please also remember that if your child wishes to wear a watch to school it should be a simple analogue watch rather than a digital or Fitbit style watch.



Volunteers Required

Do you have some spare time? Or do you know someone else who has some spare time? Then maybe you can help our school! In particular, we are seeking volunteers to assist with our Library, to accompany staff during sporting events, and to support individual children with their reading. We receive fantastic feedback from our volunteers, who all say how welcome they feel and how well they are supported. We also have a great track record at helping our team of volunteers to develop knowledge and skills that help them find successful paid work (sometimes in our school!). Please visit the school website to view our Volunteer Policy and complete the application if you wish to apply.





Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility

School Uniform

Wearing our school uniform enhances school pride, unity and community spirit. All elements of the uniform below are compulsory for everyone, but because nursery and reception (EYFS) children spend the majority of their day involved in high quality, play based, active learning opportunities, indoors and outside, parents of EYFS children may choose the more casual EYFS uniform option, which allows them to run and climb safely, as well as supporting their independence (it is easier for them to put on and take off).

All children must be wearing a full Hillcross PE kit in order to safely take part in PE lessons. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on the designated day/s that their PE lessons take place—PE trainers should be all black to maintain a smart appearance. For more information about school uniform and details about our supplier, please click on the link to our website: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/school-uniform>

School Uniform	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. White, grey or black socks or tights. Plain black shoes (not sling-back, open toed or heeled) or trainers (no coloured markings). No boots, canvas pumps or coloured trainers. Pink/white or red/white checked summer dress (not an all in one or 'hybrid' versions please). White/black closed toe leather sandals. Hillcross Logo School Rucksack (Small rucksacks or book bags are available for children in EYFS & KS1). School water bottle with house team coloured lid (purchase via ParentMail, it will then be distributed to your child/ren in school). 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). <p>Optional Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reversible Fleece-Lined Jacket. Fully Zipped Fleece. <p>Children should not wear non-school uniform hoodies/sweat jackets instead of coats. The above items can be purchased if children do not want to wear a coat and their school sweatshirt is not warm enough.</p>	
Recommended EYFS Uniform	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain black jogging bottoms or thick black leggings (no logos). White or maroon short sleeved polo shirt (with or without logo). White, grey or black socks. Black trainers (no additional coloured marking) with Velcro fastening (no plimsolls). Long sleeved cardigan or V-neck sweatshirt with school logo. Hillcross Logo Book Bag (EYFS & KS1) or small Hillcross School Rucksack. 	
PE Kit	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE sweatshirt with school logo. PE t-shirt in your child's house colour. Plain black jogging bottoms or thick black leggings (no logos). Plain black shorts or thick black cycling shorts (no logos). Black indoor plimsolls or trainers for indoor sports (These must not have been worn outside 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. <p>*Please note earrings must be removed or covered with plasters (please provide plasters).</p>	





Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility



We would like to remind all families that PE will start from w/c Monday 4th September. Children will be required to come to school dressed in the full Hillcross PE kit, which is:

*** Black tracksuit bottoms**

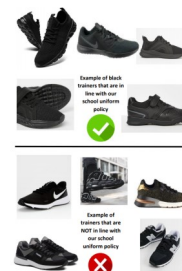
*** Round collar T-shirt in their house colour**

*** Maroon round collar Hillcross sports jumper, with sports logo**

*** Black trainers (no markings) and black, indoor only, plimsolls to be carried in their PE bag)**

Due to the specialist gym flooring, and health and safety of the children, we do not permit the wearing of outdoor shoes in the gym for PE lessons. Indoor plimsolls should be brought into school in their Hillcross PE bag, clearly labelled with your child's name. The health and safety of the children will always be paramount and as such any child who is not wearing the correct PE kit will not be able to participate in the session.

Please ensure all items of school uniform are clearly named so that children can find lost items easily.



Please note below the PE days for each Team during Autumn Term:

Team	Day/s
Reception - Chestnut	Monday (start Autumn 2)
Reception - Walnut	Monday (start Autumn 2)
Year 1 - Larch	Wednesday
Year 1 - Oak	Wednesday
Year 2 - Cedar	Wednesday
Year 2 - Yew	Wednesday
Year 3 - Elder	Monday & Thursday
Year 3 - Rowan	Monday & Thursday
Year 4 - Elm	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4 - Holly	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 5 - Aspen	Tuesday & Friday
Year 5 - Beech	Tuesday & Friday
Year 6 - Maple	Tuesday & Friday
Year 6 - Juniper	Tuesday & Friday





Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility

Device for Home Learning

During the pandemic, we were lucky to be provided by a variety of electronic devices, courtesy of local charities and generous families, for children to use at home to support their learning. We now offer these to families who are struggling financially and therefore do not have access to an electronic device on which children can complete their home learning. Some of these devices have become available, if you would like to request the loan of a device for your child, please contact the school via info@hillcross.merton.sch.uk by Friday 8th September.



Medication

- ✓ **If your child requires any form of medication, please make sure this is returned to school with your child on their first day back.** It is important that this is in a sealed bag that is labelled with their name and class. Children must give this to their class teacher as soon as they get to their classroom. Even if medication was left in school, it is very likely to be out of date so please ensure that you have additional, in-date medication ready to send in to school with your child on **Tuesday 5th September**
- ✓ If your child has developed a medical condition that the school was not previously aware of, please ensure that you email info@hillcross.merton.sch.uk and inform us so that someone can call you to discuss arrangements for their care. Please do not send in any new medication unless the school has been informed.



Acceptable Use Agreement

As part of our safeguarding commitment, we take online safety very seriously and promote safe and secure use of digital technologies and the internet. We ask all parents and pupils to adhere to our Acceptable Use Agreement. These documents set out to promote the safe and secure use of digital technologies both in school and at home. All parents and children receive a copy of this agreement on a yearly basis. A link will be sent to you shortly via ParentMail for you to read.

Working Together to Support Every Child

Please let us know if there have been any significant events or changes to your family/child's circumstances that will help us to settle your child back to school successfully. Email info@hillcross.merton.sch.uk to request that your child's class teacher or a senior leader give you a call to discuss how we can help.

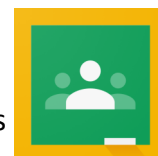


Home School Agreement

Our Home-school agreement provides a framework for the development of your child's education and the contents of the agreement clarifies our aims and objectives for parents and pupils in this vital partnership. Parents and children are required to read the document on a yearly basis. Please look out for the link that will be sent to you shortly via ParentMail for you to read.

Teaching and Learning Login's

Please ensure you transfer your child/ren's teaching and learning log ins such as Google Classroom, Times Tables Rock Star etc. to their new reading record or other safe place so that they can access their home learning.





Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility



Hillcross Children's Fund

(formally the Curriculum Enhancement Fund)

How we use the funds to support projects:



Music Room ✓

Art Studio
(coming in
Autumn 22)

DT Workshop
(fundraising in
2022-23)



Food Tech Room ✓



Examples of how we use the fund every year:

Theatre Performances
(whole school)

Anti-Bullying Workshops
(Y1-Y6)

Playground Equipment
(whole school)

Consumables:
e.g. pasta, flour,
sponges & cooking ingredients

Association Membership: e.g.
Historical Association,
National Trust & Sing Up

Children's newspapers and
magazines (library and in-class)

Update books for library

Other ways the fund is used:

- Curriculum/Topic Resources
- Visitors & Workshops
- Allotment & Woodland Area

Contributions can be made in the following ways:

- ✓ Click on the [Hillcross Children's Fund](#) QR code
- ✓ [Parentmail](#)
- ✓ Monthly standing order
- ✓ Cash, cheque
- ✓ Vouchers from Charities' Trusts



We recommend setting up a monthly standing order as this is a much easier way to contribute for your child. We suggest a contribution of £10 per month (£120 per year) or you can choose any amount that is affordable to you.

Nurturing our children to think critically and creatively within a collaborative community.
School Values: aspiration, challenge, compassion, responsibility and respect



Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility



Be in it to win it

Join the 100 Club Today

The **Hillcross 100 Club** is 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.

How does the 100 Club work?

The 100 club is a monthly draw which takes place in school, aiming to raise extra funds for resources for the children. Please note there is no draw in August when the school is closed. Parents, staff or governors 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.

How will it benefit the school?

The prize money will be 40% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 60% goes to the school via The Hillcross Children's Fund to help purchase equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils.

Therefore, if 100 tickets are sold, the 1st prize will be £100, the 2nd prize will be £60 and the 3rd Prize will be £40. The remaining money will be spent on your children so even if you don't win, your children will still benefit!

Click the link to complete an application form: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=713&type=pdf>

School Streets Scheme

Please remember the School Streets Scheme is in full operation during term time. This means that you will not be permitted to drive down or park in the roads stated on the notices (including Monkleigh Road and Ashridge Way). If you do so, you run the risk of a PCN fine. The signs set out the restricted hours, with other advisory signs on approach to the road. **The operational period for Hillcross, is 8.00am to 9.15am and 2.30pm to 3.30pm.**

Break-time Snack

Please remember that the only snacks to be eaten by the children at break time are fruits or vegetables.

All other snacks brought into school will be sent home to be consumed. Dried fruit, such as raisins, apricots or prunes can be sent in, but processed fruit snacks are not allowed as the sugar highs can affect the children's capacity for learning. Together we can help our children develop healthy eating habits that they can continue throughout their lives.



Keep up to date!



Hillcross Primary School are on Twitter (X) is a quick and easy way to keep up to date with all the activities happening in school. We try to tweet on a daily basis. This may be information about events or pictures of the teaching and learning taking place around the school.



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Anyone who has contact with a child or young person including staff, governors, volunteers, parents and other children should play their full part in keeping children safe. It is vitally important that any information of concern about a child is shared with the school. This isn't telling tales; this is exercising our duty to keep all our children are safe so that they can be secure and happy. **Please read our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, revised in light of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, which can be found on the school website.**

Nurturing our children to think critically and creatively within a collaborative community.

School Values: aspiration, challenge, compassion, responsibility and respect





GOOD THINGS FOR YOUR CHILD & SCHOOL

All the info you need to know...

The pupil premium is a Government scheme that provides funding of up to £1,320 per eligible pupil.

The school can use this money to support your child, eg: providing new equipment or possibly additional teaching staff.

Q: How can I apply?

Simply click on the link below to complete the online form :

<https://self.merton.gov.uk/service/Pupil-Premium-and-Free-School-Meals-application>

Q: Why should I apply?

The main reason – you will be helping the school (and therefore your child) as the school will then be able to claim pupil premium funding from the Government. This is worth up to £1,320 per eligible pupil!

It'll only take five minutes to complete the form – why not do it now?

Also, you've probably heard that children in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) can now receive school meals free of charge. If your child is in Year 3 or above (and you meet the pupil premium criteria), the school will be able to provide them with school meals free of charge. This can help save you hundreds of pounds a year and is a service the school will be happy to provide for you.

Q: My child receives free school meals as they're currently in Key Stage 1. Do I still need to complete this form?

Yes! In order for the school to receive pupil premium funding we need you to complete this form so we can confirm you qualify. Even if your child is already receiving free meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, please complete this form – it'll help both your child and their school.

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding, please click on the following link below to apply :

<https://self.merton.gov.uk/service/Pupil-Premium-and-Free-School-Meals-application>

THE PUPIL PREMIUM WHAT IT OFFERS...

- 1 Funding to the school to support your child
- 2 A saving of hundreds of pounds to you in the cost of school dinners
- 3 Healthy, nutritious food (which can link to doing well!) provided free of charge





MERTON

Join the conversation

Come and find out, and influence, how the Metropolitan Police Service is changing to deliver more trust, less crime and high standards for Londoners.

We'd love you to join officers in a conversation to explore what our new plan, A New Met for London, created following feedback from 10,000 community members, partners, and Met people, will mean for improved policing for your local communities.

Come and share your views and help shape the reforms being made and the service to your community.



Thursday 7th September 2023



17:30-21:00



Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club, Imperial Sports Ground, Bishopsford Rd, Morden, SM4 6BF



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-met-for-london-merton-tickets-699610432637?aff=oddttdcreator>

Free hot and cold food, teas and coffees will also be provided



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

MORE
TRUST

LESS
CRIME

HIGH
STANDARDS