



Hillcrest School

Spring Term Newsletter 2018

What another brilliant term at Hillcrest! I hope you all like your child's Celebration Journal. I think they are wonderful and really capture some of the learning that takes place every day. Working at Hillcrest is an absolute privilege because of the magnificent young people we have in school, the support we receive from families and the dedicated staff that work to make sure we achieve the best possible outcomes.

We really are a multi-disciplinary team as we now have a full time Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist and full time HLTA delivering emotional literacy support. The Intervention Team is an essential part of the Hillcrest Team and intend to expand this in the Autumn Term.

On the 26th April we have our next Parents Evening. The format will be slightly different as this time, as well as seeing your child's class teacher, we are running a roadshow format so there will be representatives from School Health, CYPS, Tyne Met and Newcastle College. It would be great to see you there.

Have a lovely Easter break. School reopens on the 16th April for the start of the Summer Term.

Andrea Mead
Headteacher

The Choir:

The choir have reformed after the success of our Christmas Carol Concert and have been busy learning two new songs for the Easter fair - 'An Easter Egg or two' and 'Oh Happy Day'. The students have been practising weekly with Miss Miller, Mrs Hawkins-Hobson and Mrs Sample and they are excited to perform a two part harmony for the first time. One of the students commented, 'Choir should be everyday, it makes me so happy!'



Intervention Team: The Zones of Regulation

This term the intervention team have been working throughout the school to introduce a new curriculum about emotional regulation called the Zones of Regulation. This is being taught in every class, with staff supporting its rollout.

The Zones of Regulation is a curriculum designed to support understanding of self-regulation and emotional control. There are four zones which are colour coded; blue, green, yellow and red, and emotions are categorised into each zone.

The curriculum's learning activities support the students to learn how to use strategies or 'tools' to move from one zone to another and regulate their emotions.

Students are now becoming more confident identifying how they are feeling and which zone they are in. Please feel free to speak to your children about the zones, as it can be a really useful tool for discussing emotions at home as well as at school.

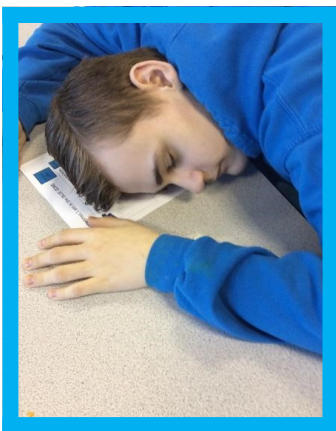
Work will continue within the classrooms after Easter as students begin to identify which 'tools' are most useful for them, and become confident using their tools to regulate their emotions.

Daniel demonstrates the Zones:

Blue Zone – Running Slow

Green Zone – Good to Go

Yellow Zone – Caution: Slow Down



Red Zone – STOP! Out of Control



Class ERB:

As part of the volunteering unit for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, class ERB raised over £150 for the Newcastle Cat and Dog Shelter. We also visited the animals to find out what we could do to help.



Meet Morag ...

At Hillcrest School we believe passionately in removing barriers to learning for our students. We have an Intervention Team who play an integral part in supporting students and staff in developing strategies and tools to enable students to realise their potential. We feel that another piece in the jigsaw would be the introduction of a therapy dog.

There is a great deal of evidence to suggest that a therapy dog would play a massive part in helping to reduce barriers.



Morag is Hillcrest's new therapy dog. She is 2 years old and lives with Miss Miller. She will be coming into school on a regular basis to work alongside our students. Therapy dogs have been proven to have enormous benefits to health and well-being. We feel that Morag would be a positive addition to our Hillcrest family.

Morag will be joining us after the Easter holidays for a meet and greet selfie day with the students before the real work starts.

Newcastle United Coach

Class SK had the opportunity work to with a Newcastle United football coach for 6 weeks in PE. Students focused on finding and creating space. It was wonderful to see the class take the opportunity to build skills whilst further building relationships .



Forest School

Lewis set up the square fire zone, prepared and lit the fire. He then added larger pieces of wood once the fire had taken hold. He also used a mallet and bill hook to split a log.



Callum and Lewis worked together using a bow saw to get a log for the log books they were going to make.

Seven Stories visit

As a celebration of World Book day, the students visited the bookshop at Seven Stories in Ouseburn. Whilst there, they were able to cash in their world book day voucher for a book to take home, but more importantly, they also selected a book for our school library. The trip was an enormous success, so we have decided to make it an annual event.

After the Easter holidays the chosen books will be delivered and the students will learn how to use our new electronic library system to find the book they were interested in, book it out of the library to read and finally how to recommend their book to other students.

We have bought these books from a grant that has been awarded to us by the Foyles Foundation. The grant is only to be used to buy new books for our library. So this is the first lot of many more books and we are hoping that the students will enjoy reading from our library.

