



ISSUE 1

HILLCREST NEWS

HILLCREST EARLY YEARS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER
WEEK ENDING 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin a new academic year, there is always a sense of hope, excitement and opportunity. September brings fresh starts, new goals and the chance for every child to continue growing, learning and thriving. It has been wonderful to welcome our children back to school after the summer break and I cannot believe how much they have all grown in just a few short weeks! We would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of our new children and families joining the Hillcrest community. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year ahead.

As we settle into the new term, I would like to remind parents and carers that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should be in school no later than 8.50am. Children arriving after this time will be marked as late, which can impact upon their attendance record. More importantly, they may miss valuable learning time, including our crucial phonics sessions which take place at the start of the day and provide the foundation for reading success. Please also ensure that children arrive on time for Nursery sessions as this can disrupt the session for the other children.

Should you have any questions about your child's classroom experiences or learning, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance. Our office team, Gemma and Stuart, are also always happy to help with any general queries you may have. They have also asked me to thank you for your patience with the new online booking systems which will make everyone's life so much easier once we have eased the teething difficulties.

Please also remember that my door is always open and either myself or Mr Inman will be outside at the front of school at the beginning and end of each day, so please do come and say hello if there is anything we can help with. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead, filled with learning, achievement and memorable experiences for all of our children.

Miss Samantha Stokes - Headteacher

Clubs



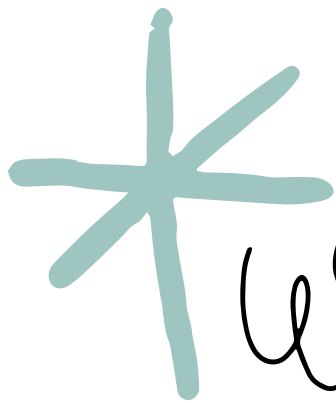
The Clubs for next term are:

Tuesday: Reception Multi-Skills (3:20pm - 4:30pm)

Thursday: KS1 (Year 1 & 2) Multi-Skills (3:20pm - 4:30pm)

If you are interested in your child joining any of the clubs, please take a look at your emails and complete the form by clicking the link. These clubs are for children in Reception - Year 2. Names will be drawn at random using a spinning wheel if we are over-subscribed to make it fair. The form will close on Friday 11th September with the first club due to start on Tuesday 15th September.

Aim high and achieve...



Welcome



BACK TO SCHOOL

PLEASE BE ON TIME!

The gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:50am - please make every effort to be on time!

BOOK BAGS

Please make sure that every child from Reception - Year 2 has a Book Bag or some form of bag to transport their books to and from school. Our books cost a lot of money and we need to look after them so the children can all use them. Please speak to your child's Class Teacher if you don't have one and we can happily help.

OUR GEM POWERS AND GOLDEN RULES

- The Gem Project is at the heart of our school. It helps children develop the learning behaviours and metacognitive skills needed to thrive, such as resilience and independence. By learning how to think about their learning, children become more confident, motivated and successful learners both now and in the future.
- A copy of the Gem Powers and our Golden Rules can be seen below:

PE DAYS

Tuesday Year 2

Wednesday Reception

Friday Year 1

Please send children into school wearing PE kits on their PE Day. Little Gems will be starting PE once they have settled in so please watch this space for updates from the team.

Aim high and achieve...

Our Gem Powers



Diamond - Solving problems

I try and solve problems myself. I try to be independent.



Sapphire - Keeping focus

I can fight off the monster distraction. I listen to others, even when there are lots of distractions.



Ruby - Supporting others

I support everyone by being kind and helping if they have a problem. I try to make other people feel good.



Emerald - Bouncing back

I try tricky things out and if I make a mistake, I try again.



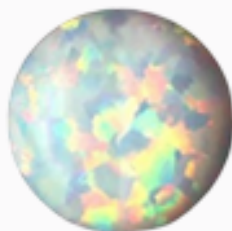
Amethyst - Working with a partner

I work with another person. I share my ideas and listen to theirs.



Topaz - Learning in a big group

I work with another person. I share my ideas and listen to theirs.



Opal - Respect

I show respect to everyone around me.

Aim high and achieve...



Our Golden Rules

- We use our manners**
- We are active listeners**
- We use kind hands, feet and words**
- We walk around the building calmly and quietly**
- We show respect to all those around us**
- We share with our friends**
- We use our indoor voices inside**
- We are polite and respond if someone speaks to us**

Aim high and achieve...



Breakfast Club



Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.40am and this is £2 per session. This can be booked by logging into School Money via the Teachers2Parents app. This needs to be booked by midnight the day before.

We also have a free Breakfast Club that children can attend. They can arrive from 8:15am but no child will be admitted after 8:30am. You don't need to book for this session but please make sure your child signs in at the office.



After School Club



Our After School Club runs from 3.20pm to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday. This is £3 per session. If you wish for your child to attend please book by logging into School Money via the Teachers2Parents app. Places are booked on a 1st come basis. If you do not book your child in before midnight the day before and they need to go to Afterschool club due to not being collected, you will be charged £5 instead.

Unfortunately due to staffing, Little Treasures and Little Sparkles children can't attend Breakfast Club or After School Club.

All bookings have to be done via the app and no cash can be accepted in the school.

Aim high and achieve...



Safeguarding Team



Mr Inman

Designated Safeguarding
Lead

Miss McCutcheon

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



If you have any safeguarding concerns, please report to the DSL or DDSL.

Aim high and achieve...

WE'RE HERE TO HELP...

*Struggling with attendance?
Here's who's on hand to help*



**Miss Stokes - Headteacher
and Attendance Champion**



**Mr Naylor - Attendance
Lead**



**Mrs Atkinson - Business
Manager and Senior
Leadership Team**



**Mr Inman - Assistant
Headteacher, SENCo &
Designated Safeguarding
Lead**



**Miss McCutcheon - Deputy
Designated Safeguarding
Lead & EYFS Lead**



**Mr Commander - KS1 Lead
for Year 1 and Year 2**

Speak out - don't leave it too late...

Aim high and achieve...