



**HILL VIEW
SCHOOL**



CURRICULUM CONNECT

Issue 1
November 2025

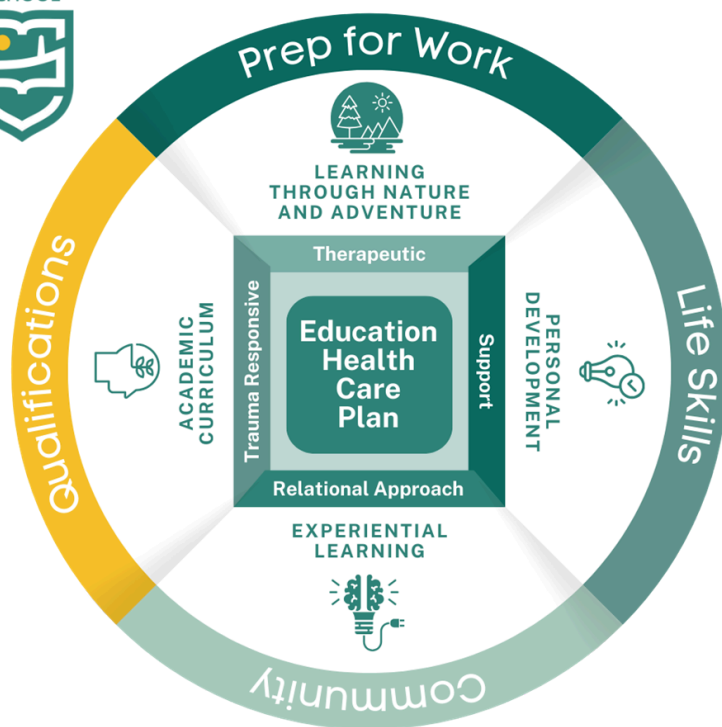


**Be the best you.
Build the best us.**

Welcome to the first edition of *Curriculum Connect!*

At Hill View School, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school help every learner thrive. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about what your child is learning this half term and give you a closer look at the exciting curriculum experiences happening across our classrooms. Each issue will highlight key areas of learning, share insights from our specialist teachers, and celebrate the rich opportunities we provide to support your child's growth and success.

We hope this helps you feel connected to your child's journey and the vibrant learning community here at Hill View.



Curriculum Model



Parent Activity Suggestion: This half term, why not ask your child to share one new fact or skill they've learned each week? You could turn it into a fun family discussion at dinner or create a "learning wall" at home where they can proudly display their discoveries. It's a great way to reinforce learning and show how much you value their progress!

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Exploring Autumn in The Knoll and Ham Hill



This half term, our theme is **Exploring Autumn**. Through this exciting project, learners have been discovering the natural changes that happen during the season, such as how the weather shifts, why trees lose their leaves, and how wild animals prepare for winter. The theme runs across all curriculum areas, providing rich opportunities for learning and exploration.

In **Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)**, following the EYFS framework, we are focussing on listening, attention, understanding, and speaking skills. **Maths** will also be woven into our autumn investigations, helping learners make connections between numbers and the world around them.

In **PSHE and Careers**, we are celebrating differences and exploring the idea of “All About Me,” encouraging learners to recognise their individual strengths.



We are respectful

We are learning about how we can be curious in **Science**, with lots of experiments and making predictions, whilst in **Our World** we have been travelling to different countries on ‘Hill View Airlines’ and celebrating different cultures. We are also learning about how different religions celebrate too.



Parent Activity Suggestion:

Take a family walk in a local park or woodland and collect a small selection of autumn treasures—fallen leaves, pinecones, acorns, or conkers. When you get home, encourage your child to sort and group the items by size, shape, or colour. Talk about why leaves change colour and fall, and how animals might use these items to prepare for winter. You could even create an “Autumn Collage” together to display at home!

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Looking at landscapes in Herne Hill



Driver Theme – *Misty Mountain, Winding River*

Our Geography-based project explores the fascinating characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world. Learners will investigate how ecosystems, settlements and natural processes shape these landscapes and the land around them, developing a deeper understanding of our planet's geography.

Science – *Grouping and Classifying*

In Science, learners are discovering how living things are grouped and classified. They will study the animal and plant kingdoms and learn to use and create classification keys to identify different species.

Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)

This term, students are focusing on creating adventure texts using the Talk for Writing framework, with their main focus book being 'You Choose - Your Adventure!'. This approach enables learners to imitate the language they need for a topic orally and then write their own versions confidently. This approach is fantastic for building confidence, as it gives learners the language and structure they need before they are asked to write independently.

Food Technology

Our Food Tech lessons are all about food safety and risk management. Students will learn essential skills to prepare food safely and understand the importance of hygiene in the kitchen.



We stay safe

Parent Activity Suggestion:

Why not take a walk along a local river or visit a nearby hill or viewpoint? Encourage your child to notice features such as flowing water, slopes, and plant life. Afterwards, ask them to share one fact they've learned about rivers or mountains and add it to a "Learning Wall" at home. This simple activity reinforces classroom learning and makes it fun and memorable!

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Welcome to *Curriculum Connect* for Stone Hill and Cadbury Hill classes!



This half term, our driver theme is **Frozen Kingdom**. Learners have been exploring the unique characteristics of the polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and will investigate the environmental factors that shape these icy landscapes.

In **Science**, learners will study solids, liquids, and gases, observing how materials change state when heated or cooled and learning key terminology to describe these processes, linking this to the driver theme.

In **Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)**, we are focusing on descriptive writing using the *Talk for Writing* framework, helping children imitate rich language before crafting their own detailed descriptions. This approach is fantastic for building confidence, as it gives learners the language and structure they need *before* they are asked to write independently.

In **Food Technology**, lessons have been covering how to keep safe in the kitchen and food preparation, whilst in **PSHE** there is a focus on celebrating differences and understanding diversity.



We are respectful



We stay safe



Parent Activity Suggestion:

Ice Observation Fun: Fill a small bowl or cup with water and place it in the freezer. Once frozen, take it out and let your child watch what happens as the ice melts. Talk about what you see together—how the solid ice turns back into liquid water. Use simple words like “solid,” “liquid,” and “melting” to link to what they’re learning in Science. For an extra step, you could add a small toy or object into the water before freezing and see how long it takes to appear as the ice melts. This activity is quick, hands-on, and helps reinforce their understanding of states of matter while connecting to the polar theme.

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Going back in time with Lydeard Hill



Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) - Students are exploring Greek mythology through the graphic novel Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. They will focus on character development, plot structure, and descriptive language, while also learning the formal features of newspaper articles and the difference between fact and opinion. They will then be trying to write their own newspaper articles on their own chosen event.

Maths - This half term, learners are building confidence in algebra, covering equality, equivalence, collecting like terms, and solving one-step and two-step equations.

Our World (History) - This term's history focus is life in England before 1066 and the events of the Norman Conquest, including the Battle of Hastings. As part of this topic, they will be bringing in their CLL understanding of newspaper articles and the differences between fact and opinion, which is a key skill in analysing historical texts and testimonies.

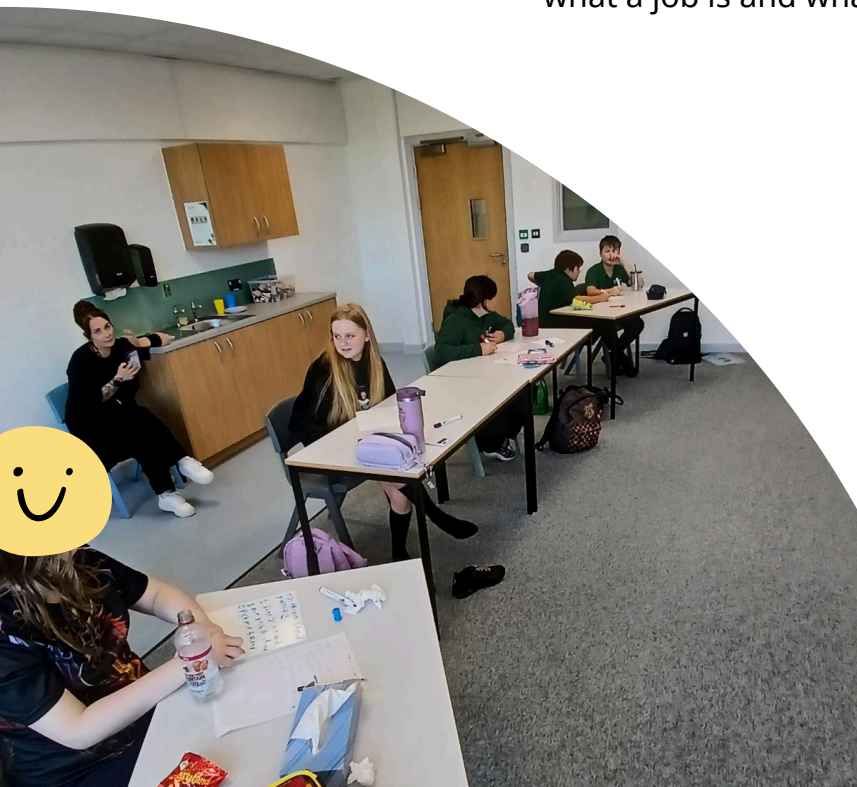
PSHE and Careers - Students have been celebrating differences in PSHE, which links directly into their Careers topic on jobs and skills linked to specific jobs. They have also been reflecting on what a job is and what is good about having one.



We are respectful



We learn more



Parent Activity Suggestion:

Create a "Mythical Creature" Together - Sit down with your child and design your own mythical creature inspired by Greek mythology. You can draw it, use playdough, or even describe it out loud if drawing feels tricky. Give your creature a name and decide:

- What special powers does it have?
- Where does it live?
- What makes it unique?

This activity encourages creativity, supports descriptive language, and links to their work on Greek myths without pressure. Keep it short (10–15 minutes) and fun—praise effort, not perfection!

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Sunny Hill - Adventures Through Time: World War I



This half term, our learning is inspired by *Adventures Through Time – World War I* by Dominic Sandbrook. Learners are exploring key aspects of World War I, including: the causes of the war, life in the trenches and soldiers' experiences on the Eastern and Western Fronts, the Home Front and its challenges and the wider impact on Britain and the world.

Through this project, learners will develop the ability to **infer key knowledge**, write descriptive sentences and paragraphs, and show empathy for those who lived through this period. We are also focusing on improving handwriting, using capital letters and full stops correctly, and expanding vocabulary with a wide range of adjectives.

This theme dovetails with **Our World (Geography)**, giving learners a deeper understanding of a country of their choice. Learners are investigating population, physical landscape and cultural aspects of their chosen country.

In **Science**, students will learn about movement – exploring the structure of the skeleton, how machines help us move, forces, and even space travel!

In **Food Technology**, we are covering cooking basics and safe food preparation, helping learners build essential life skills around boiling, frying and batch cooking.



We are respectful



We stay safe



We learn more

Parent Activity Suggestion:

Encourage your child to ask questions about what life might have been like during World War I and share their thoughts. You could also read a short poem or letter from the era to spark discussion about feelings and experiences.

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Coker Hill - Developing Reading and Real-Life Skills



This half term, Coker Hill students are diving into a variety of short stories to spark a love of reading. In **Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)**, they are creating storyboards and writing their own interpretations of these stories. Alongside this, learners are beginning work on **NCFE Entry Level 1 Functional Skills English**, which lays the foundation for achieving a Level 2 qualification at KS4. Key English skills being covered this half term include: identifying different types of text, completing comprehension activities, identifying and using nouns correctly and improving punctuation with capital letters and full stops.

In **Maths**, learners are working on practical projects such as using money, budgeting, and calculating change. These skills link directly to **Food Technology**, where learners are planning meals and exploring how to adapt recipes for allergies, intolerances, and dietary preferences. They are learning to read labels, substitute ingredients, and cook for specific needs (e.g., vegan or gluten-free).



We stay safe



We learn more

This connects to **Careers** learning, where students are discovering roles in the food industry, such as dietitian and food developer. In **PSHE**, the focus has been celebrating differences and diversity, reinforcing the importance of inclusion in all areas of life, before moving on to eSafety.



We are respectful

Parent Activity Suggestion:

Try cooking a simple meal together at home and talk about how you could adapt it for someone with a dietary need (e.g., swap milk for a plant-based alternative). Encourage your child to read the labels and explain why certain ingredients are chosen. This is a great way to link classroom learning to real-life situations!

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Burrow Hill - Building Skills for the Future



Learners in Burrow Hill are continuing their KS4 journey with a strong focus on qualifications and practical skills.

Maths - Students are working towards NCFE Functional Skills, covering topics such as: converting between metric and imperial units, calculating area and perimeter and working with speed, density, and rates of pay.

English - The class book this half term is *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. Students are also learning about the formal structure of a newspaper article, distinguishing between fact, opinion, and reliable/unreliable sources. They are improving grammar skills, including subject-verb agreement and consistent use of tenses, as part of their NCFE Functional Skills English qualification.

Digital Skills - Learners are using tools like Canva and Microsoft applications to enter, edit, format, and save information for different purposes and audiences.



We learn more

Occupational Studies – Food Technology - This half term, the focus is on cooking and preparing a range of dishes using both fresh and convenience ingredients. Students consider ingredient availability and cost, and select the most appropriate tools and equipment. So far, they've made a pasta bake and even learned how to make pasta from scratch!



We stay safe

Parent Activity Suggestion:

Why not try making a simple pasta dish together at home? Encourage your child to think about the cost of ingredients and the tools needed. You could even compare making pasta from scratch versus using ready-made pasta – a great way to link classroom learning to real-life decision-making!

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Curriculum Spotlight - Outdoor Education



Each issue of Curriculum Connect will highlight one or two subjects led by our specialist staff. This time, we're focusing on **Outdoor Education**, led by Hannah and Teresa. Every class enjoys Outdoor Education sessions every two weeks, plus a full day of outdoor learning each half term—giving students hands-on experiences that build confidence, teamwork, and practical skills.

Why Outdoor Education Matters

Outdoor Education offers learners hands-on experiences that go beyond the classroom. It helps learners:

- Build confidence and resilience by trying new activities in a safe, supportive environment.
- Develop teamwork and communication skills through group challenges and problem-solving tasks.
- Improve physical and mental wellbeing by spending time in nature, which can reduce stress and boost mood.
- Connect learning to real life by applying skills such as measuring, observing, and planning in practical outdoor settings.

These sessions encourage independence, creativity, and a sense of achievement—key skills that benefit learners both in school and beyond.

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Curriculum Spotlight - Outdoor Education

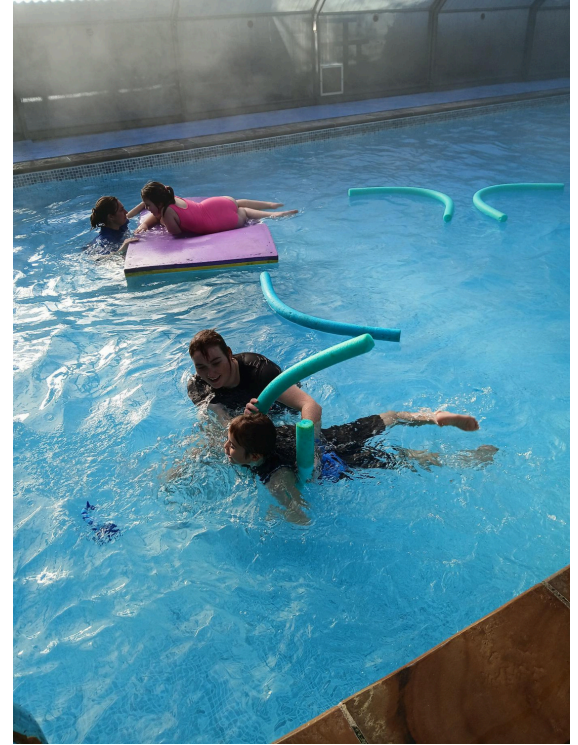


Primary learners are swimming this half term, guided by three key pillars:

- Teamwork: Shared water games and cooperation
- Independence: Understanding personal safety
- Wellbeing: Calm, confidence, and trust

Learners are progressing at different stages based upon their starting points, from following pool safety cues and tolerating supported floating to travelling short distances with aids and coordinating leg and arm movements.

More advanced learners are working on demonstrating safe entry and exit, understanding and practising several strokes, moving away from floats and performing basic rescue drills. This strand builds water confidence, physical coordination, and lifelong awareness of safety and wellbeing in aquatic environments.



Secondary learners are focussing on rock climbing, centred on:

- Teamwork: Trust and peer support
- Independence: Managing risk
- Wellbeing: Confidence through achievement

Learners start at varying levels, from exploring the wall with support to completing planned routes and reflecting on progress. Advanced learners persevere, support peers, and tackle climbs with growing independence. This strand fosters trust, resilience, and confidence, strengthening physical ability and promoting community and personal responsibility in outdoor education.

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