



### ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



# NEWSLETTER- May 2023- Summer Term One

## Message from Mrs Rayner

Hello Everyone

It was lovely to see lots of parents at our recent parents evenings- thank you all for coming and sometimes being very patient if the appointments ran over! It's always tricky to manage face to face conversations in only 10 minutes but I'm sure you'll agree- a nice change from the COVID days of ZOOM meetings. I'm sure you will have had mixed feelings about the teaching strikes recently and as a school we managed to stay open despite it being very difficult in terms of staffing- some staff even brought their own children to school! I would like to thank all the families who offered their support and recognition that in our ever changing world, demanding financial climate and stretched services we as a profession are always doing the best we can; often in challenging circumstances.

It's been a very busy half term and a shorter one than usual with an additional bank holiday to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III; we had a great time in school and the children all looked amazing on the tea party afternoon. The rainy day did nothing to dampen our spirits and we even managed a whole school photo! Many thanks have to go to 'Friends of Hillcrest' group for all the fundraising support you've recently given us- from planning meetings, to organising the disco, cutting the jumps in the sponsored bounce, manning the various events and being so very helpful and positive- we are well on our way to raising money which will go towards the development of the Foundation Stage area benefitting future generations of Hillcrest pupils. I'm really looking forwards to the Summer Fayre after half term- a note of appreciation and thanks must also go to Mrs Sanford and Mrs Pritchard who as well as members of our school team also give up lots of their time to our group too. New members are always welcome- ask if you're interested. Thanks as usual for your continued support for our staff and children. Have a lovely Spring Bank holiday,  
Mrs Kate Rayner

## What we've been up to in school recently! Messages from the staff in the class teams...

After an amazing visit to Murton Park, Y4 have been learning about how the Romans changed life in Britain almost 2000 years ago after the stone age. They have learnt about Roman roads, Roman writing (Latin) and the changing of the calendar. However, some did not like the Roman rule – children have learnt about one rebellious character (Boudicca) and decided if she was justified in her methods.

Year 6 have recently enjoyed celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and completed some detailed biographies and some amazing portraits of King Charles through the years. We have also completed our learning about the circulatory system and have produced some very detailed and informative double-page spreads to showcase our learning. We enjoyed painting our own watercolour hearts too. Performance practice has begun on our Y6 production - 'Panto Pandemonium' oh no it hasn't...oh yes it has!

In FS2 this half term we have enjoyed a wonderful trip to White Post Farm and learnt all about where our food comes from. Next half term we will be starting our new learning journey called 'Out in the Garden' where we will learn about minibeasts, plants and wildlife. This will include doing some planting of our own and maybe even an 'Ugly Bug Ball' As mathematicians in Y2, this half-term we have been exploring our fractions knowledge. In preparation for the Coronation, we researched King Charles III and found out lots of fascinating facts! We are really looking forward to our Rounders Tournament next half-term at Wales High School.



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Class 1 have been busy learning about the Messy Magpie! We have enjoyed retelling the story and thinking about how the main character Morris was feeling through the story. In maths we have been working hard at recognising fractions of shapes and finding half of numbers.

The children in FS1 are now experts on farm animals. We have created some beautiful artwork that is now on display in our classroom. We have also been practising our listening skills through games and have been learning about the initial sounds in our names. We have done lots of oral blending activities linked to our topic!

Class 5 have had a brilliant start to the Summer term! In Writing, we have been looking closely at the music video 'Free' by Emeli Sande and we have used this to write some fantastic flashbacks. In History, we have been exploring the time of the Ancient Greeks. As artists, we have been researching historic Greek vases as we will be designing and creating our own out of clay after the half-term holidays - how exciting!

In class 3 we are loving learning about the Romans! We have been writing some incredible non chronological reports. The children have been so eager to research facts using the iPads and apply their learning from history lessons to be able to write these reports. We have also been doing some sewing! The children have been so resilient with this and have produced some incredible pieces of work which we cannot wait to share with you. Class 3 have also been learning to tell the time to the nearest minutes and work out duration of events which has been super tricky but they have smashed it! We love the sponsored bounce and thank all parents for your support with this. Well done on an incredible half term class 3!

### Our school staffing structure

After a recent internal recruitment process, Mrs Divit will be the Deputy Headteacher from September 2023. She underwent an interview this week with some of our school councillors as well as our Chair of Governors; Gail Foster and JMAT Teaching and Learning lead Jo Davenport. Mrs Divit has a wealth of experience from her time teaching at Bramley Sunnyside Junior school and has already completed her 1<sup>st</sup> year with us as Year 6 teacher and I'm sure you'll all join us in welcoming her to this permanent role.

As always, everyone is keen to know the staffing structure for school from September. Whilst teachers have been mainly confirmed we are now consulting with our support staff and looking across school in more detail. We will inform you as soon as possible after the half term holidays of the staffing structure for September. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

### SATs 2023

As a school we have to administer SATs at the end of both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The children have to sit a range of tests in English and Maths where the curriculum they have been taught over their time in that Key Stage is tested. You will have no doubt heard in the media about the level of difficulty of some of these tests and we have to say how proud we are of the levels of commitment and resilience all children showed in sitting these tests.

Regardless of results- we are very proud of all of them and know they are all special and have their own unique talents and skills which can't always be measured in a test.

A massive THANK YOU goes to the staff in Year 6 and Year 2 who have managed this tricky time extremely well, supported the children and always had a smile on their faces and encouraging words for all the children.

#### New Governors

Thank you to all the parents who recently voted for a new parent governor to join us in school from next term.

Mrs Gail Foster and Mrs Rayner would like to thank both candidates for putting themselves forward to

#### Sports Day s

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July we will have our annual Sports Day at 9am for FS1 & 2 and at 1:15pm for KS1 (Year 1 & 2). All parents are invited- FS parents can stay after drop off and find their seats ready for the action and Y1 & 2 parents would need to enter school through the main gate for the afternoon. We will be on the large field between the 2 buildings.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 1:15pm we will have our Sports Day for the KS2 classes (Y3,4,5,6). As above, please come to the main school entrance to be buzzed in and then make your way to the field for the games to start! As usual Mr Smith

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| support our school. Our new parent governor is Jayne Manning.  | will be leading the proceedings and staff will be supporting the children in their classes.   |
| We are also pleased to announce Miss Curle as staff governor and Mrs Divit as co-opted governor too. | If we could ask that you leave your child to sit with their classes and enjoy the action from the parent designated areas, they will need their water bottles, sun hats etc with them in the morning so they are fully prepared and ready to start at 1:15pm. |

| Things your child needs in school-reminders | Changes to the school day from September |
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| <p>Please can you ensure your child has suitable clothing ready for a hopefully warmer spell- hats, sun cream etc as they do spend a lot of time outside at breaks and in PE lessons.</p> <p>Could you also please check that your child has a PE kit and it's in school. There are a lot of children forgetting their PE kits and borrowing the spare sets we have in school.</p> <p>Unfortunately we are also losing a lot of school reading books and also our Little Wandle scheme books. All books are approximately £5 each- we cannot as a school continue to keep buying more and more books which get lost or get damaged at home.</p> | <p>From September the school gates will not be open until 8:40am or 3pm.</p> <p>On both playgrounds class teachers will be outside on the yard from 8:45am and the children must line up on the yard (which is what they currently do at breaktimes) in their designated spot/ outside the classroom doors (Year 1 and 2 only). A bell will be rung at 8:45am signalling the start of the school day. The children will walk directly to their classrooms with a member of the teaching team. No one needs to go into the school building with bags/ lunches etc until the start of the school day.</p> <p>This is to ensure all learning starts promptly across school at 8:50am. All children are starting off that day and the learning together at the same time. If any parent wishes to speak with a member of the team they must do so promptly and if a longer chat is required the teacher or member of the support staff will contact them at a more convenient time.</p> <p>Children will be dismissed as usual at 3pm (FS1 &amp; 2) or 3:15pm from their classroom doors to their designated adults (Y1-6) or will walk home if permission is given (Y5 and 6 only).</p> |
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| Early Help support for parents within our local areas |
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| <p>As a school we have regular contact with external agencies who offer support and guidance to families. This ranges from parenting guidance, grief counselling to support with more specific behavioural needs. We are often given information about a number of courses, groups and networks to highlight to our families. If you need further information, please send an email to school.</p> <p><b>Reducing Parental Conflict Resources</b><br/>Resources which offer parents access to 3 evidence-based digital behaviour change interventions in respect of parental conflict:</p> <p><b>Me, You and Baby Too</b> - An online course to help couples prepare for the transition to parenthood</p> <p><b>Arguing better</b> - An online course for reducing parental conflict</p> <p><b>Getting it Right for Children</b> - An online course for separating parents to minimise the impact of separation on children</p> <p>Alongside these parental interventions there will be an opportunity for training, practice resources and access to an online practitioner area for Early Help workers. More information can be found on the Learning Academy at either of the following pages: <a href="https://sharepoint.com">Parental Conflict (sharepoint.com)</a> or <a href="https://sharepoint.com">Evidenced Based Hub (sharepoint.com)</a><br/>Parents can access the resources directly via the parent's page and by selecting Rotherham <a href="https://oneplusone.org.uk">Parent guide for England (oneplusone.org.uk)</a></p> |
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| New Laptops! |
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| <p>We were thrilled to receive 9 brand new laptops from a very generous local company- you may have seen our Twitter feed. MEPS international LTD steel company donated us new software for school. These will be used by all our pupils for years to come- we are very grateful! Any future donations are always welcomed 😊</p> |
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| Year 4 Super Swimmers   | Educational Visits  |
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| <p>Mr Brooks, Mr Smith, Mrs Rookes and Mrs Moore have been so impressed with the effort and resilience of all the Year 4 children during their swimming lessons. Although lots of children access regular swimming lessons it is very different to go as a school, being responsible for themselves, listening to instructions and following a 'new regime' in a new environment. Well done everyone 😊</p>  | <p>We've had some great trips out this half term- Foundation Stage all went to White Post Farm and had a brilliant time learning all about different animals- they even skipped the awful rainy weather. Year 3 and 4 recently went to a Roman re-enactment site outside York and had a wonderful time learning how to use a spear and a dagger (all wooden of course!). A HUGE thank you to all the parents who came along for the day and supported us. We really appreciated it and will be looking for more parent volunteers to accompany classes on all our future school visits.</p> |
| Safety online   |   |
| <p>We have received guidance from the Safeguarding Lead within JMAT about a chatroom called Omegle.</p> <p>On first glance the site is a simple internet chatroom, reminiscent of platforms from the internet's early years. It has no registration or account system. Being designed with the originally innocent objective of getting strangers to talk to each other, but this allows under-18s to easily use the platform, without needing parental assistance, money or even an email address. This already creates a dangerous situation to young pupils, but its insistence on users needing a webcam to chat places anyone underage in an extremely vulnerable place. To find out more about Omegle and the risks it poses, please follow the links below: Internet Matters: <a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/">https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/</a></p> <p>Childnet: <a href="https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/">https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/</a></p> <p>We will continue to make you aware of online risks and supports for you as parents for when your child is online- please discuss with your child how to stay safe and ask them about what they think is an acceptable and unacceptable use of electronics including time spent gaming and on what games- this is often useful to help you navigate their own personal use and allows for you to keep an eye on what they are accessing. It's a tricky one for all parents and please do keep us informed if you would like support or think the children may need further support in school.</p> |   |
| INSET dates for 2023-24   | Musical Theatre performance   |
| <p>We want to let you know our INSET dates for next year;<br/> Monday September 4<sup>th</sup> (Autumn 1)<br/> Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> (Autumn 2)<br/> Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Summer 1)<br/> Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Summer 2)<br/> Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July (Summer 2)</p>   | <p>It was wonderful to see so many of you this week for our after school clubs' Musical theatre performance; the children have been 'loudly' practising their songs, their dance and drama moves and have loved participating in Imy's club. What a lovely end to the half term- well done to everyone involved.</p>  |
| Respect and Tolerance   |   |
| <p>We have recently been talking to the children about showing respect towards others; we have had a small number of racist incidents in school since January and this blatant disregard for the feelings of others will not be tolerated. As a school and community we need to educate our children to be tolerant of one another and accepting of each other's differences as these are what make us unique. In our assemblies we have been introducing the idea of a diverse world and a world where everyone would be the same- how very dull that would be if we all looked the same, believed the same and acted in the same way. We have already started thinking about what respect and tolerance is and through working with Ann Foxley—Johnson from 'The Anti- Bullying Company' and continued discussion and addressing different issues with children we hope to raise further awareness. Please talk to child at home about what makes them unique but also address what respect and tolerance means.</p>  |   |
| PLEASE HELP US...   |   |

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### Respect and Tolerance Action planning

Mrs Divit is compiling an **Amazon wishlist** of diverse books to support our bid to raise awareness of the lives of others in our diverse world. Anyone if they wish can purchase a book for our school. These will be sent directly to us in school and would add to our school library.

We are also hoping to become a 'No outsiders' school by promoting community cohesion preparing all our children for life as global citizens. Find out more <https://no-outsiders.com/> and keep an eye on the newsletter for more info. Any families who wish to support us as volunteers and come into our PSHE lessons, assemblies and 'No Outsiders' learning as we move into the new school year- please see Miss Curle or Mrs Rayner.

| Volunteering in school  | Families First Charity reminder   |
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| We would love if any parent or grandparent would like to come into school regularly to offer their time and expertise. If you'd be interested, please see Mr Hall in the office and he will pass on your details to Mrs Rayner who will contact you to set up some dates. | <p>'Families First' is a local charity who provide items for families in crisis or who need a hand at a difficult time- the items can be household or baby items, clothes, baby equipment or toys. They will accept most things which are in good condition even furniture as this might furnish accommodation for a family who have very little. They're situated at the in Parkgate in Rotherham- can be contacted through <a href="mailto:ann.familiesfirst@gmail.com">ann.familiesfirst@gmail.com</a></p> <p>We would like to start collecting for them in school. If you have anything you'd like to donate we are going to have 2 drop off dates this summer term; Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June</p> |

### KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| June   | July (some dates TBC)   |
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| Year 4 Multiplication Screening check wc 5 <sup>th</sup> June  | Year 6 SATs results released Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> July (moved by DfE due to changes in timings this year)  |
| Ann Foxley' Johnson from 'The Anti- Bullying company' leading workshops on respect and tolerance with KS2 classes.<br>Weds 14 <sup>th</sup> June | <p>Sports Days</p> <p>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 9am for FS1 &amp; 2 and 1:15pm for KS1 (Year 1 &amp; 2)</p> <p>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July KS2 (Years 3-6) 1:15pm</p>  |
| FS1 welcome meeting<br>Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> June<br>3:30- 4:30pm  | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July F1 Stay and Play session for new starters - 3:30-4pm   |
| FS2 welcome meeting<br>Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> June<br>3:30- 4:30pm   | Records of Achievement out to parents 6 <sup>th</sup> July  |
| Year 1 Phonics screening check wc 12 <sup>th</sup> June  | Year 6 Leavers events   |
| Summer Fayre – Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June – 3:30pm-5:30pm.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weds 12<sup>th</sup>- Leavers BBQ (afternoon only staffed by PTA and Y6 team)</li> <li>• Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> - Leavers performance 2pm (Y6 parents invited).</li> <li>• Clap out on yard 3:15pm (all invited)</li> </ul> |

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