



ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Our values are: **RESPECT, RESILIENCE,**
TEAMWORK, ASPIRATION and KINDNESS



NEWSLETTER- April 2023- Spring Term Two

Message from Mrs Rayner

Hello Everyone

I'm delighted to be writing this newsletter as your new Headteacher and feel very proud of all the achievements of the children and staff this Spring term. We have held school council and wellbeing warrior meetings to talk about events, learning and matters of interest in school in order to make some positive changes/identify ways forward. We also have a litter picking crew who've been making our school a tidier place to be by volunteering in their lunch time - a huge shout out to them! Celebrating achievements in and out of school is very important to me; some of your children have achieved great success recently out of school in sport, acting and music too. We have some very talented children, please keep us informed of achievements as we'd love to celebrate these too. In staffing news we are delighted to have appointed a new teaching assistant Hayley Reddish who will be joining the Year 1 team after the Easter holidays. Deacon Emily from the Methodist church joined us in school for our Easter assembly and was blown away by the singing, the learning shown and said 'they did themselves proud!'. They certainly were amazing.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday with family and friends and I look forwards to seeing you all at the start of the Summer term, Kate Rayner

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

Year 6 are loving our current DT project. They are designing a tote bag to make which will support a worthwhile cause such as an endangered animal. There are some very creative designs and we can't wait to see the finished items. They have all been worked exceptionally hard in preparation for the SATs and recently loved writing diary entries based on a visit to a very creepy doll shop!

In Year 1 Maths we have been investigating length and height, now we are expanding to mass and volume. Practically outside with water and jugs, inside with weighing scales and classroom objects. In Science, spring has definitely sprung! We have looked at the difference between seeds and bulbs, found some around school and our local area (daffodils) and planted some hyacinth to watch it grow, and draw when they flower. We also used them to finger paint for mother's day cards. Hope mums liked them! We are making predictions as Scientists around what will happen if we remove something that a plant needs to grow (water, soil or light) in preparation for our cress and mustard seed experiment next week. In D&T we are looking at food hygiene ready to plan and cook our African meal next week! LOADS of phonics and segmenting/blending activities ready for phonics screening is happening. We absolutely love the phonics bloom alien game, we are trying so hard to beat our time (getting the alien to his spaceship by blending and reading different phase 5 words). Parents may like this website to use at home! - <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

In FS2 we have had so much fun, we have learnt all about castles and designed and built some of our own. This last week we have found out all about Easter and Spring. Next half term we will start our new learning journey all about farm animals and where our food comes from which will involve our exciting trip to White Post Farm.

As Geographers, Year 5 have continued their learning about Brazil, and have produced some fantastic pieces of work for our classroom display. Class 5 are



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particularly enjoying their Science learning, and investigated the question, 'What happens when you mix vinegar with bicarbonate of soda?'

The Caterpillars in FS1 have been busy learning about Easter time. We know that chicks are hatching because it is springtime, and this inspired us to do some amazing collage activities. The children have also been using their beautiful singing voices as they have practised our Easter song!



In Year 4 we have finished our learning all about Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Mountains. The pupils have completed some stunning artwork and the collages are yet to join the paintings on display. They have also written reports about Volcanoes and created posters for 'The Land of Ice and Fire'.



In Year 2 we have been looking at what life is like in Kenya and comparing it to life here in England. We looked at the similarities of Nairobi (Kenya's capital) to our capital, London. After that, we looked at what a traditional Kenyan village in the rural area of Kenya is like. In our final week, for science we are going to use our measuring skills to help us determine how tall the sunflowers have grown that we planted in 6 weeks ago and conclude what conditions a sunflower thrives in.

Year 3 have been doing some incredible learning. We have loved learning more about extreme weather events and how they are caused. They've done an incredible job with their most recent descriptive writing using a range of fantastic features including subordinating clauses and fronted adverbials to make their writing more interesting. We have been working really hard learning all about fractions including how to find equivalent fractions. I have been so proud of their mature attitude to our RE studies discussing differing beliefs. The children have all shown curiosity and a desire to learn more about different cultures which has been amazing. We also have loved spreading the love- the children have been writing some beautiful "shout outs" to each other and children in other classes expressing something they have been grateful for or wanted to thank them for. This has been wonderful to see. Our next topic is all about Italy and I just know you are going to love it!

Every child in school from FS2 to Y6 has taken part in the Virtual School Games recently where they practised their athletic, tennis, hockey and skipping skills and Mr Smith has been lining up more fun for the summer including Sports Days. This week the children performed at the Wales High School Gym and Dance festival; a group from Year 3 and 4 and one from Year 6 and we were so proud of them.

PTA – Friends of Anston Hillcrest

Friends of Hillcrest; our unofficial PTA met recently to discuss upcoming events and current fundraising. The disco this term raised nearly £400 and was loved by all who attended. The evening was so well organised and all the children had a lot of fun! Coming up; Coronation memorabilia designed by the children which can be purchased, a sponsored BOUNCE on Friday 19th May during the day for all classes and our Summer fayre after school on Wednesday 21st June. There will also be another disco to end the school year on Wednesday 5th July- more information will be sent out nearer the time about all these events. If anyone is interested in joining our PTA - they're keen on new members to join the group and support our school to raise funds which we can use to benefit all the children- please email school or see Mrs Sanford or Mrs Pritchard. The next meeting is on Monday 24th April in school at 7pm. A massive THANK YOU to our current members and helpers who have made such a difference to our school so far!

INSET dates for 2023-24

Our INSET dates for next year are;
 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)

Communication

As we continually strive to improve the communication between school/home we will try to ensure any after school clubs and events which may clash are communicated in a timely fashion as we understand how difficult it can be to re-organise schedules without enough notice. Also please continue to use the school email to communicate with teachers unless otherwise arranged.







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Easter holiday FREEBIES

Sent alongside this newsletter is a flyer advertising 'Eat well for less'; this might be useful in the Easter break as it advertises lots of places where children might even be able to eat for free! There's also a leaflet about all the free activities over the holidays; places are still available with:

-  Rotherham United Community Sports Trust at Catcliffe Community Hall on 11th to 14th of April 
-  Excel Martial Arts at Swallownest Miners Welfare on 11th to 14th of April 
-  Active Soccer at Maltby Academy on 3rd to 6th April and Dinnington High School on 11th to 14th April (open to all children) 

There are lots more on offer though so take a look at the leaflet accompanying this newsletter including some flyers from the South Anston Methodist church about a film night and an Easter service too.

FYI- Foundation Stage development	PE kits
<p>Mrs Moore, Mrs Sanford and Mrs Bristow have been instrumental in designing phase 1 of the re-development of some of the Foundation Stage outdoor area. We are very lucky to have such a large space and now the tree has been removed, it has made a lot of difference ensuring more light and more space for the children.</p> <p>Phase 1 will start shortly and will include a central area with a wooden climbing area. We will need to start the refurbishment of some of our current equipment to complement our new area and also the removal of some of our older, more tired pieces.</p>	<p>Can we remind you that all children should have a PE kit in school. This should consist of a white tshirt, black shorts and trainers. If they could also have an outdoor kit with tracksuit/ hoody and leggings as more PE is taking place outside and we have noticed an increasing number of children in school without kits. Please leave the kit in school and this can be brought home on a Friday ensuring your child has their kit in school all week.</p>
Healthy Snacks	Parent meetings
<p>In order to encourage healthy eating at breaktime in school we would like to ask you to support us by encouraging your child to bring in healthier choices of snacks: fresh fruit, dried fruit, cereal bars, granola bars (nut free), low calorie packet snacks such as corn chips, popcorn etc, cheese, veg sticks and some biscuit bars / packets which are low in calories and sugar content. We recognise this is difficult at times as children often tend to prefer other snacks and in the future it would be lovely to re-install the tuckshop at breaktime for KS2 (thank you for the suggestion from some of the parents).</p>	<p>Thank you to everyone who has recently attended our parents meetings; we will try to support our families by adding in meetings where we talk about SATs, phonics and other areas which you may require more information about. If there are any particular areas you would like to hear more about, please add these to our suggestions box in reception.</p>
Attendance	Parents Evenings
<p>As per the letter we sent out last term we have to monitor attendance both authorised and unauthorised absences in school- this is in line with all local authority schools as well as schools within our Academy Trust- our school target is 96%. Unauthorised absences include holidays and may include illness.</p> <p>If attendance falls below 96% we will be issuing letters in accordance with the JMAT attendance policy. Some of these highlight that school is monitoring internally, others request meetings in school to discuss support and in some cases of extremely low attendance this triggers a more formal attendance review where support from the Early Help pathway and/ or a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) will be issued.</p> <p>We understand that some absences are unavoidable and please be ensured that we review all cases individually but have a duty to monitor attendance and we want to be as supportive and transparent in our processes as possible. If you have concerns regarding your child's attendance/ punctuality please contact school where we would be more than happy to meet with you to offer support. Your child's attendance % will be shared at parents evening.</p>	<p>We look forwards to seeing you at our parents evenings. These will be from 3:30-6pm on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th April and will be held in school with learning available in the KS1 hall for FS1,2, Year 1 and 2 and then in the Ks2 hall for Y3,4,5,6.</p>

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PLEASE HELP US...Families First

'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 ann.familiesfirst@gmail.com They are also linked with the Rotherham Children's Toy appeal; I've attached a leaflet for anyone wishing to know more and to read about the impact your kindness would have.

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 19th May and Friday 30th June

Foundation Stage

Some of you know we have a little wooden playhouse in the FS area which we have had for a long time. It is quite dilapidated and in need of substantial repairs; if there is anyone who might have the skills, equipment and time (and who likes a challenge) who might be able to help us restore it to it's former glory- we'd be most grateful!

Book Amnesty - Could you all please check your bookshelves, bags and homes for any library or reading scheme books you may have. We are currently low on Little Wandle texts with many not being returned to school (these cost approx. £5 per book). Hand to any member of staff or the school office as soon as possible!

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note, due to parents evenings and Bank Holidays falling during the Summer Term, the schedule for after school clubs will be affected

April	May	June	July (some dates TBC)
SEND reviews- ZH support/ cover TBC	Bank Holiday 1 st May	Year 4 Multiplication Screening check wc 5 th June	Year 6 SATs results released Tues 11 th July (moved by DfE due to changes in timings this year)
Friday 21 st April FS1 & 2 White Post Farm visit	During entire month of May: KS1 SATs	FS1 welcome meeting Weds 7 th June 3:30- 4:30pm	Sports Days TBC Potentially/ weather permitting wc 3 rd June
Friends of Hillcrest (PTA) meeting Mon 24 th April 7pm	Year 3 and Year 4 visit to Murton Park Weds 3 rd May	FS2 welcome meeting Thurs 8 th June 3:30- 4:30pm	Year 6 Leavers events Dates TBC
Parents evening Tues 25 th Weds 26 th 3:30-6pm	Coronation Bank Holiday Monday 8 th May	Year 1 Phonics screening check wc 12 th June Year 1 Phonics screening check wc 12 th June	Year 6 Leavers Assembly (all Y6 parents invited) 10:15am Fri
	Wc 9 th May: KS2 SATs week	Summer Fayre Weds 21 st June from 3:30pm	Transition week (4 days) all children moving to their new classes across school Last day of term Thursday 20th July (INSET Fri 21st July)
	19 th May: Sponsored BOUNCE (children across school will bounce and raise money for school)		

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