

News 22nd March 2019

Wells Road Crossing - Paul, our Lollypop Man, is still unwell and has been signed off work until 1st May, so the crossing will remain unmanned. Please take extra care, particularly children walking to and from school by themselves.

Yr 6 Easter Experience trip on Monday (see letter [here](#)) **Important reminder**

6RT need to be at school by 8.30 to catch their coach. They will be back in time for lunch at school.

6PB are going later and need to bring a packed lunch to eat there.

If you want your child to go on the trip but have not paid and given permission for on Gateway yet, please do so before Monday. There won't be time on Monday morning to chase permissions before they set off and we can't take them without.

Frogspawn - Reception are hoping to observe and understand the lifecycle of a frog. Does anyone have any frogspawn or tadpoles in a pond at home? We would love to have a few!

Charity Raffle and Cake & Craft Sale

Whilst studying JK Rowling, 4SL discovered that she has donated a lot of her money to charity. This inspired the children to help a local charity. They have chosen the Bristol Cats & Dogs Home.

Phoebe has been working extremely hard, sourcing fantastic raffle prizes from local businesses, including: a £35 voucher from Sully Cycles, £10 Parson's vouchers, flowers/plants, a cut and wash from The Barber Shop, a plant from Don Gays, a hair cut from Mac Daddys, a Veg Box voucher from Fox & West and a £25 voucher from Innovations hairdressers.

Raffle tickets are 50p each or £1 for a strip. Phoebe and her mum will be by the tree in the KS1 playground after school on Tuesday and Thursday next week, and the following Tuesday. Tickets will also be available on the Thursday during the Cake Sale. Winners announced on the Friday.

The Cake & Craft Sale will be after school in the KS1 playground on Thursday 4th, from 3:30 - 4pm.

If you are able to donate cakes for the Cake Sale, they will be gratefully received (healthy bakes particularly welcome!). Please bring donations in on Thursday 4th April.

All proceeds will go to help Bristol Cat's and Dog's home.

Many thanks from Sue Loader, 4SL and all the animals at Bristol Cats and Dogs Home!

Yr 6 Leavers' Party Fundraising Plant Sale!

Every year our Yr 6 leavers have a Leavers' Party. This year it will be at the Spielman Centre in Arnos Vale Cemetery in July. Yr 6 parents organise the party and aim to subsidise the cost of tickets through various fundraising events. This year, one of these events will be a Plant Sale in the playground after school on Wednesday 22nd May.

They would be very grateful for any plant donations for this sale so please have a look at your garden now **and if there are any plants you want to divide and donate or cuttings that you can take and bring on - and especially seeds that you can plant now - flowers or vegetables, this would be very much appreciated.**

Any donated plants can be collected closer to the date if you are unable to deliver on the day. Any unsold plants will be donated to Hillcrest for our playground.

If you have any questions about this now please contact Sheena Lindegaard at <mailto:sheena@crops4energy.co.uk>. There will be an update closer to the date. Many thanks.

Guitar Club - After school tuition with Hazel Winter - For info contact hazel@hazelwinter.co.uk

We're incredibly lucky to have a musician of Hazel's calibre offering guitar lessons at Hillcrest!

"...The West Country's first lady of... guitar blues" Q Magazine

"...rare and brilliant..." Guitarist Magazine

"...soulful... thrilling..." Time Out

"...extraordinary...one to watch...." Mojo

Golden Silence

Despite the fact that the rule *has* always been silence, the times in the day when the whole school are moving through the corridors and stairways tend towards noisy and disruptive, feeling more like an extension of playtime than a calm prelude to learning.

We have talked about being quiet, but quiet is a surprisingly difficult thing for children to maintain - whispers rapidly escalate to yells!

Because of this, we are reinforcing complete silence when classes are lining up and moving around the school. That may sound draconian, but is actually much easier for the children to do than just being 'quiet'. Concentrating on keeping up respectful silence helps the children to arrive in their classrooms calm and ready to learn.

The children are completely on board after Mr McIntyre explained it to them like this in assembly:

I'm not going to ask you what the school's three rules are because you already know. You can all see them, you can all remember them and you can all say them. But that's not all we want. We want you to live by them.

And, thankfully, most of the time you are safe, kind and respectful. Right now you are being respectful. You are showing me that you care about me by sitting and listening attentively. You are showing your friends that you care about their ability to hear me. This is what respect is. It is when you care about the feelings of others. It is when you treat others as you would like to be treated. Unfortunately there are particular times of the day when you are not being as respectful as you could be.

How should you line up at the end of break? How should you walk back into school? How should you walk into assembly? How should you sit in assembly?

You must be silent at these moments so we can all return to our lessons calmly and ready to learn. So everybody can hear the person delivering the assembly. So you do not disturb lessons in other classes and adults working in the office.

Far too many of you are not doing any of these things silently. This is disrespectful. Your actions are basically saying: my conversation is more important than the teachers; my conversation is more important than my friends. You are putting yourself first.

I'm going to show you how it was before I show you how it will be: [Show video of children lining up disrespectfully]

From now on, you will be expected to be silent once the first bell goes until you get back inside your classroom. You will be silent when you enter assembly, throughout assembly and when you leave. You will be silent as your class walks through the school.

These are expectations that you CAN meet and that you WILL meet. If you meet them, your class will get a Golden Ticket. However, if you are not silent during any of these times your teacher will write your name in their little, green book and you will miss five minutes of your next playtime.

But I don't want your motivation to be silent at all these moments to be fear of the little, green book! I want your motivation to be about showing respect, to be about showing staff, children and visitors that you care about them.

If we can do this (and we will) I promise you this will be a happier, calmer Hillcrest. We will save time and we will be ready to learn and have fun. And when visitors come to Hillcrest they will say: 'Wow! Children at Hillcrest are really respectful. Children at Hillcrest really care about each other.'

Letters

[4SL Charity Cake & Craft Sale letter](#) (parents' permission required)

Community Notices

[Easter Holiday Bikeability Courses](#) at the Family Cycling Centre

[Outdoors Project Easter Holiday Clubs](#)

[Outdoors Project After School Club Summer Term](#)

Look out for your next Mailbag on Tuesday.