



# Hillcrest Newsletter Spring 2024



## Head Teacher's Update:

What an amazing term we have had at Hillcrest and each day is so different. A snapshot into this week includes: making truffles, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Memory Magic with speech therapy, Thrive activities, climate change, fire engine visit, completion of Makaton Award, calculating acceleration in science and completing our Maths, English and Science exams. It is no wonder we are all ready for a break.

This month we had our very first football matches against Collingwood School and drew 2-2 with our first team and won 4-0 with our second team. The sportsmanship, team work and positive attitudes that were displayed were tremendous and a credit to Hillcrest. A huge thanks to Mr Cowen who organised the match and has been coaching our young people since September. I know we are all looking forward to our next game.

It was lovely to see so many at the Parents Evening this half term. Thank you for the continued support from home as we need the partnerships to help your child thrive.

I would also like to thank our incredible young people for making Hillcrest so special. It is an honour getting to know them and see them thrive.

Lastly a huge shout out to our staff who help make the magic happen and strive to always do their best for our young people. As one of our young people wrote in their EHCP review: *the staff care about me*. We certainly do!

We return to school on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**.

## KS3 – Class JP

### **An Amazing Term All Round!**

What an awesome time to be part of class JP! Since coming back in January every single one of us have proven how resilient and hardworking we can be.

### **Victorians and Celebrities**

Our topics this half term have been Victorians and Celebrities, both of which were chosen by the class! A highlight from Victorians has to be our work on Jack the Ripper. Every single person was engaged and asking lots of questions and producing a fantastic quality of work. Celebrities has been a great opportunity to engage with our pupils' interests and letting them lead what we study! This was all topped off with a well-earned trip to the park! (With a lovely class photo to match).



We are so happy with Class JP and we are very excited to see how they surprise us next!

## KS3 – Class LM

### **'Letters from the Lighthouse'**

Class EM have had another really enjoyable term together! During Spring Term 1, in English we read 'Letters from the Lighthouse' as our class novel which we were really gripped by. This was a story about refugees during the Second World War and their fight to help save other refugees. This linked nicely with our Humanities topic of World War Two.

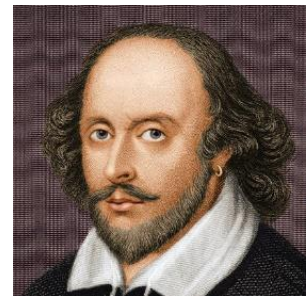
## World War Two

We learnt about the causes of WW2 and the effects that this had on the people of that time, especially the children. We built Anderson Shelters in Design Technology using old boxes and junk modelling materials. We had to think carefully about the structure of our shelters and how we could attach the pieces together.



## Shakespeare

During Spring Term 2, we learnt about William Shakespeare and read Romeo and Juliet, looking at some of the Shakespearian words and phrases and what they meant.



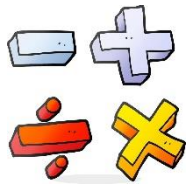
## Ancient Egypt

In humanities, we learnt about Ancient Egypt, Mummification, Pharaohs and pyramids. We looked at hieroglyphs and how to write our name in the ancient Egyptian symbols and designed and made our own clay cartouches.



## Maths

In Maths, we have been looking at data collection and presenting data in charts and graphs, measurements and time.



## KS3 – Class GM

### A Fantastic Term

This term we have enjoyed learning all about transport, one student in particular enjoyed telling their classmates all about Speedway. We have been learning about statistics data and various graphs and charts and how to visually represent data using beads, cubes and even pom poms!



### Class Cinema Trip

We had a fantastic trip to the Cinema to see an Anime film and have enjoyed our weekly visits to Discover and using the hammocks.



### A Positive Half Term

The class have all played well together during indoor PE and there have been some very competitive games of indoor bowls and curling which has gone down very well with the class. As always, the students have engaged well with their lessons and have taken pride in their work.

## KS3 – Class MP

### Class Inventions

This term we have explored 'Inventors and Inventions' and 'Extreme Earth' for our topics. We have looked into famous inventors such as Da Vinci and recreated his famous parachute design which we tested by dropping it off the climbing frame.

We also found out lots about volcanoes and creating our own to erupt with a class experiment.



### Positive Progress

In English, the class have done some amazing story writing and made lots of progress with reading in particular. In Maths, they have all worked really hard with their number knowledge as well as demonstrating lots of perseverance with tricky topics such as time and money.

### Class Highlights

Overall, our highlights have been continuing to build on their team building skills through PE games, making slime and enjoying our trip to Concordia to play bowling. Happy Easter!



## KS3 – Class SK

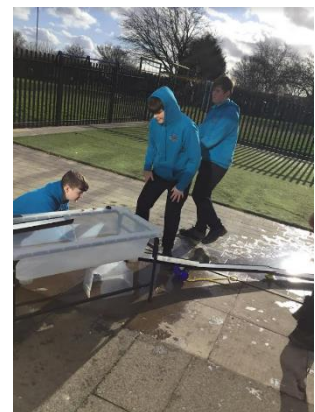
### A Great Term

It has been a great term for class SK! I can't believe we are more than half way through the year already! We have enjoyed learning all about Shakespeare and Roald Dahl. We have also been loving our water experiments in the garden and going to Discover!



### Developing our Knowledge

This term we have designed our own games for Skillsbuilder and "redesigned" Hillcrest School! We have developed our knowledge on measuring in Maths and learning about many topics, including Egypt! We are looking forward to seeing the class return for the final term after Easter and hopefully it brings us some good weather!



## KS3 – Class DM

### Class Highlights

Class DM have had a great spring term! We have covered some great topics this term including 'Exploring Europe', 'Local History' and 'Macbeth'. Our class highlights from this term have to be learning about William Shakespeare and Macbeth and going down to Discover on a weekly basis to do lots of great activities!



### **Macbeth**

Whilst learning about William Shakespeare and Macbeth we have produced some outstanding work, including fact files, character descriptions and letter writing. We also learnt about some different Shakespearean insults and loved using these with our teachers in the classroom.



### **Class Mud Fight!**

Whilst working in Discover, we have had so much fun! We have learnt about lighting fires, planting trees, making bug hotels and even had an epic mud fight!

### **Thrive**

Finally, we have completed some lovely Thrive activities including biscuit decorating, creating Lego marble mazes, group games, junk modelling and so much more. Overall, it has been an incredible term and Class DM have made some amazing progress.

### **KS4 - Class BL**

#### **A Fantastic Start to the Term**

Class BL have had a fantastic half term. They have been working so hard and we are exceptionally proud of them. In class they have been completing lots of accreditation work and taking their exams. They have also really enjoyed the anime books we borrowed from the school library service.



### **Out of School Activities**

Different pupils have been out of school for different visits including the Alan Shearer Centre, Northumberlandia, Alexandra Park and walks in the local community. Pupils have really enjoyed these experiences and are eager to discuss them with people across school.



### **An Exciting Half Term Ahead**

All of the class are extremely creative and they have produced some fantastic pieces of art this term. We look forward to the summer term, where there will be more trips and a focus on preparation for adulthood.

### **KS4 – Class MS**

#### **Achievements and Highlights**

Class MS have worked really hard this term. We have been looking at shapes and angles in Maths, Grammar and persuasive language in English. We have looked a lot at online safety during PSHE lessons and during Safer Internet Day on 6th February, in particular, being influenced online.



There have been some great opportunities for our class to join and get involved in some brilliant clubs and activities, such as Drama club, Lego club and the NUFC football coaching. Our class have been going out of school to the local park the last few weeks as part of their PE Lesson, which they all look forward to doing each week.

We have been lucky enough to go to the local cinema as a treat for the students which everyone enjoyed.



### **World Book Day**

World Book Day has been particularly good this term for our class as we have been reading the BFG book. The students produced some fantastic work that went on our new BFG display in school.



### **KS4 – Class CB**

#### **Fantastic Class Work**

It has been an incredibly busy period in Class CB. Our students have shown immense dedication and commitment towards completing their components in English and Maths at the entry level. Their hard work and perseverance is truly commendable.

### **Getting Creative for Mother's Day**

In addition to their academic achievements, our students have also been involved in various practical activities. They prepared beautiful flower pots for our Mother's Day sale. Their thoughtful creations made our Mother's Day sale a resounding success.

### **Growing Independence**

Furthermore, we have been actively working on increasing our students' independence by encouraging them to walk to the shops. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their confidence and acquire essential life skills. We are

thrilled to witness their progress in becoming more self-reliant.

### **Looking Toward the Summer Term**

As we approach the final stages of this academic term, we cannot help but feel a sense of anticipation and excitement. Some of our students are preparing for the Functional Skills exams in May. They have shown tremendous dedication and resilience throughout their journey, and we believe they are well-prepared to ace their exams.



We sincerely look forward to the summer term and the new adventures it brings. Thank you for your continued support.

### **KS4 - Class SM**

#### **A Fabulous Term**

What a fabulous term for The Bridge, students have completed the majority of their exams and have completed their ICT coursework. We are so proud of each and every one of them.

### **NCS and National Trust**

Students have started a brand-new project that involves working with National Citizen Service and National Trust employees. The project will mean that students will create a space in school that is special to them. This could be a food patch, flowering patch or environmental garden. The space must be eco and social friendly.



### **Volunteering**

The Bridge continue to volunteer at The Hope Centre and 3 of our students have received training from the Northumberland Library Services. We cannot wait for the Summer Term to arrive!

### **KS4 - Class MW**

#### **Working hard**

What a fantastic term we have had. The pupils have been working harder than ever towards their exams - we are nearly there! They have done incredibly well with all subjects and topics - from speaking and listening presentations on staycations to learning all about cells and disease.



### **New Additions to Class MW**

We have had the pleasure of welcoming 2 new students to the class in this last half-term. They have settled in ever so well and the rest of Class MW have made them feel right at home with us.



### **Developing Life Skills**

As well as the fantastic progress the pupils have made academically, we have really enjoyed working to develop holistically, especially with our independence skills. The class loved completing life-skills-related domestic tasks such as ironing, sewing and using a screwdriver!



A particular holistic highlight, however, has definitely been the amazing Forest School sessions. We toasted marshmallows, played Capture the Flag and relaxed in the hammocks. We are looking forward to another successful term in the summer!



### **KS3 - Discover**

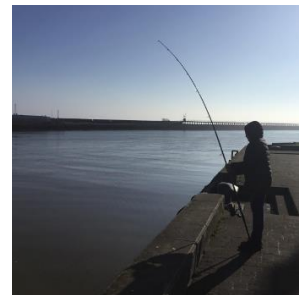
#### **Building a Moat**

Class DK have been working on some creative projects this half term. The main one being an island with a moat!



### **Working in the Outdoors**

We have been out in all weathers and have been working on how to politely interact with peers. We have also planted many trees, started a wildflower meadow and had our first session fishing.



## Hillcrest School

### School Improvements

We have continued to develop our Discover Forest School area with many classes frequently using this area during lessons. This has proven very popular with the students!

### 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](mailto: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.

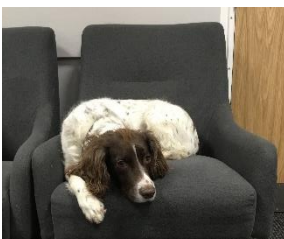
### Fundraising

Thank you to Miss Noble for organising our Red Nose Day Just Dance Party. The students loved taking part! We raised an amazing £174.46.



### Morag's Pupdate!

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



### Football Match Vs Collingwood

This half term we welcomed Collingwood school for an inter-school football match! The match was a huge success with students and staff all enjoying the event. Students loved the opportunity to showcase all football skills that have been learnt during breaktimes. We hope to host another visit in the near future.



### 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

All students have been given an Easter egg as an Easter treat to enjoy!

Everyone at Hillcrest wishes all of our students and their families a Happy Easter and we hope that you all enjoy the holiday. Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you all in the summer term!



28/03/2024- School Closes (Easter)

15/04/2024- School Returns

06/05/2024- May Day

24/05/2024- School Closes (Half Term)

03/06/2024-School Returns

17/06/2024-Teacher Training Day

19/07/2024- School Closes (Summer)

02/09/2024- 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](mailto:admin@hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk)



# EASTER WORDSEARCH

U P H G B K E G G S  
 R X U M U S C E G N  
 I U N Y N L F P A O  
 T H T C N A P A M W  
 C A N D Y M B Z E Q  
 H V O F T B X P S C  
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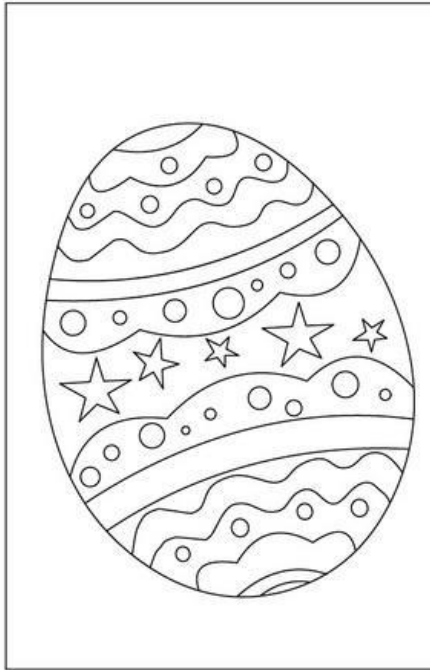
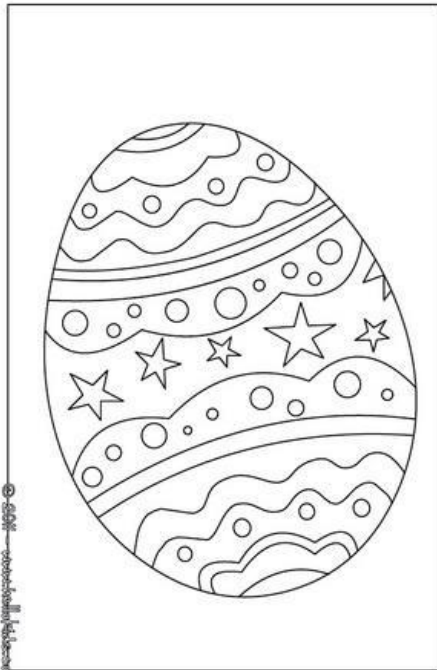


## WORD LIST

APRIL	GAMES
BUNNY	HAPPY
CANDY	HOP
CHICK	HUNT
EGGS	LAMB



*Homemade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY



**Spot the difference!**