



## ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss Emma Hill  
Interim Head of School: Mrs Kate Rayner  
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Our values are: **RESPECT, RESILIENCE,  
TEAMWORK, ASPIRATION and KINDNESS**



# NEWSLETTER - January 2023

## Message from Mrs Rayner

Dear Families,

Thank you all for your lovely welcome over the past few weeks since my arrival; it's a pleasure to be joining school and I look forward to working closely with Mrs Hirst and Mrs Divit as well as the Governors to ensure the school supports your child/ children with their learning moving through this Spring term. It's been lovely to chat with your children, drop into classes to get to know the children and staff as well as check out the learning across school this past few weeks and we will keep you updated half termly via the newsletter on the learning across school.

I'd like to invite you to two drop-in sessions where you can grab a drink, chat to one of the school Governors or myself about anything you'd like to raise or just pop in to say 'Hello'. The potential dates are listed below. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible but as a busy working parent myself I realise it's not always possible to get into school, so don't hesitate to email, pop in or grab me on the playground for a chat if more convenient.

Mrs Kate Rayner

## What we've been up to in school!

In **FS1** we have been focusing our learning on traditional tales. The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their favourite stories and representing the characters using different art mediums. The children particularly enjoyed the story of Hansel & Gretel so we followed their interest and created our very own sweetie house! The photo shows the finished house displayed proudly in our classroom. We have also read Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the children enjoyed tasting some bowls of porridge. The grown-ups were so impressed at how eloquently the children shared their opinions on the tastes! We have lots more exciting learning to come!"

In **FS2** we have made a fantastic start with our new topic learning all about different traditional tales and what makes a good story. In literacy we have read the story of the Jolly Postman and wrote our own postcards and letters. During maths we have learnt how to share things equally and looked at the composition of the number 5. In other learning we have looked at early map skills and programmed a bee-bot to move around a board all about Jack and the beanstalk!



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In spring term so far, **Class 2** we have been looking at the naming the capitals on England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and identified where they are in the UK. We have also used an atlas to support us find the different continents and oceans of the world.



**Class 4** have already completed a block of science, all about how sounds are made. They made and investigated string telephones, where they discovered solids transmit sounds better than gases! They really enjoyed playing the instruments and finding out how pitch could be altered (apologies if your child came home with a headache that day!) – short = high, long = low. The musicians helped us out by playing their instruments too.



**Class 5** have started their new learning journey which is all about rainforests. We put our geographical skills to the test this week, identifying countries in the Southern and Northern hemispheres!

In **Class 7** we have loved reading and getting to know the story The Tiger Who Came to Tea. We have planned our own version of the story about a lion/cheetah that comes for tea and will be writing our own version of the story using the original to help us. There has been lots of great maths learning this week, some of the children have learnt about the tens and ones in teen numbers whilst the rest of the class have been working hard on symmetry.

Parent Drop- In Sessions	Home Learning
<p>As a new member of staff, Mrs Rayner would appreciate feedback and to gather parental views on the school and its policies and practices. If you are able, please pop in for a coffee and meet the Governors on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:45- 9:30am or 2:30- 3:10pm in the main school hall. If you can't make either of these and would still like to speak with Mrs Rayner, please send an email to school</p>	<p>Whilst we appreciate it is difficult at times to fit in learning at home, we would like you to encourage your child with basic skills which will help them daily in school. By reading every day, accessing Spelling Shed and TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars). As we move through the year, we will be relooking at our home learning policy and expectations of the children at different ages.</p>
Making a difference at Hillcrest	SEND/ SEMH Parent meeting
<p>As a staff we are relooking at our 'Relationship and Behaviour policy' and would welcome feedback. There is a copy of the current policy on our website and if you have any general comments you'd like to feedback on, please either email school or come along to a coffee drop in.</p> <p>Since the start of the school year, we have relaunched our five school values and we be linking all our Monday assemblies to these as well as our Friday Celebration assembly. We hope your children are talking about the assemblies and look</p>	<p>Mrs Hirst would like to invite parents in on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January between 9am and 10am for a chance to talk about any SEND (Special educational needs) concerns or questions you have about your child. They do not need to already have targets in</p>

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<p>forwards to being chosen by their teachers for a 'Star' award as these are linked to our five values: kindness, aspiration, respect, resilience and teamwork.</p> <p>We have also launched two new awards; a 'Sporting Superstar' chosen by Mr Smith for anyone from FS2 to Y6 who is displaying effort, resilience, skill in PE or showing sportsmanship at breaktimes AND a 'Lunchtime Lovely' chosen by Mrs Baker who will speak to the lunchtime staff about a child from FS2 to Y6 who is using good manners, trying new food or is being kind and caring at lunchtime.</p>		<p>place in school for you to attend - everyone is welcome!</p> <p>If you want a chance to speak with our educational psychologist Mrs Barn she will also be around to answer any questions. We look forwards to welcoming you.</p>
<b>Staffing updates</b>		<b>Relocating Year 2</b>
<p>Unfortunately, Mrs Martin-Chambers, who is the Year 1 teacher, will be leaving us at the end of this half term. We wish her well for the future and send our thanks for all she has done in Year 1 since September. From after half term the children will be taught by Mrs Hirst. Other members of the Year 1 team include Mrs Baker, Mrs Beeley, Mr Smith, Miss Shipley and Mrs Moore.</p> <p>An additional letter will go out to all the Y1 parents.</p>		<p>Over the next few weeks we will be moving the Year 2 children from their classroom to the larger space next door which is currently the library. This will give them slightly more space and their own cloakroom space. Your children will be informed about this and am sure they'll be really excited about the move. From Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February the children will enter school and be dismissed (as they are now) from the red door at the bottom of the playground steps.</p>
<b>School Disco</b>	<b>Awards</b>	<b>Wraparound</b>
<p>Our parents group are holding a disco on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30- 6pm. More details to follow shortly.</p>	<p>On behalf of school Mr Smith was presented with the GOLD School Games Mark pendant for our efforts to engage children in sport competing in different events in and out of school time. We are so proud of this! Well done everyone 😊</p>	<p>Don't forget there are places available in our Breakfast Club and after school provision. Please contact school to book your place - the children have loads of fun and love coming! There's always something exciting happening.</p> <p>We will also be sending out letters regarding after school clubs shortly and these will be sports clubs led by Mr Smith, cooking with Miss Bradshaw, a musical theatre workshop and SAT booster sessions.</p>



<b>KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – FS2/Butterflies eye tests</b>
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9:00am-10:00am – SEND drop-in coffee morning with Mrs Hirst and Mrs Barn</b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:45-9:30am or 2:30-3:10pm – Parent drop-in sessions with Mrs Rayner and Governors</b>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term Week</b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – School Disco</b>
<b>Remaining INSET days this year – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>
<b>Term-Time Bank Holidays – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (extra bank holiday for the Coronation)</b>

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