



ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Rayner

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Our values are: **RESPECT, RESILIENCE,
TEAMWORK, ASPIRATION and KINDNESS**



Autumn Term 1 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Rayner

What a busy start to the school year we've had- thank you for your support with the changes we are making to our school. I hope you have seen the value of the new learning logs- it's been great to see the children come and talk to me about their reading at home or the challenges they've had a go at. We will be continuing to take feedback on these throughout the year and will make changes for the next school year based on our findings.

Your Harvest donations were much appreciated and I took them to a local foodbank in Dinnington which sadly is in great demand. They always need donations and have asked if we could collect some further donations as they head towards Christmas as these are times of great financial hardship- they told me they'd be glad of selection boxes, christmas puddings, boxes of biscuits etc so they can make up hampers for local families. If you could possibly pop one in your shopping trolley next time you're in the supermarket and send into school I will take them up at the end of November. Anyone wishing to make a donation themselves, it's open every Saturday morning from 10am and is based in The Salvation Army building, Dinnington.

Throughout this term I have had the pleasure of seeing all the children involved in their learning across school- they have loved telling me about the poetry they've been writing, the maths and lots more. They have all made a cracking start to the school year and it's been great to see them embracing their new year groups and pushing themselves to achieve their best. We will be making some whole school curriculum changes in January and I would love to share these with you at our curriculum evening in November- these changes will allow us as a school to work together on 4 key curriculum drivers from Fs1 to Y6 and pull together the foundation subjects of Science, History, Geography, Art, DT, Music etc in themes. Staff will be engaged in training at staff meetings up to Christmas as we will launch the new curriculum across school in January.

As I've always said, if you need to talk to class teachers or myself- please do. We may need to agree a time that's mutually convenient but would rather talk with you about any concerns and issues you may have. We want our school to be a happy, safe place and for children to learn in a challenging and interesting environment. We strive to achieve that by working together with parents.

Mrs Kate Rayner

Learning across school recently

FS1: This half term the children have had so much fun settling into Caterpillars. We have learnt all about ourselves, our families and people who help us. We especially enjoyed deciding what we would like to do when we grow up!



Year 2 have had a fantastic half-term learning all about the Great Fire of London. The children were super excited to welcome our visitor 'Sir William Petty' into school and show how much they had learned. We have really enjoyed creating our fire inspired artwork and learning all about micro-habitats.

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Year 3 have had a great start to the year. As scientists, we have been investigating how fossils are formed and we have looked closely at sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. We are loving our history learning about the Stone Age and the class have produced some fantastic water colour paintings of the famous woolly mammoths. Miss Bennett has been so impressed with Class 3's enthusiasm about their learning this half-term and she can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!



Year 6 have ended the half term on a high with a marvellous week at Newby Wiske Hall. They have paddle boarded, abseiled, arched and aero-balled their way through 5 days of fabulous fun guided by the PGL instructors and supported by Mr Brooks (trapeze artist), Mr Smith (climbing wall fanatic), Mrs Watts (archery's her game), Mrs Beeley (hot chocolate expert) and Mr Hall (archery expert).

Mr Bishop's Year 4 class have really enjoyed learning all about Ancient Egypt; they've used their historical knowledge to create a limerick as a class and individually. They have also read the classic poem 'Macavity the mystery cat' in English and performed this limerick;

*There once was a cat called Macavity
He defied the laws of gravity
When you look in the air
He is not there
Where oh where is Macavity?*



Class 1 had an amazing immersive learning day with Sir William Petty. We did lots of activities relating to our Fire of London topic and the children couldn't wait to continue our learning after the workshop!

Fs2; Butterflies have been learning about people who help us and our local area. We went on a local area walk to look at the different types of buildings and their uses in our community. We found the butchers, the other shops as well as the Church!



This term class 5 have done an incredible job with their learning! They have loved learning about The Battle of Britain and have given insightful and knowledgeable contributions in class. They have really loved writing poems too. Make sure you ask your child about how to write a MORERAP poem you will be blown away! In Maths children really have worked their socks off. We have been looking at addition and subtraction, inverse operations and factors. The children have risen to the challenge of year 5 and I am so proud! Keep an eye out on the website for pictures from this term. We can't wait for the next terms learning!

Parents meetings	Our children as spokespeople
<p>Our parent teacher meetings will be held on the first week back after the holidays and this will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and achievements so far in their new class as well as to find out about how you can help them at home. We will as we have done previously be giving you all the target and attendance sheet.</p>	<p>As always each class voted on their school councillors for the year and already they have had their first meeting with me to talk about breaktimes. If possible donations of board games to play at wet break would be greatly appreciated.</p>

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Miss Cookson has also sent out the appointment schedule to book on for SEND reviews on 6 & 7th November. We are happy for parents to have a SEND review **and** a parents evening appointment if they wish as at the SEND review it is specific targets discussed and set rather than a discussion about your child and their learning across the curriculum.

Miss Curle- our PSHE lead in school- has been working with The Anti- Bullying company's Ann Foxley- Johnson on developing a role for children who care about our school, exemplify our school values and are our new 'Respect rangers'. They've been selected and will be leading an assembly with Miss Curle after the holidays.

After school clubs

Social Media

Mr Smith will be starting his new clubs on 6th November with letters going out after half term.
 Monday- Year 5 and 6 Football club (team only)
 Tuesday 3:15-4:15pm - Years 3-6 Dodgeball
 Thursday 3:15-4:15pm - Years 1 & 2 Multi sport

As we have a new look website we also have a 'blog' which we will be updating regularly. Please check this out and let us know what you think of the new website and blog. As always we will be adding our X/ Twitter posts and we have created a Facebook page for those of you who prefer to access Facebook.

We are also lucky enough to have Mr Whaley - JMAT PE specialist-who will be continuing to support us in school, running activities at lunchtimes and a Multi skills sports club (Y3&4) on a Wednesday, 3:15-4:15 – 15 places available.

In terms of social media although a great tool for communicating with parents I do think it is important to stress the importance of coming into school with any concerns and speaking with us directly; any discussions on social media can be damaging for everyone's mental health- yours as parents as you will undoubtedly worry and also for staff who do not see these messages but hear about them. I have a duty of care not only to the pupils and parents of Hillcrest but also for my staff who all work very hard.

Musical Theatre club with Miss Hayes will continue after half term on Wednesdays 3:15-4:30, with a final 'Frozen' showcase for parents on Wednesday 29th November at 4:30pm.

Christmas

We'd like to let you know early about our forthcoming plans for the festive season; in Foundation Stage they'll be performing a traditional Nativity as well as having a sing-a-long. In Key Stage 1 and 2 we will also be holding a sing-a-long (KS1) and a carol concert (KS2). The children will be making cards and calendars for you in school as part of their learning and we will be inviting families in to make a Christmas decoration on our Christmas-craft-er-noon.

We will be involving the 2 local churches as we would normally do and those will be assemblies held in school. We have also been practising our school prayer which was always said at the end of a Friday celebration assembly by children wishing to join in.

Safeguarding procedures


Thank you to all the families who have supported us in our new dismissal procedures at either end of the school day. The lining up has enabled us to start learning promptly and has had a positive impact on behaviour. At the end of the day we would like to remind you to let school office know or the teacher know if someone other than the 'usual person' is collecting- we do need to ensure that our staff are clear about who they are dismissing to. We realise this can be awkward especially if you have made arrangements with other parents but we are ensuring we follow safeguarding policies and practices fully.

In line with other JMAT schools we continued to re-evaluate our attendance and safeguarding procedures. For any daily absence Mr Hall and Mrs Hayes call families starting with the children in Y5 and Y6 who walk to school. Then they begin to call the 1st named contact of the child up to 10:30am, from then on they will call other family contacts however at 1pm we must insist that all families have contacted school to let us know why their child is absent. From after ½ term we will be contacting all family contacts and if we don't have a reason for absence we will be sending 2 members of staff to do a home visit. If no contact is made we will have no choice but to call the Police. This is policy and part of our Trust safeguarding procedures. If it is a holiday; Holiday forms MUST be completed.

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INSET dates 2023/24	Supports for parents	Workforce Wednesday Assemblies
<p>Our INSET dates; Monday September 4th (Autumn 1) Friday December 22nd (Autumn 2) Monday June 3rd (Summer 1) Monday 22nd July (Summer 2) Tuesday 23rd July (Summer 2)</p>	 <p>Parents can sign up by contacting the email address on the poster attached.</p>	<p>Our Wednesday assemblies have been wonderful this term and we have introduced the children to the world of teachers, welders, a professor of law, joiner, farmer and firefighter. We'd love for anyone to join us and would be most grateful- if you'd rather not come in, do send us pictures and we will tell the children all about your role.</p> <p>Please send an email to our school email address if you are willing to help us OR we would be happy to accept pics or videos if preferable 😊</p>
<p>Funding for school</p>		
<p>If we could ask all parents to access the universal free school meals that would bring in extra funding to school. All children from Fs to Y2 are eligible and as a school we receive funding for those who access it.</p>		

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
October/ November 2023	
30.10.23	Flu vaccinations
31.10.23	Year 6 Crucial Crew
WC 30.10.23	Cycle North (Y5 only)
1.11.23 & 2.11.23	Parents Evening (F1 to Y6)
6.11.23 & 7.11.23	SEND reviews (appointments available)
9.11.23	No Outsiders launch day in school
10.11.23	8:50am Parents launch meeting (main hall)
13.11.23	Wear Odd Socks to school day- start of Anti- Bullying week
16.11.23	School disco (details from PTS to follow)
17.11.23	Children in Need day (wear yellow or spots- £1 donation for non-uniform)
23.11.23	4:30pm New curriculum launch for parents (main hall)
December 2023	
4.12.23	FS1 & 2 Christmas Craft-ernoon (parents invited from 2pm)
5.12.23	KS1 (Years 1 & 2) Christmas Craft-ernoon (parents invited from 2pm)
6.12.23	KS2 (Years 3 to 6) Christmas Craft-ernoon (parents invited from 2pm)
11.12.23	KS2 Christmas Carol concert (parents invited from 2pm)
12.12.23	FS2 Nativity (parents invited from 2pm)
13.12.23	FS2 Nativity (parents invited from 10am) KS1 Christmas Sing-a-long (parents invited to sing- a- long from 2pm)
14.12.23	FS1 Christmas Sing-a-long (parents invited to sing- a- long from 9am) Whole school pantomime- Cinderella
18.12.23	FS Christmas party afternoon (details TBC)
19.12.23	KS1 Christmas party afternoon (details TBC)
20.12.23	Wear a Christmas Jumper day Christmas dinner in school
21.12.23	KS2 Christmas party afternoon (details TBC)
22.12.23	School closed- INSET
January 2024	
8.1.24	School reopens for Spring term 1

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Sensory Workshops


WEDNESDAYS

2023

18 OCT	UNDERSTANDING SENSORY STRUGGLES
15 NOV	SENSORY CIRCUITS FOR REGULATION
6 DEC	SENSORY STRUGGLES THROUGH THE FESTIVE PERIOD
ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS 10.30-11.30 - Parent/Carer Session 3.30-4.30 - Primary School Professionals session 6 - 7pm - Parent/Carer Evening Session	



Delivered by Sadie Charlton,
 Sensory Occupational
 Therapist at Virtual School
 Rotherham



contact
virtualschool@rotherham.gov.uk to
 register

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