



Hillcrest Newsletter

Summer 2024

Head Teacher's Update:

As we end another school year, I would like to send a thank you from all the staff for the kind words and support over the last academic year. Working in partnership so positively strengthens us as a school community.

This is a bumper newsletter which gives insight into some of the exciting things that we have got up to this term. It has been wonderful to see so many enrichment trips going out of school, which has included Newbiggin Maritime Museum, Belsay Hall and Kirkley Hall, and greater use of our wonderful Forest School area. We are so lucky to have an amazing outdoor classroom, which has provided so many learning opportunities this year.

Working in a school really is the BEST job in the world, as I get the privilege of working with our fantastic young people every day and at the end of the academic year seeing how far each child has progressed holistically and academically is joyous!

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

With best wishes,
Andrea Mead

KS3 – Class JP

The Year as a Whole

We have had a wonderful year in Class JP filled with fun, relaxation and of course work! As a class we have developed tremendously across the year and it is safe to say that we have all grown as people.



Our Summer Term

For the Summer term we chose 'Myths and Legends' and 'Stone Age and Fossils' as our topics. Starting with 'Myths and Legends' we focused mainly on the tale of King Arthur, familiarising ourselves with his story while considering whether the story was tale or truth.

We then moved on to 'Stone Age and Fossils'. We were blown away by the various cave drawings we saw, discovering that cavemen had their own way of communicating and recording their history.



We also had our penalty shootout fundraiser which was a great success and provided us with the opportunity for an end of year treat!

KS3 – Class LM

A Day at the Farm

Class LM have really enjoyed our Summer Term together! During the first half term, we had a fantastic school trip to Whitehouse Farm. We saw lots of different animals and even held some fluffy animals and some creepy crawlies! We had a class race on the go-karts, played on the big bouncy pillows, went down

the rubber ring slide and went on a tractor ride around the farm. It was lovely to see everyone having fun together and pushing themselves out of their comfort zones – especially when it came to the creepy crawlies. Most of us allowed a tarantula to sit on our head!



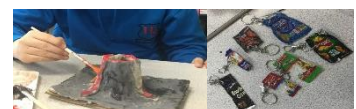
In School Visits

We had a visit from a Taxidermist who brought lots of different animals to show us. It was very interesting although a little bit weird at the same time!



An Amazing Term in Class LM!

The second half term we enjoyed learning about 'Extreme Earth' and we made some great volcanoes out of clay. We read 'Escape from Pompeii' and wrote some amazing descriptive diary entries. In Skills Builder, we thought hard about how we could recycle items that we would otherwise throw away. For our 'Trash to Treasure' project we made keyrings from shrunken crisp and sweet packets. We have thoroughly enjoyed our summer term and have experienced lots of new things!

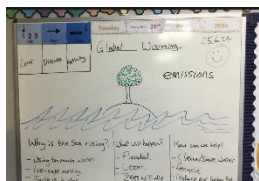


KS3 – Class GM

Geography and Map Reading

This term we have enjoyed learning all about the Environment and how we can all play our part to help our

planet for the future. The students have been using atlases to find the various islands around the world which are under constant threat from global warming.



Class Maths Experiments

In Maths we have been looking at measurement: time, height, weight and capacity and the students have enjoyed various different practical experiments to accompany this learning.

Time Outdoors

We have been very lucky that the weather has allowed us to visit Seven Oaks Park on several occasions and continue our weekly sessions in the Hillcrest Discover area, where we have been making fires, creating dens and digging for treasure!



In PE, the students have shown great hand eye coordination and gross motor skills in tennis on the MUGA and competitive games of football at break times. As always, the students have engaged well with their lessons and have taken pride in their work, particularly with their amazing work for the 'One Punch sessions'.

KS3 – Class MP

Fantastic Progress

This term Class MP have done lots of amazing things and made some great memories. It is fantastic to look back and see how much progress they have all made since September, they have all made their class team extremely proud.

Amazing Teamwork

In Summer 1, our topic was Crime and Punishment. We looked at differences over the years with the ways that people were punished and what was considered a crime. It

was great to see the class working together and figuring out clues when we did a mock trial for a cake theft.

Climate Change

In Summer 2, our topic was The Environment. We have been looking at ways in which we can help the environment, what climate change is and the impact this has on the earth. The class did really well to recognise the impact global warming can have on different parts of the world and animals.



Milkshake Magic

Overall, this final term has been really special. I was amazed at how well they all did with our milkshake sale fundraiser and I look forward to the beach trip where they can spend their hard-earned money. Other highlights include our trips to the park, djembe drumming lessons, Makaton sessions, seeing great team work and sportsmanship as well as their maturity when discussing important topics in PSHE. It has been a pleasure to get to know all the pupils in Class MP this year and I can't wait to see what they achieve over the coming years.

KS3 – Class SK

A Great Term

This last term in Class SK has been a great one. We have had trips to the park, to the beach and even for a celebratory meal together. We raised the money for our trip to Sambuca's ourselves by having an ice cream sale. Each and every one of our class had a role to play and they played it brilliantly. As a staff team we were so proud of them.



Amazing Achievements

We are proud of everything our young people achieved this year and we are excited to see what they will achieve as they move into Year 10.

We will miss you Class SK!



KS3 – Class DM

An Incredible Year

Wow! What an incredible year we have had together as a class. The summer term has been just as fun as the rest of our year. We have covered two great topics: 'Pirates and Vikings'. Our class highlights in the summer term have been going down to Discover on a weekly basis, our cookery lessons and having a first aid session from the Red Cross!



Creating Amazing Work

This term we have produced some incredible work including Viking stories set in the modern day, amazing 3D pirate ships and used technology to create digital shields. In Discover, we have done jobs such as whittling, pond dipping and lighting fires in small groups.



This year has been such a joy and as a class, we have had some incredible times and many laughs! I am so proud of Class DM this year and they have ended the year on a real high.

KS4 - Class BL/NM

A Fantastic Term

Class BL/NM have had an amazing summer term to end our year on.

We have covered some fantastic topics such as 'Dystopian Fiction' (a class favourite!) and life skills. Our highlights have been our visit to Kirkley Hall College to look around and get an insight as to the different courses that they offer, our work on The Maze Runner and doing lots of amazing activities in Discover during PE. We also did a fantastic science experiment where we replicated pumping blood around the body using two cups, water with food colouring, straws and balloons!



Class Highlights

We have produced some absolutely outstanding work this term, including: persuasive letters, profiles for our very own zombie apocalypse characters, film analysis and their outstanding contribution to the whole school One Punch Showcase as a class. The teamwork was amazing to witness.

Exciting Trips and Opportunities

Finally, we have also worked hard on our ASDAN qualifications. We have taken trips to Newbiggin beach, Pets at Home and have even had an opportunity to interview an animal trainer working in TV and film!

KS4 – Class MS

An exciting term in Class MS!

We have had a really busy term with lots of exciting things in Class MS. We have practiced our football skills with NUFC Foundation and joined in with sports coaches delivering sessions on both Rounders and also Dodgeball.



Trips out of School

We have had some lovely trips out and about including a weekly visit to Seven Oaks Park as part of our PE lessons. We have visited Belsay Hall, Blyth Beach, the Discovery Museum

and the Great North Museum. At the Great North Museum, we loved doing a rainbow hunt and learning all about different minerals and precious stones. We also took part in a session called 'All creatures great and gruesome!' where we learned about animal skins and skeletons.



It has been great being out and about in the community. We have been developing our life skills and have learned to iron, use the Hoover, fold washing and how to manage a household budget. As part of our work in the community we have visited local supermarkets to buy snacks for our class, this was also part of our life skills work.

Visits in School

We have had a visit from the Red Cross and learned some basic first aid and how to use a defibrillator. The Violence reduction Unit have delivered sessions on knife crime, grooming and also malicious communications.



Proud Moments in Class

Some of our very talented students took part in 'Hillcrest's Got Talent' and did performances live on stage. We have also had a very successful class hotdog sale to raise money as part of our Duke of Edinburgh work. One of our students, Leon, was the first person in school to achieve 'Epic' level in the maths programme 'Mathletics'. We are super proud of him. We've also had a number of students achieve their Level 1 Rebound award and we have been working with Mrs Eggett (SALT) on our Level 1 Makaton Award.

KS4 – Class CB

Fantastic Class Work

As we look back on this term, we're excited to share some of the memorable activities Class CB have been involved in:

- **A Successful Car Wash Fundraiser:** We worked hard washing cars to raise funds for Mind UK.
- **Green Thumb Success with Plant Auctions:** Our class auctioned off a variety of beautiful plants, promoting environmental awareness and fundraising efforts.
- **Fun-Filled Tiki Bar Event:** We hosted an enjoyable morning with delicious mocktails, bringing our school community together and supporting Mind UK.
- **Community Bike Rides:** Promoting health and unity, we organised bike rides that allowed us to explore our neighbourhood.

These activities have not only enriched our term but also taught us valuable lessons in teamwork, leadership and community involvement. We appreciate your continued support and wish you all a wonderful summer!



KS4 - Class SM

Reflecting on an Amazing Year

What an amazing year it has been at The Bridge! We've delved into Dystopian Fiction, a genre that has captivated and inspired us all. Our students have created unique symbols representing their identity and resilience.

Developing Our Maths Skills

In Maths, we've tackled practical skills like banking, budgeting, and saving and working diligently to grasp these essential concepts.



Exciting Trips and Projects

Our recent school trips have taken us to exciting destinations such as Newcastle City Centre, Hauxley Nature Reserve, Blyth, and the beach where we've made wonderful memories.



Moreover, our eco-project has been a resounding success, thanks to our collaboration with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Students have had the rewarding experience of building bird boxes and bug hotels and contributing to the care of local wildlife reserves.

Here's to celebrating all of our achievements and looking forward to even more adventures next year!

KS4 - Class MW

Another Fantastic Term

What an absolutely fantastic end to the academic year we have had. I would also like to share what an amazing academic year it has been all-round in Class MW – the pupils have been an absolute pleasure to teach!



Preparing for Life After Hillcrest

We have really focused on preparing the class for life beyond Hillcrest, whether that be through transition activities for college or continuing to develop our life skills. We have been so lucky to have had such brilliant sessions to enhance this, including: NatWest MoneySense Workshop, Red Cross First Aid Session, Ashington College Taster Day and Kirkley Hall Taster Day. The pupils' engagement and enthusiasm has been faultless throughout and it is evident that each and every one of them has benefitted.

Growing Independence

A particular highlight definitely has to be our class trip to Blyth Beach. Seeing the pupils be so independent and catching the public bus, as well

as getting their own snacks and drinks from the shops, was lovely to see. The friendships within the group, which could be seen when they were playing together, was so heart-warming.

I am really looking forward to ending the year on a high with our trip to the Arcade Warehouse – the class so thoroughly deserve it! I wish every pupil the best of luck as they progress on to their next stages in September and hope that everybody has a safe and fun-filled summer!

KS3 - Discover

Achievements in Class

Congratulations to everyone in Class DK for their fantastic achievements and the incredible learning journeys you have embarked on this year. You have all done really well!



A Term Full of Progress

This year in Discover class, we have focused on inclusivity, community, nature, and self-regulation. Our Forest School area looks amazing, thanks to the hard work and creativity of our students in designing and building it.



You have all grown so much and learned a great deal. We hope you have a wonderful summer holiday. All the teachers in Discover are proud of you.

Science - Miss Bishop

Plants and Planting

Science has, again, been a pleasure to teach in the summer term! All of the Key Stage 3 students have tried their best and worked so hard during their lessons. We've had some fantastic student engagement and it's been amazing to see all of our students answering and asking questions to further their knowledge and understanding.

We have learnt all about plants in the first half term, looking at what

plants need to grow, what the different parts of the plant are called and how plants reproduce. Every student planted a sunflower seed, unfortunately some grew better than others but everyone got stuck in and had a go.



Animals and their Habitats

This half term we have been learning about different animals and their habitats. We have discovered some amazing animal facts along the way. The students learned about what an animal's basic needs are and how it is vital that their habitat provides these.



We also discovered how different animals have adapted to survive in their particular habitat and how they can't survive in certain habitats because of their physical characteristics. We spent time down in our Discover area, investigating that particular habitat and looking at the different animals that live there. The bug hunts were really enjoyable and the students had so much fun.



Hillcrest School

Hope Uniform and Baby Bank

The Hope Centre is the only Cramlington based provider of free school uniform. They stock all local sweatshirts, PE kits, trousers, coats etc for students with no referral required. They are also very grateful for donations of good quality school clothing which they can then redistribute. Please find address and contact details below.

Hope Uniform and Baby Bank

Forum Way

Cramlington

NE23 6SJ

Email: hope1uniform@gmail.com

Dinner Money

Just a reminder that we have a new system for paying dinner money for our students. If you would prefer to pay online rather than sending cash or cheques into school, please contact the school office.

Care Home Visits

A number of our students have had the opportunity to visit a local care home during school time. Students have played bingo and painted mugs as well as playing a quiz with elderly residents. These sessions have been found to benefit not only the residents but also our students too! The visits have been a huge success with students and residents – thank you Miss Noble for organising it all!

Morag's Pupdate!

Morag has again been a regular visitor in school this summer term on Wednesdays and has had lots of visits from students across the school. Students, as always, have loved spending time with Morag and giving her lots of attention!



Free School Meal Holiday Voucher

Please see the below information regarding the holiday vouchers that are funded by the UK Government/funded by DWP Household Support Fund.

"Please ensure this voucher is used for its intended purpose only. The voucher must not be sold, passed on or used for any other purpose. If you are not able to use it, or do not require the vouchers for food/clothing please contact the school and arrange for its return. Northumberland County Council reserve the right to carry out checks to ensure the vouchers are used for their intended purpose, and by accepting this voucher you agree to these checks being undertaken. If anyone is found to misuse the voucher Northumberland County Council may take action to recover the money, in full, from you as well as taking any other action they deem appropriate".

Attendance Matters

We expect the children to attend school regularly - every day if possible. Where we have attendance concerns, parents will be contacted and support offered. Your child's education is very important. Regular school attendance helps pupils fulfil their potential and gives them a better chance for the future.



Absences Reminder

If your child is absent from school, please call the school office before 9am.

Holidays

Everyone at Hillcrest wishes all of our students and their families a safe and happy summer and we hope that you all enjoy the holiday. Enjoy your time off and we look forward to seeing you all in September!



19/07/2024- School Closes

02/09/2024- Teacher Training Day
03/09/2024 – New Starters Only
04/09/2024- School Returns
25/10/2024 – School Closes (Mid-Term)
04/11/2024 – School Returns
02/12/2024 – Teacher Training Day
20/12/2024- School Closes (Christmas)
06/01/2025 – School Returns
27/01/2025 – Teacher Training Day
21/02/2025 – School Closes (Mid-Term)
03/03/2025 – School Returns
11/04/2025 – School Closes (Easter)
28/04/2025 – School Returns
05/05/2025 – May Day
23/05/2025 – School Closes (Mid-Term)
02/06/2025 – School Returns
09/06/2025 – Teacher Training Day
18/07/2025 – School Closes (Summer)
01/09/2025 – School Returns



Please remember to update us here at school if you move house, change telephone/mobile phone number or email address so we can contact you.



Hillcrest School

Tel: 01670 713632

Email:

admin@hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk





Summer Holidays



Q E V J R H Y T L Z P F B I K I N G X S
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| August | canoeing | holidays | pool | sprinkler |
| barbecue | cottage | ice cream | popsicles | strawberries |
| beach | family | July | puzzles | summer camp |
| biking | friends | lake | reading | swimming |
| bonfires | games | lemonade | relax | traveling |
| books | hammock | memories | road trips | vacation |
| camping | hiking | picnics | sports | watermelon |