



Newsletter Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome back to our returning children and welcome to our new families starting this term.

Teaching and Learning

Our main focus this term will be to settle the children in so that they feel happy, secure and confident in their new environment. We will work around areas that encourage children's curiosity and desire to know 'how the world works' as well as following children's own particular interests. Practitioners plan daily and weekly to provide a varied programme of challenging activities to develop all areas of learning. We will explain to you what we are doing and how this supports your child's learning - please see the medium & short term planning displayed outside each classroom.

We also plan 'adult focused' activities for small groups and individuals to support particular learning outcomes which provides a focus for both adult planned activities and for enhancements to our continuous provision. Children have access to both indoor and outdoor areas, and can move freely between classrooms. Staff work in partnership with children, skillfully and sensitively interacting to support and develop their learning.

We have a book of the week in each classroom and also a rhyme of the week - copies are outside each room for you to take home and enjoy with your child.

A note from Jayne Taylor, Head of School ...

Welcome to all children and families, it is a pleasure and privilege to be Head of School at Hirst Wood Nursery School. My colleagues and I are excited to be working in collaboration with Saltaire Primary School and welcome Mrs Sally Stoker as Executive Headteacher. We have spent time thinking about what this means in practice and have agreed our aims and vision which we hope you will agree are integral to working in partnership with young children and their families:

- We enable children to learn through fascination and creativity, enabling them to be self-motivated, independent, confident and involved in their activities and learning.
- Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care, trust and safety where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued.
- We recognise everyone's uniqueness. There will be no invisible children here. We recognise everyone's success. We recognise learning in all its form and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners.
- We make a difference to our families. We provide a range of high quality inclusive, accessible integrated services that will make a difference and improve outcomes for families.
- Building relationships. We build highly effective relationships with parents and carers and foster their active involvement in their child's learning and progress.

We will energise our vision by:

- Nurturing enthusiasm for learning and teaching.
- Enjoying what we do and knowing that learning is fun.
- Believing we are the best and we have the best.

We will measure the things that we value ... good progress and attainment and value the precious things that can't be measured in our school. The number of children who found a conker, rolled down a hill, painted with their hands and were fascinated by the wind, sun, rain, snow, ice and saw the wonder in all the world around them.

Please support in us in achieving these aims.

Children's learning and development

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept happy and safe. The key aspects include quality and consistency, a secure foundation, partnership working and equality of opportunity. The EYFS begins from birth and continues through to the end of the Reception year at Primary School.

There are seven areas of learning and development - three prime areas and four specific

Prime

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

Specific

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world, and
- expressive arts and design

Our aim is to empower children by providing an environment that encourages thinking and offers opportunities to explore a range of experiences and ideas. Learning is often a social experience where children learn from each other, learn how to be with each other and learn new skills and ideas. Each child's individual needs are identified by observing them in their play and using this as the basis for our planning. We hope that children develop an awareness of the learning process and have a positive approach to learning new things by being self-motivated, confident and independent. We encourage children's curiosity by enhancing our provision with a range of materials and experiences to provoke investigation and exploration. This will include visits to places of interest outside the nursery and inviting in a variety of different visitors to the nursery. These experiences help children to make links with what they know, see patterns in their understanding and make sense of the world.

Learning Outside

The outside learning environment is as important as the indoor provision and we aim to be outside in all types of weather to develop physical skills and intellectual development.

The wide range of activities offered outside supports children's learning in all areas of the curriculum. We have raincoats, waterproof trousers and wellington boots for all children although you are welcome to bring your own. The mud kitchen is an exciting place for children to explore but it does mean that some clothes get a little messy - please appreciate the importance of this type of exploratory and investigative play and do not put children in their best clothes for school as we cannot guarantee that they come home dressed as cleanly as when they came.



Warm clothing - inside and outside please as the temperature inside classrooms is variable and does require warm clothing through the winter months. Gloves and hats for outdoors are essential and we find that the old fashioned 'gloves on elastic' are best! We are more than happy for you to provide your own spare clothes for children to be changed in to. Could we please ask that these are labelled with your child's name - a permanent marker pen is easy to use and doesn't wash off. Also if you could provide a bag (not a plastic bag for safety reasons) to store the clothes in - please remember to take this home at the end of the week as other children use the pegs during other sessions.

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The planning for each of the Nursery classrooms is displayed on the notice boards outside each room. It will also be updated weekly on our website at www.hirstwoodnsc.co.uk

Please take a look at our new website; we hope that you will find the changes helpful and informative so that you can stay actively updated and involved in your child's education.

We are also on Twitter - please follow us @HWNSCC

We have a Facebook page "Hirst Wood Nursery School & Children's Centre" and these are updated regularly with news and photographs of all the wonderful things that children have been doing and the wide range of fascinating learning opportunities that we have planned.

We welcome your feedback so please take the time to let us know how we are doing, what you like and what could be better. All comments welcome.

We are offering **FREE** parents workshops on each area of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Come along to an informal meeting on the following dates to learn more about how young children thrive in a play based environment and how you can support and extend their learning at home.

1 to 1.30 pm in the Community Room, "an introduction to" listed below:

Wed 13th September - personal, social & emotional development

Wednesday 20th September - communication & language

Wednesday 27th September - physical development

Wednesday 4th October - literacy

Wednesday 11th October - mathematics

Wednesday 18th October - expressive art & design

Wednesday 1st November - understanding the world

Wednesday 8th November - linking sounds & letters

You don't have to book on the course, just to up - everyone welcome. Next half term we will be rotating the days and times of sessions so that hopefully everyone can attend.

Governor vacancies

We have a Parent Governor vacancy. This is an interesting and exciting role within the Governing Body. Meetings are held every term, usually Wednesday night at 7pm. Governors are asked to take on a 4 year role and applications are invited from anyone interested in joining our committed and enthusiastic team. It is important that parents' views are represented, so please do consider applying as continual support and training will be offered. If you feel that you are able to take up this important role we would be pleased to hear from you. We have information on being a Governor, how the role operates, how meetings work and what is expected. Please speak to Jayne Taylor, Head of School if you would like to know more about this valuable and rewarding position.

If you would like to attend the next Governors meeting on Wednesday 20th September at 7pm as an observer, please let us know.

Records of Achievement

Your child's Record of Achievement is in a green folder on a shelf in each classroom. Please read it and share with your child as often as you can. It will help you understand not only the progress that is being made but also your child's developing interests and confidence.

We welcome contributions from home, so please feel free to bring in mementos, photographs or information about what you and your child have been doing whilst not in school. Email photographs to office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk

Parent consultations are held in November, March and July but you are encouraged to ask questions at pick up and drop off times or you can arrange to have a longer discussion at any time just ask the class teacher.

Remember, remember

Snack charge is £7.00 per child per half term for children with us for 15 hours per week.

For children attending 30 hours per week the charge will be £14 per half term.

Lunch charge is £1.45 per child per day - both payable at Reception.

It is worth checking to see if you qualify for Free School Meals

[www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/advice_benefits_and.../
free_school_meals](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/advice_benefits_and.../free_school_meals)

Please could we ask for all new starters to bring a copy of their birth certificate to Reception to be photocopied for our records? Thank you.

Half term

School **closes** on Thursday 19th October for a training day on Friday 20th October and we **re-open** on Monday 30th October

Happy half term everyone