



Hillcrest School
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Mrs A Mead, Head Teacher

22.10.20

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for being supportive over the last 8 weeks. It has been a joy to have our young people in school and be back together again as a community. It has been a tough 8 weeks as sadly we have had 4 cases in school, but thankfully they are well on their way to being back to full health. We have had staff and students who have had to self-isolate too, which has meant we have had to change the running of school slightly. Luckily we have managed this with the least amount of disruption to learning.

Remote Learning

For those pupils who have had to self-isolate we have used work packs to continue education alongside lots of contact from school. This coming half term, we will be using Seesaw to enhance this offer.

If you have not returned your permission slip for Seesaw, please do so after half term. I have included the letter again for those who have not returned it, as you may have mislaid the original.

If you are in a situation where your child has to self-isolate, all we ask at Hillcrest is that you encourage your child to engage with schoolwork. However, if it is causing stress, anxiety or difficulties in the home please liaise with school so we can look at supporting in an alternative way.

School lunches

After half term, we are continuing to have lunches in the classrooms so that classes do not mix in close proximity. However, we are going to be trialing more hot options now the colder weather is fast approaching.

Parental Consultations

Parental Consultations are scheduled for the afternoon of the 2nd November when we have our Training Day. If you have not received an appointment please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Premises Improvements

The Studio

The studio is a fantastic resource that pupils can access to work on sensory and physical skills and regulation. Our Occupational Therapist has developed plans for individual pupils to follow. We are delighted to have been able to purchase key equipment including a sensory swing and a body roller.



We were delighted with the new classrooms as they are wonderful learning spaces, which we are very fortunate to have. The car park was also revamped as part of the project with the final phase to complete the perimeter fence and gate being completed over the half term holidays.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO STAFF

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing staff team we have at Hillcrest. Working under very different circumstances, they have still managed to help our pupils make progress. As we have had staff self-isolating at various times, staff have had to be flexible and work with new groups or adapt plans at the last minute. Alongside this, they have been providing remote learning for any pupils who have been self-isolating and keeping in touch with families and learners.

A special thank you to Colin our Site Manager who has delivered work packs and free school meal packs this half term.

In this time of great uncertainty, one thing at Hillcrest remains certain. The commitment to doing our very best to ensure every pupil at Hillcrest feels safe and secure to thrive. It is a privilege to work alongside a fantastic staff team and amazing young people.

I look forward to welcoming back our lovely pupils on Tuesday 3rd November 2020. Have a wonderful half term.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Mead'.

Andrea Mead
Head teacher

Unfortunately, after half term the risks of COVID remain the same so I feel I should re share our expectations. We must continue to work together as a community to keep each other safe whilst in school.

COVID Measures –Health and Safety of our Community

What?	Expectation
Class bubbles	Students must stay within their own bubble and not go into other bubbles
Lunch in classroom	We have lunch in our class bubbles so that we are not moving around school
Social distancing	We must make sure that we stay at a safe distance from each other
Individual boxes	Students have their own box in class where they can keep their own equipment
Identified toilets	Students must use an identified toilet
Hygiene	Students should wash their hands regularly throughout the day and use hand sanitizers Keep hands away from your face Cough into your elbow Catch it, bin it, kill it
Aerosols from mouth	Spitting can spread infection We must not spit at all
Coughing	We must cough into the inside of our elbow. We must not cough at someone
Allocated door	We must use the correct door to get in and out of the classroom
Follow staff guidance	We must follow staff instructions to make sure everyone stays safe

Please **do not send** your child into school if they are displaying any of the following symptoms;

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell