



ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hawthorne Avenue, South Anston,
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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Rayner
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Our values are: **RESPECT, RESILIENCE,**
TEAMWORK, ASPIRATION and KINDNESS



Autumn Term 2 NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas

As I near a year at Hillcrest as Headteacher (it only seems like 5 minutes ago) I am always blown away by the wonderful things that your children say and do in school- they are fully embracing our 5 school values and showing respect for our 3 school rules as we push to embody our 'Make a difference' motto in all we do. The acceptance and understanding they are starting to show for others around them is wonderful to see and you should all be so proud of the effort and enthusiasm they show for learning each day. I am so thankful for the staff team at Hillcrest who have also embraced the changes we are making to ensure our school is as good as we can be and we are all keen to start our new curriculum in January as well as refine some of great things that happen already in school.

Thank you so much for attending our Christmas events; from the craft-er-noon to the KS1 and 2 singalongs to the wonderful FS2 Nativity. We appreciate you joining us, were glad you could share with us some of the Christmas school fun and wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope you have a lovely holiday.

Mrs Kate Rayner

Our new Learning meets the world curriculum launches January 2024

We are thrilled to start our new foundation subjects curriculum in January 2024- all classes from FS1 to Year 6 will start their learning pathway as we return from the Christmas holidays as **Explorers (FS1 & 2), Pathfinders (Y1&2), Adventurers (Y3&4), Navigators (Y5&6)**. The Learning Means the World curriculum puts pupils at the heart of the curriculum, and the themed units enable them to build upon previous learning as they progress through school.

All the staff have worked very hard on their first 7 weeks theme centred around the curriculum driver - Conflict. In Year 6 they will be learning about Martin Luther King and lower down school they will be thinking about respect for individuals. All these themes are about understanding the world around them and cover aspects of History, Geography, Art, Science and other foundation subjects. The curriculum includes opportunities for the development of individualised learning skills and fosters a genuine love of learning. This is key for us here at Hillcrest as we move forwards to improve the provision for our pupils across school.

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Safeguarding our pupils

Thank you for supporting your children with the new morning routine of lining up and entering school promptly at 8:45am. Teachers will be out on the yard at 8:40am if you need them for anything quick but for a lengthier chat please ask them to contact you at a mutually convenient time. If parents could clear the yard promptly in the morning please as our gates will be locking automatically at 8:55am. Our dismissal procedures are working well although if we can remind parents if someone other than yourselves/ usual people who collect are picking up your child you must inform school so we can get a message to the class teacher ahead of 3:15pm. If you enter school during the day via the main pedestrian gate, please ensure you are aware of it closing behind you- we are ensuring all our doors/ gates/ entry points are locked either automatically or via padlocks throughout our site.

Saying Goodbye and Thankyou

After many years the staff and Governors would like to say thank you to Jackie Brand who has stepped down from her position as a governor of our school. She has been supporting the strategic direction of the school through her attendance at meetings, working with the Senior Leadership teams over the years and has always been a strong advocate of our school.

Our chair of Governors Gail Foster and Vice- Chair Ann Hughes alongside the rest of the Governing body and staff of Hillcrest (old and new) warmly wish her the very best and thank her for her years of dedication to our school.

We have now federated our Governing body with Harthill Primary School and will be working together to support one another on the next stage in the school's journey.

Thank you to our PTA and all our volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have given up their time to support us this term; from listening to readers to making the teas/ coffee at the nativity. We are now lucky enough to be able to say we have a volunteer for most year groups and are very glad of the extra support!

We are so thankful for our PTA group - Friends of Hillcrest - who have organised and supported events in school and as a result of the fundraising we have been able to entirely fund the 'No Outsiders' training and resource package, ensure all the children in school receive a gift at Christmas and for the first time in school we are having a pantomime from a stage company.

School Newspaper

We are launching a new venture in January; Newspaper club. Every Thursday budding reporters and designers can come together in the dining hall from 3:15- 4:15 where we will work together to plan, create and publish a school newspaper (name as yet to be decided by the children... all ideas are welcome!). If there are any parents who would like to offer any expertise, please let us know and you are always welcome. We'd like to be able to sell our newspapers to families on the playground too so please look out for our first issue!

Parking

We have received a letter from local residents complaining about vehicles parking on the pavements and junctions on Hawthorne Avenue and High Ash Drive. Can I please remind you about considerate parking; ensuring enough room is left on the footpath for people to walk and get through with pushchairs/mobility scooters. Some of our older children have spoken about cars reversing as they walk out of school and this is worrying for them. Our PSCOs have contacted us and will be patrolling the area when possible and have informed us that RMBC parking services will be doing the same with their camera van.

The Smallest Things - Premature baby charity

We are very proud to have received the award in school from 'The Smallest Things' charity for raising awareness amongst our staff in school about premature birth and the implications this can have on educational attainment and progress and how we can support our children. Research tells us that children born prematurely are more likely to have poorer academic attainment and special educational needs compared to their classmates born at full term. While we know that those born extremely preterm (before 28 weeks' gestation) are most likely to need extra support, research also highlights that children born just a few weeks early may still face difficulties at school. The cognitive and learning difficulties most commonly associated with premature birth include slower processing speeds, difficulties with memory, poorer visual-spatial skills, attention difficulties and struggles



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with mathematics. With an average of two to three children in every classroom being born early, we know that teachers can play a crucial role in supporting and making a difference to the lives of children born prematurely.

Here in school we have altered our admissions information and are asking any parents to let us know (at any age) about their child if they think it is relevant to the criteria above. Mrs Moore has led staff training and we were pleased to receive our award at the start of December. If you'd like more information, please see Mrs Moore.

INSET dates 2023/24	After school sports and other clubs
<p>Our INSET dates;</p> <p>Monday September 4th (Autumn 1)</p> <p>Friday December 22nd (Autumn 2)</p> <p>Monday June 3rd (Summer 1)</p> <p>Monday 22nd July (Summer 2)</p> <p>Tuesday 23rd July (Summer 2)</p>	<p>Mr Smith will be starting his new clubs the first week back in January and letters are going out next week;</p> <p>Monday- Basketball (Y3-6)</p> <p>Tuesday- Dodgeball (Y3-6)</p> <p>Thursday- Multi sports (Y1-2) & Newspaper club (Y5&6)</p> <p>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 Circuit training/ Multi sports after school club for Y5 and 6 on a Wednesday. Same times as usual however there are only 15 places available. All start at 3:15 and finish at 4:15pm. Please make yourself known to Mr Smith or Mr Whaley who will be dismissing.</p>

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
January 2024	
8.1.24	School reopens for Spring term 1
10.1.24	FS2 eye tests
15.1.24	PCSO in to talk to all classes- Road safety
16.1.24	Y6/7 Transition visit from WHS Miss Unwin
19.1.24	FS1 & 2 visit to The Deep
February 2024	
Half term commences Monday 12 th February	

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