



ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER- March 2023- Spring Term Two

Message from Mrs Rayner

It's been a whirlwind of a few weeks since my first newsletter; I've been popping into all classes and seen some fantastic learning, superb behaviour and lovely polite and engaged children. It's been great to see the Year 2 children settle into their 'new' classroom and they absolutely love it in there. If you're a Y2 parent and you've not had chance to see inside, pop your head in/ look through the window as Mr Bishop is getting very busy enhancing the learning environment.

Another area we have been reshaping is the library and with the help of Mrs Rusling- who used to work in school- we have reinstalled the Harry Potter themed library to it's former glory and it looks fabulous! We need more books now to add to our growing collection of library books (please see below the things we need in school). Across school we are focusing on improving our learning environments and adding in new displays of children's learning and working walls to assist the children as they learn. Our PTA are supporting us in organising fund raising opportunities so we can add to the outdoor provision in the Foundation Stage. Work will start shortly on the outdoor area and if there are any parents who might give us a hand in painting our playhouses, pagoda and car garage we'd be most grateful! Please let me know.

Our clubs have started this half term and the children have been buzzing already about the Dodgeball, musical theatre and our football team beat Wales Primary this week with the massive score of 4-0. Mr Smith as well as the rest of the Hillcrest team were super proud of all the boys and I know the parents really enjoyed coming and watching them too. Thanks for coming and supporting.

We have also become the first school in South Yorkshire to sign up to become a 'Prem aware' school. We will be working towards the Smallest Things Prem Aware Award which is a scheme to raise awareness of the impact of prematurity on development and learning helping us in school to recognise and meet any needs of children born prematurely including supporting families where needed.

Coming up shortly; World Book Day fun, parents evenings and our school disco!

Thanks again for all your help and support with all we do in school- it's a pleasure working with your children and the staff at Hillcrest,
Kate Rayner



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

In F2 this half term they are starting their new topic 'Long long ago'. They will be learning all about castles, who lives in them and how they are built! They will also design and make their own. The children have also enjoyed celebrating pancake day and are looking forward to lots of fun activities as part of their book week including dress up day!



Y4 have been learning all about animal skeletons (including humans) and their digestive systems. They have been using the photos of Stone Age skeletons that we 'built' at Cresswell Crag to find the differences between types of animal (carnivore, herbivore, ...).

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In FS1 the children loved tasting pancakes with their friends this week and are eager to begin their learning about castles this half term. The children are very enthusiastic about their new topic and will be learning to mix colours to paint their own castles in the coming weeks. They can't wait to share favourite books next week for World Book Day and have some super Easter themed activities to come too!

This term Y3 have loved learning all about Natural Disasters! They have been studying the famous volcanic eruption of Pompeii and are currently writing a diary entry as if they were there at the time- so stay tuned for that! Class 3 have all worked so hard and Miss Curle is so proud of each of them! The next topic they're learning about is Italy and the Romans- There has been a lot to celebrate in Class 3 recently; not only have they worked hard in school but they have also had lots of success outside of school with swimming and football achievements so a huge well done to them all.

Year 2 have started an ongoing science investigation, looking at what plants need to be healthy. Children planted seeds which will grow in different conditions, recording results through observations each week to see how they grow. They have loved settling into their new classroom and Mr Bishop has been really impressed with their Maths learning recently!

Year 6 want change! To start off our geography learning, they have been researching the impact of both deforestation and plastic pollution on our world and have been writing letters to both the Prime Minister and companies far and wide to ask them to reduce their plastic waste. They have mastered algebra in maths and even attempted a collaborative painting of Rousseau's tiger painting.

This week in Year 1 they have enjoyed learning about pancake day! They have been busy writing their own versions of the runaway pancake. They are very entertaining! They have also been working hard to use fact families to help us add and subtract. Take a look in at the lovely displays in their classroom of their recent learning about Africa and Chinese New Year too- amazing!

In Class 7 they have been reading the story by Quentin Blake Mrs Armitage on Wheels and writing all about it. They have also become maths wizards learning all about multiplication.

Finally, our Year 5 children have spent a few weeks learning all about emperor penguins and writing non chronological reports which are so well researched and written. They have tried so very hard. They are continuing their learning journey all about the rainforest and Brazil. This week, they all took part in a very exciting Science experiment. Ask them what happens when you mix vinegar and bicarbonate of soda...

Parent Drop- In Feedback	Communication with School
<p>Thank you to all the parents who came into school, contacted me via email and whom I've had the chance to speak to both informally (on the playground) and formally in meetings. This has been really valuable for me whilst establishing myself here at Hillcrest and I really appreciate your honesty, support and kindness. Some of the feedback has been around improving communication between home and school, transitions between new teachers and classes, feedback on how to help at home with home learning and staffing.</p> <p>As I work alongside the Academy Trust we will be in contact with you all via meetings and newsletters to let you know how we're moving forwards and please continue to let us know your thoughts/ opinions. They are valued.</p>	<p>We would really appreciate if you need to drop a teacher an email to send it to our school email address rather than using a teacher's personal email.</p> <p>This is to ensure we are supporting our staff in having a balance between work and home life and they are accessing/ responding to emails from parents during their working hours. They will of course reply as soon as they are able and this will come from the school account, again instead of their own. There are some exceptions to this rule however and we would appreciate staff email addresses not being shared. This is often due to more regular contact being necessary for the child(ren) and parents.</p> <p>Our email address is school@anstonhillcrest.org</p>

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Attendance	Text messages home
<p>In line with other schools within the Academy Trust we are required to monitor attendance and report to both the Trust and to parents. We will be analysing our attendance data each term and contacting you if your child's attendance falls below the target of 96%. Every week in assembly we award the classes with our attendance Ted (a very cute bear even the Year 6's love) and they get the chance to spin the wheel of fortune earning themselves extra breaktime, a craft session or even a short film!</p> <p>Year 5 had the highest attendance last half term with 97.03%</p> <p>Can I please remind everyone that school doors open at 8:45 and school starts promptly with learning at 8:55 in all classes from FS2 to Year 6. Please support us in starting on time with our lessons by being on time.</p> <p>Foundation stage 1 starts a little later at 9am.</p>	<p>We hope, for those of you who have received them, you have been delighted to receive a text message from your child's class teacher with a celebration of their learning and efforts in school.</p> <p>We will be sending these out on a weekly basis with every teacher choosing 3 children every week to send a text to their parents recognising their achievements.</p> <p>We won't always tell the children so it might come as a surprise!</p>
Young Voices	Upcoming meetings
<p>A massive WELL DONE to our singers who had a great time at the Young Voices concert just before half term. They were a credit to both their families and the school learning the words to the songs, giving up their lunchtimes to practise and being such a fantastic group on the afternoon and evening! They never stopped singing!</p> <p>Huge thanks to both Mrs Sanford and Mrs Divit who organised and led the children as without them this event wouldn't have happened at all as well as Miss Bennett and everyone else in school who has supported the children to practise at lunchtimes.</p>	<p>Ahead of the Year 6 SATs testing week in May and the Year 1 Phonic Screening check we would like to offer 2 meetings for parents.</p> <p>Monday 6th March- Year 1 Phonics (2:45- 3:15 spare KS2 classroom)</p> <p>Wednesday 8th March Year 6 SATs (2:45- 3:15 spare KS2 classroom)</p> <p>If anyone can't attend we will ensure all resources/ any handouts are available on our website.</p>
Parent Governor needed	Mobile phones in school
<p>The Governing Body have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and are looking especially for anyone with a background/ expertise in education and/ or health and safety.</p> <p>Any parent who wishes to support the school by volunteering as a Governor please email us here in school for the attention of our Chair of Governors- Gail Foster.</p>	<p>Some of the children in school bring in mobile phones; they are all really sensible at storing them in the teacher's cupboard during the day but can we please ask you to talk to your child about not using their phones on school grounds at either end of the school day. They should switch it to silent/off as they enter through the gates onto the playground please and no longer look at it or show their friends games/apps etc. We may ask some children to leave their phones at home if this rule isn't followed.</p>
Online Safety	Parents Evenings
<p>We've recently had visits from the local Police Community Support Officers and they've been talking to our children about staying safe online. Our assemblies have focused on being safe and knowing what to do if they're worried about something they encounter online.</p>	<p>We will be finalising details and sending out information next week regarding our forthcoming parents evenings.</p> <p>These will be from 3:30- 6pm on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th April and will be held in school.</p>

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<p>There are some brilliant websites to help parents support their child (and you don't need to be an internet expert) to have safe, positive experiences of internet usage whether they're gaming or just surfing the net for things to do. These include Childline, NSPCC, Safer internet centre, Internet matters and https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ which gives resources to help and also a forum to report anything you're concerned about. Please let us know in school if there is anything you find concerning and need support with.</p>	<p>There will be an opportunity for you to talk to your child's class teacher and have a look at some of the learning they have been doing in school.</p> <p>Mrs Rayner will also be available on both evenings if anyone would like to speak to her.</p>
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PLEASE HELP US...

Gardening	Books and shelves	Wraparound
<p>We are currently trying to improve our grounds, adding birdboxes around school which the children will decorate and put up as well as introducing some planters to grow some flowers. If anyone would like to donate a bag of compost (or 2) we would be most appreciative.</p>	<p>If anyone has any good condition books at home which aren't used anymore, please consider dropping them off with us in school. We are looking to add to our library.</p> <p>Also, if anyone has any bookshelves we would gladly take those off you too!</p>	<p>If anyone has any unwanted Playmobil/ Sylvanian family/ LEGO/ K-Nex or other building/ construction kits; could you please donate to our wraparound club? We are building up a collection but would welcome your donations.</p>

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March	April
<p>Monday 6th March Year 1 Phonics (2:45- 3:15pm)</p>	<p>Monday 3rd April- Friday 14th April Easter Holidays</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th March Year 6 SATs (2:45- 3:15pm)</p>	<p>Thursday 20th April Year 4 begin swimming lessons</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th March Infant and Junior Disco (4:30- 6pm)</p>	<p>Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th April Parents evenings (3:30- 6pm)</p>
<p>Monday 13th March Parent Sleep Workshop (9:00- 11:30am)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 14th March U11 Girls Football Competition (10:00am- 2:30pm)</p>	
<p>Friday 31st March School INSET day</p>	

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