

Hillcross Primary School: Whole School Newsletter 2

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.

I can't quite believe we are at half term already! It has been a wonderful start to the school year with so much to celebrate and feel grateful for. The new Teams have settled in well with children and adults alike reporting that they are enjoying their new year groups. Learning walks have been a pleasure to carry out with children fully engaged in a range of learning designed to scaffold and challenge children so that they can consolidate and transfer existing knowledge and skills as well as develop new understanding. The children have benefitted from a variety of trips and visitors including a London Bus Tour, a visit to the Science Museum and the hugely successful 'Roots for Food' workshop.

The girls football team competed in a borough tournament today and were full of tales about how they worked together and sometimes surprised themselves with their amazing skills — which included a spectacular goal scored by Holly, an amazing assist from Rosie and excellent goal keeping skills demonstrated by Paloma twice! Merton Music Foundation have been continuing their lessons with children in school and I have been privileged to listen to a number of children play pieces of music to me.

We are working hard to ensure the children understand that they have a responsibility to report the words and actions of anyone in our school community which causes upset or concern so that we can work together to eliminate discrimination and harassment. We are holding a coffee morning at the end of Anti-bullying week (also Children in Need day) on Friday 17th November and would love to see as many parents as possible pop in for a coffee and a chat or to discuss any queries they have around behaviour and anti-bullying.

We appreciate all the support you offer us including the new weekly pre-loved uniform sales courtesy of families, the positive feedback shared with myself and staff following parents meetings and the ongoing support for the FoH are all very gratefully received. We are also thankful for the many ways families support us financially. A huge thank you to those who have made their voluntary contribution to the **Hillcross Children's Fund**. We have been able to book a pantomime for the whole school to enjoy at the end of November and have built up about a third of the funds we need to collaborate with Friends of Hillcross to set up our new Design and Technology Workshop this academic year. Don't forget that the **100 club** is also a great way of contributing to this fund, and you get the chance of winning some money back for yourself. The donations via the **Amazon Wishlists** have exceeded our expectations—THANK YOU! The Wish Lists have some standing items on them of things that regularly need replacing but we will update them after each half term too.

At the beginning of term we said good-bye to Ruth Short and welcomed Niamh Guerin, our new School Business Manager, and at the end of term we have wished both Natalie Bennett and Lauren Jarvis well as they start their maternity leave. We eagerly await news on the arrival of baby number three and baby number two respectively.

Next term is going to be even more busy so please make sure you check your Parentmail communications regularly and look at the weekly bulletin for reminders and alerts to unforeseen changes. This will make the term calmer and more enjoyable for everyone. I wish you all a very happy and relaxing half term break.

Best Wishes, *Lisa Francis*, Headteacher.



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





Hillcross Parental Communication - Friday 20th October

Whole School

Reminders and New Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 2nd November - Pre-loved uniform and water bottle sale at 8:30am

Tuesday 7th November - SRE EYFS Y1, Y2 & Y3 (register via ParentMail)

Thursday 9th November - Recycling Collection

Friday 10th November - FoH Game Show Night (ticket entry via pta platform)

Monday 13th November—Odd Socks Day (Anti-bullying week launch)

Friday 17th November - Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviour Coffee Morning for families 8:45am

Friday 17th November - Children in Need Fundraising (Pudsey or spot clothing)

Wednesday 22nd November - Whole School Film Night (tickets via ParentMail)

Friday 24th November - Pre-loved Christmas Jumper sale

Monday 4th December - INSET (school closed for pupils)

(more details about Anti-bullying week and Children in Need will be published in our end of term newsletter)

Click here to view key dates: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/virtual-office/calendar>

NHS MMR Vaccination for Nursery and Reception Children

Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease. Please read the key information from the NHS about measles / MMR and how to get vaccinated. The [Back to school MMR Guidance](#)

Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in an early years setting can catch the disease if just one child is infectious.

Free Cycle Marking Event

Cannon Ward PCSO's are working with colleagues from the Road and Transport team delivering a FREE cycle marking event on Thursday 26th October 2023 outside Morden Leisure Centre between 2pm - 4pm.

New School Dinner Menu

Our new Autumn/Winter School Dinner Menu is now available to view on the website via the following link: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=897&type=pdf>

If your child wishes to change from packed lunches to school dinners or vice versa after the half term break, please email info@hillcross.merton.sch.uk enter 'School Lunch' in the subject line, confirming your child/rens name /s and team.

Merton Library

Makerspace at Mitcham Library

Merton Libraries are excited to announce the launch of a brand-new digital **Makerspace at Mitcham Library** this October. The digital Makerspace is equipped with a 3D printer, Virtual Reality headsets, Lego Education, Ozobots and PCs loaded with coding software for people of all ages to meet, learn, create, innovate, and particularly inspire younger generations to engage with the STEM agenda – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The digital Makerspace will be officially launched on **Monday 23rd October**, with an event tailored for children aged 6-11 years old, to participate in an hour-long taster session including Virtual Reality, Lego Education, 3D Printing, Coding and more...

Make sure to book a slot in advance at https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/mitcham-makerspace-2671019?just_published=true as there will be limited space on the day. The launch will include a **'Family and Friends all-ages session' to learn the basics of coding from 2.30-3.30pm**, which can also be booked through the above link.



Aspiration Challenge Compassion

Respect Responsibility



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. The **100 club** has sold 18 numbers to date but it has already raised £920 of which £584 has gone into the Hillcross Children's Fund and £336 has been paid out in prizes. The more people who join, the more money we raise for the school and you could be in for an even bigger pay out if you are the monthly winner.

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!

Please click on the link below to view the Terms & Conditions:

<https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=714&type=pdf>

Please click on the link to view and download an application form:

<https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=713&type=pdf>



Help to Save the Environment: Our next clothes/textile recycling collection will be on **Thursday 9th November**. As the weather turns colder, now is the time to sort out your wardrobe and donate anything that you no longer need. This is a fantastic way of having a good clear-out whilst raising valuable money for the school and helping those in need. Our Junior Eco Committee &

Eco Warriors are continually promoting sustainability and they encourage everyone to recycle. They are so passionate about this they will be there to help to receive the donations you bring in on the 9th November. House points will be awarded for the most bags collected so please put your donation on the correct coloured table outside the school office when you arrive at school. Thank you in advance for your contribution.



Sharp
Alert
Secure
Kind
Brave

If your child uses electronic devices, please remind them about the **Online Safety Pillars** they need to remember to stay safe online.

For fun online activities about staying safe online, visit:

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/interland



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Author Fever Continues at Hillcross

Self-development coach, manifesting expert & Sunday Times bestselling author Roxie Nafousi visited Hillcross Primary School in Morden on Wednesday 27th Sept, to talk about her first book for children **MANIFEST For Kids!** Previously Roxie's fans have included A-listers such as the likes of Bella Hadid, but earlier this term she visited Year 4, 5 & 6 children at our school to talk about manifesting and how to be their best and happiest selves. The children learnt all about positive affirmations, gratitude, understanding emotions and also tried breathing exercises, before getting their books signed by Roxie.

In **MANIFEST For Kids!** Roxie explains how the power of the mind can be used to make positive changes in children's daily lives. Designed as an interactive and engaging handbook, the book provides tools to help young people feel happier, more confident and better prepared to cope with day-to-day challenges using the core principles of manifesting. With recent research from Action for Children finding 41% of children struggle with their mental health, this support is needed now more than ever. In the book, Roxie has tailored her manifesting experience and knowledge into an engaging four-step guide for children, focusing on understanding feelings, growing confidence, gratitude and goal setting.



A year 5 child said 'As well as learning lots of new ideas, Roxie's suggestions link to the strategies everyone is taught during our emotional intelligence sessions. I am a member of the Wellbeing Committee at Hillcross and we can make sure we share the things we have learnt from Roxie with the rest of the school.'



Don't forget our Reading Pledge over half term and encourage your child to read for at least 10 minutes every day.

This can be recorded in the yellow reading logs so your teacher can see what you have been reading.



Our film nights are a fun experience for the children and are a good way of raising additional funds we can use to purchase resources for the children. Following feedback from families with more than one child in school, the **Autumn Term Film Night for all year groups is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd November.** The children in each phase will all attend on the same day and be collected at the same time (even if they watch different films) thus giving families who buy tickets an extended day for Christmas shopping, Spring cleaning or putting their feet up! More information will be published via ParentMail in Autumn Term 2.



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**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Black History Month 2023 is a momentous occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society

Black people have always been at the forefront of social justice movements, fighting against oppression and paving the way for change. However, despite their countless contributions to society, the achievements of black women, in particular, have too often been overlooked or forgotten. That is why, this year, the nation will be celebrating the exceptional achievements of black women. This year's theme of **'Saluting our Sisters'** highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. This year's celebration will showcase pioneering black women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care, and more.

Allies are people who actively choose to align themselves with those who are marginalized or disadvantaged with the aim of improving their circumstances in the world. We have spoken to the children about how they can become an ally to stand up against racism. This includes:

- ♦ Take on issues of racial injustice as your own.
- ♦ Speak up if you witness racism.
- ♦ Listen and learn from black people and people of colour, without asking them to educate you.
- ♦ Keep learning about race and racism.
- ♦ Identify and call out stereotypes.



In our school, we promote the acceptance, understanding and celebration of the differences between us all. This year, to embed this further, **we are challenging the culture of calling people a 'snitch' if they tell or report to an adult when someone is being hurt or is in danger, or when someone is deliberately being destructive or hurtful.** This is different to 'telling tales' on someone when the situation is safe and does not require an adult to be involved.

We are working hard to ensure the children understand that they have a responsibility to report the words and actions of anyone in our school community which causes upset or concern so that we can work together to eliminate discrimination and harassment. Not just in our community but more broadly across society. Some children find this difficult to do when it is one of their friends who has behaved inappropriately. Please remind your child of their responsibility to 'report or tell' an adult if the situation is not safe, regardless of who has made the error of judgement. Only then can we ensure that everyone feels safe and supported, including the person who has made the mistake.



Our Equality Committee have been working with a variety of staff and children across the school in order to find ways in which we can learn more about each other's culture, beliefs and the range of different languages spoken by people in our school community. They are also liaising with the school librarians to ensure that the books we have in school are reflective of everyone in our community.



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Christmas Product Artwork

A big thank you to everyone that submitted their artwork on time. Once it has been scanned you will have the opportunity to preview before you purchase products.

Disco's

Thank you to all those that supported the discos. The next disco is 5th for EYFS and 7th February for all other year groups. Tickets for the next will be on sale from the 8th January with the deadline at midnight on the 5th February – please put these dates in your diary now to avoid disappointment.

Friends of Hillcross Survey

Friends of Hillcross regularly review their events and would love to hear any feedback you have please click here to complete the survey: [Friends of Hillcross End of Year Survey \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/surveys/1234567890)

Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale - Friday 25th of November at 8.35am and 3.00pm

Please have a look at home and dig out any second hand Christmas jumpers and festive t-shirts that are in good condition (baby, child and adult sizes all welcome).

A collection box will be outside the school office between the 1st and the 17th of November (see flyer on the next page for more info)

Game Show Tribute Night - Friday 10th November

The countdown is on, do not miss the fun, and purchase your tickets at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhillcross>

Christmas Market - Friday 8th December

Our popular Christmas market is a big highlight for the children as they get to do their Christmas shopping for family and friends. All gifts cost £5 and can be purchased via <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhillcross> (see more info below).

Winter Fair - Friday 15th December

The winter fair will take place on Friday 15th December. If you have any raffle prizes to donate or could help source raffle prizes, please email friendsofhillcross@yahoo.com (Thank you to South London Stationers for supporting our tombola's for the fair).

The Hillcross Christmas Market is an annual event in which the children are able to select gifts for family and friends. Orders are placed via the PTA Events platform (see link above) and you can select who they are for and the age group/gender. This is a wonderful event, which the children thoroughly enjoy, particularly the independence of being able to select the gifts for loved ones. Parent volunteers/teachers will support younger children with gift selection and writing names on the gift tag. All gifts come home with the children wrapped and labelled ready to put under the tree!

Friends of Hillcross have been able to set up trade accounts with suppliers, so the gifts would retail on the High Street for a higher price. The teachers take the teams (classes) to the market during the school day, it is a wonderful joyful event for the children that participate.



Thank you in advance for your support of all events.





Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale

Recycle your outgrown and unwanted Christmas jumpers!

Bring your unwanted child and adult Christmas jumpers,
festive tops and Christmas clothing into school
between the 1st and the 17th of November
(must be washed and in good condition)
and put them in the collection box outside the office.

Come along to our pre-loved sale on
24th November at 8:30am or 3:00pm
and grab yourself a bargain!



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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.

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Christmas Pantomime

Every child will be attending the annual Christmas Pantomime on the 28th November. Thank you to all the families who donate to the Hillcross Children's Fund so that we are able to provide this wonderful experience. As you can see from the photograph, last year the children were completely immersed in the



Christmas Carol production, this year's show will be Snow White. If you haven't already please make your voluntary contribution to the Hillcross Children's Fund by scanning the QR code below, we are also raising funds for the new Design and Technology Workshop that we hope to set up and open before the end of the school year and for further developments and maintenance of the outdoor space.

Scan the QR code if you wish to donate to The Hillcross Children Fund.



Shoe Box Appeal: Operation Christmas Child

Please help others that are less fortunate by packing a shoebox of gifts for children in need around the world. You will have the choice of selecting their gender and age range and can provide essential items that some children do not have i.e. toothbrush, hair brush. Please click on the link below for more information about the shoebox appeal and the items you can include: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>. Our local collection point is Morden Park Baptist Church, SM4 4SS from **Tuesday 14th - Friday 17th November between 10:00am - 1:00pm**. **We are happy for families to bring their shoeboxes to school from Tuesday 14th and we will deliver them for you on Friday 17th** but if you prefer to deliver it yourself, please take a photo of your child with the box before you deliver it and send it to info@Hillcross so that we can celebrate the school communities generosity.

Listening with
Understanding and
Empathy



Understand others!

Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas, holding in abeyance one's own thoughts in order to perceive another's point of view.



BBC

Children in Need

Friday 17th November 2023

FOH will be holding a
Treat Sale after school.
Please bring cake &
treat donations in the
morning to school on
Friday 17th November.

On Friday 17th November children will have the option to replace items of school uniform/PE kit for Pudsey themed clothing or spotty equivalents (e.g. swap their school jumper for a spotty top) for a minimum donation of £2. Substituted items must be appropriate for school and ensure safety (e.g. no open toed shoes) but you can go wild with hair accessories if you want to!!

As this day will also be the end of Anti-bullying Week, we are inviting families to join us for a Coffee Morning in the main hall at 8.45am. You can just pop in for a coffee and a chat or we can discuss our Anti-bullying and Positive Behaviour approach and answer any queries families may have.



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EYFS and Year One Pedal Push

The children had a wonderful time racing around the Pedal Push track earlier this term. Some of them even managed 5 laps! Lots of laughter could be heard whilst raising money to develop the learning environments in Nursery, Reception and Year One. Thank you to everyone for your amazing support collectively our families raised a whopping **£1698!**



Cost of Living Support

We know the cost of living is a concern for some families. The Local Authority has a very useful website page which lists the guidance and support they can offer to help people manage this. Please also remember that we have pre-loved school uniform on a weekly basis, can offer food bank vouchers and may be able to help in other ways such as supporting grant applications to the Wimbledon Guild. Click on the link to view the LA website:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/money-advice/cost-of-living>

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 which 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 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.**



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VOLUNTEERS **NEEDED!**

Do you have some spare time? Or do you know someone else who has some spare time?

Do you have a skill that we could utilise to enhance the children's learning or to reduce costs? Then maybe you can help our school!

In particular, we are seeking volunteers to assist with:

Do you enjoy/have a talent for gardening?

Come and join our allotment team on a or we can put you in touch with them so that you can liaise about the upkeep and development of our outdoor spaces. The children use the outdoors in a range of ways but we need as much help as possible to keep it in good order!

Are you a plumber? An electrician? Are you quite handy with general DIY, especially carpentry?

We often require help with general maintenance and to help develop our physical environment e.g. putting up shelving or helping to build work surfaces in the new Art Studio. Let us know if you are happy to be contacted about specific projects that come up.

Do you love sport?

We require additional adults to help supervise the children alongside our Sports Leader at competitions. Events are usually on a Tuesday or a Friday between 9:30am—2:30pm.

Do you speak, read or write in a language other than English?

We are seeking people to support families who do not speak English. This could be informally when they first join the school to help them settle or on more formal occasions when a translator is required for a meetings. If you are bilingual and are willing to help if needed, please let us know.

For more information about volunteering in our school. Please read the Volunteer Policy that can be found on our website by clicking the link: https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/_site/data/files/about%20our%20school/policies/AF92DFCB45804668E7F9D14FF41D2E8D.pdf?pid=97





Speak Up and Shape It
Merton's Family Voices

Speak Up and Shape It Merton's Family Voices

Are you pregnant, or a parent or carer of a baby or child under the age of 2?

Would you like the chance to speak up and help shape the way in which family services are set up as part of Family Hubs in Merton and accessed from pregnancy through to a child's second birthday?

As well as hearing from Mums and Dads, we are keen to hear from Partners, Grandparents, Foster Parents, wider family and friends and anyone involved in the care of 0-2-year-olds.



To sign up to Merton's Family Voices



- Use this QR code
- Visit <https://forms.office.com/e/sWsP8Yf3vi>
- or email: familyhubs@merton.gov.uk

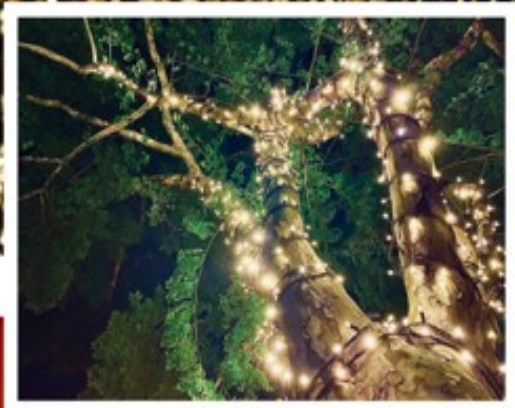
Once you have signed up, we will send you further information and details of how to book onto our online and face to face sessions.

For more information on Family Hubs, please visit:
[Family Hubs | Merton Council](#)

Any queries, please email:
familyhubs@merton.gov.uk



Together we can make a difference.



The Wimbledon Festive Light Trail

23rd November to 17th December, 5.00pm to last entry 9.00pm

Come along and get into the spirit of Christmas and make the most of the festivities by stepping into a magical world of light, colour and sound, as you explore the grounds of Cannizaro Park adorned with thousands of lights transforming the gardens into an enchanted winter wonderland. An unmissable event to start off the festive season! You cannot beat the magic of Christmas.

Cannizaro House,
West Side
Common, London
SW19 4UE

www.festivelightdisplay.co.uk



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 complete the details on the back of this form and return it to your school. Please provide details of anyone with parental responsibility for your child – whilst you may not qualify, they could.

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.

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

*Turn over to get started
on the application form*

