

## News

**Welcome back to school for a new year! And an especially big welcome to our new Reception children and the families joining the Hillcrest community for the first time.**

**Staying in the loop** - You will normally receive all the important information from school by email in two 'Mailbags' each week, on Tuesday and Friday (this week is an exception - you're only getting this one - a bumper edition!). As an Eco School we try to keep paper use to a minimum so, in general, we don't send children home with letters. Please take a few minutes twice a week to read your Mailbags to make sure you don't miss important updates and links to letters. (All letters are saved on the school website if you need to refer back. If you want a paper copy of something please ask in the office and we will be happy to print one.)

### Diary Dates

**Yrs 2 - 6 Open Doors Day** - 9:00am - 10:15am on 17<sup>th</sup> September

**Yrs 1 - 6 Parents' Evenings** - 4:00pm - 7:00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October

**Inset Day** - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October so the term ends for children on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Volunteering in school** - We welcome parents into school to help in class, read with children etc. To become a volunteer you will need a DBS check (Sue Cockle in the office can organise this for you, at no cost to yourself) and attend an Induction session. This will cover the school's systems and protocols and answer any questions you may have. An Induction session will be held at the beginning of each term, throughout the year. This term's will be at 1:30 on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September. (We cannot accept you as a volunteer until you have attended an Induction).

**Parent helpers on school trips** - It can be really helpful to have extra adults on trips. This will be arranged with your child's class teacher. Please note that numbers will be limited by coach seats etc. so do get confirmation from the teacher before telling your child you're going on the trip with them. Parents do not need a DBS check or Induction to help on a trip.

**Breakfast Club** is now run in-house and we are delighted to welcome back Shelley Webb, who helped to run the club before Shine took over. The club runs from 7:30am - 8:45am. £5 per session. Book on [Gateway](#) at least 36 hours ahead. If you have any questions about bookings please ask in the office.

## After School Activities

Click [Here](#) for an updated version of this term's programme. Please note that Little Kitchen has dropped out because they only had one booking and the Monday Ukulele Club is actually for KS1 (not KS2 as it said on the version sent out at the beginning of the holidays - a misprint, sorry).

The free clubs are available to book on School Gateway. Please note that once a club is full Gateway will not accept further bookings. Check the programme for booking contacts for the clubs run by outside providers.

There are still a few places available in many of the clubs and it would be great to have more children booked in for Monday's **KS1 Ukulele Club** and Friday's **KS2 Rugby Club** which still have lots of places available.

**Reception** - The children are now on the system so you will be able to make bookings on Gateway. Click on the Gateway 'button' on the front page of the school website and select 'new user' on the log in page to set up your account (it's pretty straightforward but if you would like help please drop into the school office). If you emailed the school asking for places to be reserved they have already been booked. (We recommend that you stick to the web version of School Gateway rather than downloading their mobile app which is glitchy.)

**Stop Press** - There have been technical problems at School Gateway all day today. This is unusual and we have been assured that their techies are working hard to fix it. If you have been trying, unsuccessfully, to make bookings or payments this will be why. Try again tomorrow.

**Childcare Vouchers** - This is new to us but we are getting organised to accept voucher payments. If you haven't already done so, please let us know which company issues your vouchers (eg, Edenred, Kiddivouchers) as we need to register with each one. If you need to book childcare in the meantime please speak to Juliet in the office who will make the bookings for you (you will be able to pay retrospectively).

**Safe Route to school - Volunteers needed** - We're currently organising a new rota for the safe route to school through Arnos Vale via Copse Road. Sarah, who lives in the house hidden behind Somerset Road, is generous enough to let us use her garden so children don't have to walk down the Wells Road, but parents do need to lock up the gates in the morning (circa 9:10am) and open/close the gates in the afternoon (3:10pm/4:00pm).

Is there anyone who can help? Ideally, people need to commit to specific days and times for the school year.

It would be good to hear from parents with younger children, as many people on the existing list have children who are moving up through the school.

Please email Hillcrest parent Jonathan Wright if you can help:[stagename@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:stagename@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Yrs 5 & 6 Lunchtime Chess Club** - Ian Tanner will be starting chess club again on Monday lunchtimes from 1st October.

The club is open to Yr 5 & 6 children who have had previous experience of playing chess at home. The club is not designed to teach chess from scratch but Alan will help children learn new skills, develop their confidence and practice playing with peers of different levels. Children will have the chance to play in a tournament at the end of the year.

It's free to join but anyone interested will need to email Miss Hendy at [ahendy@hillcrest.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:ahendy@hillcrest.bristol.sch.uk) and it will be first come first served (maximum of 12 places.)

It will be held in a classroom at lunchtime, so children will need to bring packed lunches.

**Yrs 1 - 6 Science Knowledge Organisers** - these are on each year group's page (see links below). These cover all the key objectives and vocabulary for the next two term's Science. Pop it on your noticeboard or stick it on the fridge and use it as a talking point with your child.

**Letters** [Click on the links to download](#)

All Years - [Speech & Language Drop in Session](#)

Yr 6 [Kilve Court Camp letter](#)

Term 1 Welcome letters and Science Knowledge Organisers for each year group:

[Yr 1](#)

[Yr 2](#)

[Yr 3](#)

[Yr 4](#)

[Yr 5](#)

[Yr 6](#)

**Community Notices** [Click on the links to download](#)

[Children's Nearly New Sale](#)

**Look out for your next Mailbag on Tuesday.**