



The Hillcrest News

Autumn 2021 Edition

Head Teacher's Update:

Despite the challenges that Covid has brought again to our school, great things happen at Hillcrest like this newsletter shows. We have amazing young people and wonderful staff who try to make sure that there are magic moments in school everyday.

The new term brings uncertainty as once again Covid cases continue to rise at an alarming rate. Whilst we want to welcome all of our pupils back on the 4th January 2022, please do not send your child in if they display any Covid symptoms and book a PCR test. We are asking, that every child does 2 Lateral Flow tests before their return to school and share the result with school. Enclosed is separate information about this.

I really value our relationships with our families and thank you all for your continued support at these uncertain times. Have a fantastic and restful break.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 4th January.



KS3 - Class HS

Secret Investigations

Class HS have been working hard all term and have produced some amazing work. They solved the mystery of the missing doughnuts by searching for evidence at the crime scene, interviewing suspects and writing their concluding statements. Every student found the same suspect guilty and we are pleased to announce that there have been no more crimes in our class.



Knitted Nativity

Working together as a team, the students have made a brilliant scene to house our knitted nativity. The workload was shared between pairs who designed and made a stable, a manger, the starry sky, the North star and hay bales. Here is the finished result which we think has made a perfect decoration for our classroom.



KS3 – Class MS

Superheroes and Sensory play.

We have had a busy half term and we have settled well into our new class. The first half term we spent lots of time getting to know each other and making friends through social games. Our topic in the first half term was Superheroes and we created some great stories and written work. We also designed some superhero lairs and made these from lego. We have loved sensory play, making Ooblek, and playing with shaving foam, water beads and sand. We made salt dough pumpkins to celebrate Halloween. In cookery we have made pizzas, cookies, sausage rolls and chocolate logs. In PE we practiced multi skills to improve our throwing, catching, target practice and using pieces of equipment to create obstacle courses. Some students in the class also took part in the football training delivered by the Newcastle United Foundation.



In November, we decorated the windows of our classroom with poppies for Remembrance Day. We visited the cinema to watch "Boss Baby 2" which we all really enjoyed. We made Pudsey bear biscuits and took part in class activities to celebrate Children in Need. We also investigated air resistance in Science and Harry helped to teach us how to make a hot air balloon. We tested

these with a hair dryer to see which ones would fly. In RE, we have been learning about Catholicism and Christianity and the different festivals and celebrations associated with the religion. In December we visited St Nicholas' Church in Cramlington and met the verger, Danny who showed us around and let us try on some of the vestments that the Reverent wears. We also had a visit to Azure Garden Centre to see the Christmas lights and decorations and had hot chocolate.



KS3– Class DM **STEM, Skeletons and Settling In.**

Class DM have settled in incredibly well since September. We have worked hard to form some amazing friendships and have had lots of fun doing this. Class DM have loved the two topics we have covered during the Autumn term. We have learned all about the human body and made a fantastic skeleton, completed some amazing STEM experiments and done lots of holistic and fun based learning. One of our favourite activities to do was making playdoh in the classroom. Everyone in the class has worked hard to produce some amazing work including wanted posters, police reports and 3D models of historic punishments. We are all so proud.



KS3 – Class RB

All about China

Class RB have worked really hard over the last half term. We have enjoyed developing our descriptive writing in English and also writing newspaper articles. Our topic this half term has been China, we enjoyed researching dragons and making Chinese lanterns. We have all worked really hard on our canvases which we have been selling as part of our social enterprise business. We also all enjoyed reading 'Storm' as a class. Class RB hope everyone has a restful break.



KS3 – Class SK

Anti Bullying Week and Cinema trip

Class SK have had a great term. We have bonded as a class and have all gotten to know each other really well. We have books full of work that we are very proud of and have all made good progress. We had a lovely trip out to the cinema that everyone enjoyed. The children were so well behaved and were a pleasure to take out! We also celebrated Anti Bullying week by designing our own odd socks.



Adopting Rhinos and Elephants

Perhaps our biggest achievement this term has been raising enough money to adopt not one, but two

animals - Kerrio the baby elephant and Apollo the rhino. The class worked so hard on costing, advertising, making and selling in order for this to happen. It really is a privilege to work with young people who are willing to work so hard to help others. We are very proud!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support, Many thanks and best wishes for the festive season and the new year.

KS3– Class SF

Creative Talents

What an amazing term we have had! We have enjoyed getting to know each other, with many fun activities along the way. Some highlights this term have been forest school, STEM experiments and Thrive. What a creative bunch we are though. We have made amazing Anderson shelters, spitfire models, painted Blitz silhouette art, used outdoor materials for art and followed step by step drawings. Further highlights have been in English where we have used fantastic description and emotions within creative writing. We can't wait for next term where we will study extreme earth and use our creative talents even more.



KS4 – Class FW

Qualifications pending...!

This term Class FW have done some amazing work towards their Entry Level Qualifications, all students have completed their first set of assessments in English, Maths and Science. This has involved learning about the human body and how it works, telling the time and handling money and reading and writing about real life heroes.

We have also worked hard on our ASDAN qualifications. Some students have done some fantastic work in the garden, getting the soil ready to plant in and feeding the birds, whilst others have learned about how to take care of animals and how to be an excellent pet owner, using the class mascot dog, Spook, as an example!



Cookery and Orienteering

The class have done some lovely work in cookery, making some lovely healthy meals and made some beautiful peppermint creams for Christmas. We have also enjoyed doing some orienteering and have made our own trails for each other using different themes.

We are looking forward to continuing with our qualifications and hopefully doing some visits for ADSAN in the Spring term. We wish you all a happy, healthy Christmas!



KS4 – Class JB

DofE and Golfing

This term we have started to look at our plans for the future. We have made progress with our AQA qualifications and our results in maths have been very promising. Some young people have been learning to play golf in preparation for our trip to the local driving range as part of our Duke of Edinburgh award.



Independent Living

Our independent living skills have been put to good use preparing our class daily refreshments and some tasty dishes have been taken home from our cookery lessons. Art lessons have proved a real hit and everyone has been learning some new information about popular artists and even creating some pieces in the style of!

College Trip

Class JB enjoyed a visit to Northumberland College to see what courses are available when they choose to move on. We were really impressed with the excellent facilities and the students were a real credit to Hillcrest.

We have had a busy Autumn term and it is lovely to see everyone back at school in class. We look forward to more College visits and developing our skills further next term. We hope everyone has a restful break and we look forward to returning in January.



KS4 Class DK

Gardening

Class DK has been fantastic this first term. We have had some new pupils join our class that have fitted in perfectly. This term we have been preparing for our Maths exam and we have been writing some great stories while studying Gothic Literature in English. The class have enjoyed Thrive activities to improve our confidence and we have been going out into the local community to develop independence.

We have been out in all types of weather and these final weeks we have started to plant trees. This will be continued in January. We hope you all enjoy your deserved rest and we look forward to seeing you all back in the New Year.



KS4- Class SM

Flying High

Class SM have worked really hard in all subjects this half term. Class SM have produced some fantastic information articles that look amazing. We have also tried very hard in maths to understand and use the clock. We have really enjoyed our Thrive and holistic lessons too. We had a go at making kites made from sticks, wool and tissue paper. Flying them was the best bit. We hope that everyone has a great break.



KS4 Class JP

Football Mad!

Class JP has had a football mad term. We make a great team and win loads of games. Callum has an amazing slide tackle and Ethan is a fantastic striker. Freddie is so tough when he is goalie and everyone wants to be on Corey's team. Jake is an amazing player all round and has the best football boots while Daniel is fearless at defence.



Fundraising

We liked raising money for sports equipment. We made a great big Christmas decoration and raffled it off. We also set up a shop for the teachers. So far we have raised over £50! We are all looking forward to a well earned break. Class JP wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday

KS4/5- The Bridge- Class LF Work Experience at The Hope Centre

This term students in The Bridge have been undertaking their work experience placements at the Hope Centre in Cramlington.

The Hope Centre is a volunteer run community centre that provides a number of support services for residents in need including; a daily food bank; a lunch scheme providing packed lunches for children during the school holidays who normally receive free school meals; and a community school uniform scheme to help with some of these much needed services. The foodbank offers to help local people in crisis, who are often referred by specialist agencies such as social services, GP surgeries, schools, care centres and probation teams.



This has been a fantastic opportunity, supporting our students to gain invaluable skills for employment. Students have made such a good impression that they

have been invited to continue working with the Hope Centre.

We would like to thank all of the families that have been kind enough to make a donation to the Hope Centre, your support is very much appreciated.

Hillcrest School

School Improvements

During the autumn term we enlarged a classroom by knocking a wall down to the delight of the class team in Room 12. This gave them a bigger working area.

Class DM created a sensory area in the classroom with the help of Mr Dobson's handyman skills. The students and staff team love the new addition to their classroom.

Storm Arwen

As a school we did experience some damage from the visit of Storm Arwen where the roof of our Yurt was blown off. Other damage was caused through the wind which we are busy repairing. Luckily the damage hasn't disrupted school life too much.

Staff Updates

During the autumn term we welcomed new staff members to the school including Miss Burt, Mrs Harding and Mrs Howe.

New Uniform Supplier

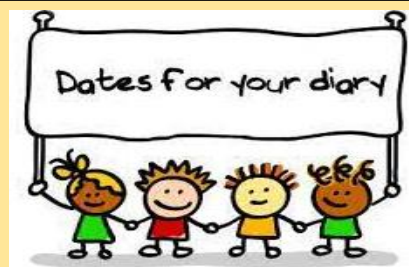
Please see the enclosed leaflet with the details of our new uniform supplier who is local to us in Cramlington. This supplier has already supplied us with school fleeces that a lot of our students are wearing and we hope that this closer supplier is easier for parents.

Christmas Gifts

We have been fortunate to once again receive Mission Christmas gifts for our students. Students will receive a gift along with a selection box from school. Our school fund also provided Christmas lunch for all students. We hope the students enjoyed all these additional treats.

Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday

Schools have been asked to allocate an additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as it falls in our June half term. We have allocated **Monday 27th June 2021**.



17/12/21 – School Closes (Christmas)
04/01/22 – School Returns
18/02/22 – School Closes (Half Term)
28/02/22 – Teacher Training Day
01/03/22 – School Returns
08/03/22 – School Closes (Easter)
25/03/22 – School Returns
02/05/22 – May Day
27/05/22 – School Closes (Half Term)
06/06/22 – School Returns
27/06/22 – School Closed for Queens Jubilee Day (in lieu of Bank Holiday)
22/07/22 – School Closes (Summer)



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
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Email: admin@hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk



MERRY CHRISTMAS

K	F	A	M	I	L	Y	T	R	N	K	B	J	L	H
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BOW	FAMILY	NORTH POLE	SNOW
CANDY CANE	GIVING	PRESENTS	STAR
CAROLS	JINGLE	REINDEER	STOCKINGS
CHRISTMAS	JOY	SANTA	TREES
ELF	LIGHTS	SLEIGH	

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Spot the difference!

Wishing you good health and happiness for 2022 from all the staff at Hillcrest School.