



# Newsletter Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2021

**Welcome back to our returning children and welcome to our new families starting this term. As we hopefully return to some normality, we are welcoming you all back in to the building.**

It has certainly been an interesting few months for everyone and we sincerely thank you for respecting the new routines and procedures that we have put place to keep our community safe. The government has asked each School to ensure that they have a Covid Outbreak Management Plan and as always, we will let you know of any changes to our routines and there is a dedicated Covid 19 section on the website that is updated regularly with our risk assessments, local and government guidelines. We would ask that you let us know immediately if your child is ill (for all types illness) and if they are going to be absent. We will follow up any unexplained absence on the first day. Please ring us on 01274 584368 if your child will not be attending. It is also vital that we have up to date contact numbers so if anything has changed, please let us know.

We have made some amazing changes to our learning environment and are very much looking forward for you to see the newly designed classrooms. The doors have been opened between Nursery 1 and 2 to create an amazing open plan layout that has given us opportunity to enlarge certain areas and introduce different areas of provision. We have also welcomed some new members of staff this term and the teaching teams are listed below:

### **Maple (Nursery 1 and 2 combined)**

Teacher

Ruth Ball (Mon to Wed AM)

Sam Renwick (Wed PM to Friday)

Early Years Practitioners

Kath Zuchlinski (Mon to Wed)

Kelly Ward (Wed to Fri)

Sarah Taylor (Wed to Fri)

Teaching Assistant  
Karen Dutton (Mon & Tues)

### **Chestnut (Nursery 3)**

Teacher  
Sally Lofthouse

Early Years Practitioners  
Angie Nash (Mon & Tues)  
Richelle Berdeni (Wed to Fri)

Apprentice Early Years Practitioner  
Laiba Ali

Repairs & Maintenance Manager  
Darren Greenwood

All classes are now open from 9.00 to 3.15 (half day Wednesday for 2.5-day children). Please could we ask that you wait outside the classroom at the end of the day for pick up and someone will come to invite you inside. Storytime is a wonderful group activity for children to enjoy together and the door will be opened when this has finished. Thank you for your understanding.

### **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 uploaded to the website [https://www.hirstwoodnsc.co.uk/website/weekly\\_nursery\\_plan\\_for\\_parents/255843](https://www.hirstwoodnsc.co.uk/website/weekly_nursery_plan_for_parents/255843) 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. Staff work in partnership with children, skillfully and sensitively interacting to support and develop their learning. Children have access to both indoor and outdoor areas, and can move freely between any of the classrooms. We have some themed weeks planned across the year for each half term covering topics such as community, history, science, geography, biology and art.

This will inspire some different learning experiences and opportunities for children to engage with. We will, of course, keep you updated about school events, what is happening and when.

### **Planning and parental involvement**

The planning for each Nursery classroom is displayed on the noticeboards outside the rooms. We have a Facebook page @hirstwoodnursery and this is 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. Please ensure that you have signed up for the EYLog as this is a great way of knowing what wonderful teaching and learning opportunities your child has been enjoying at school, we can use it to send you observations, photographs and videos. The government has placed a high priority on the reduction of teacher workload therefore, we aim to spend less time working on an iPad recording observations on EYLog, therefore teaching teams will put more emphasis on being engaged in direct teaching and learning with your children. We hope you will support us in achieving these aims as staff wellbeing and work life balance is important.

Towards the end of the term we will be offering our usual parent consultations so we can share how well your child is doing, these are to be held 5<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October - sign-up sheets will be outside each classroom for each 10-minute appointment. At this point we will share with you our assessments of your child and what wonderful things they can do. The purpose of assessment isn't about putting children into boxes, it is about celebrating their achievements and ensuring that our provision and interactions mean that they continue to make progress. For this purpose, we undertake a baseline assessment when children join us, and then add to this on a termly basis and this culminates in a final summative assessment. We will share these assessments with you during our parents' evenings and teaching teams will explain how they have reached their judgements. It is quite possible that your child behaves very differently at home and you see different elements of their increasing levels of knowledge and understanding and how they apply this to different contexts.



**You are your child's first and enduring educator and we want to learn from you all that you know about your child. Parental partnership is crucial and we value your contributions.**

The start of a new academic year seems a good time to share with you our vision of what we want Hirst Wood Nursery School to be for you and your family and this is outlined below:

**Our vision:**

**We expect everyone to do their best**

There are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to by learning through fascination and creativity.

**Everyone in our school is important and included**

We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they belong and are valued. We all have a unique and important part to play in our schools' successes.

**We recognise everyone's uniqueness**

There will be no invisible children here. We recognise everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners.

**We are a safe school**

We are committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

**We are proud of our school and the community we serve**

We are privileged to have a diverse school community who care passionately about education and the global environment. 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:

- Learning teams and our curriculum
- Planning and assessment
- Policies and procedures
- Professional Learning
- Appraisal and Performance Management

**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. Perhaps 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 the entire world around them.

We are a safe, happy and creative school where excellent early education is our highest priority. We are inclusive in all that we do and place utmost importance on listening to and respecting one another. We strive to make a real difference to the children and families of Bradford and aim to enable and support you and your child to achieve all that you can.

We use real, exciting, interesting experiences both indoors and outdoors, to inspire the awe and wonder that young children have such capacity for. We allow children to delight in discovering and experiencing the world around them which we hope will develop into a lifelong love of learning.

We have high expectations of our children and through nurturing their confidence and self-belief we encourage them to have high expectations of themselves. Equally we have high expectations of ourselves, we aim to be approachable, respectful and professional. We consider it a privilege to be part of your life.

### **Children's learning and development**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2021) 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

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.

Children develop quickly in the early years, staff aim to do all they can to help children have the best possible start in life. A child's experiences in the Early Years have a major impact on their future life chances. The curriculum is about the all-round development of children. Everything that your child does, sees, hears, touches, smells and tastes is the curriculum because this is the way she/he learns about their world.

The way in which children engage with other people and their environment is through playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically. Play is a very important part of all children's development; play and learning cannot be divided during the earliest years. Everything in the environment has been put there for a purpose, to help children acquire the skills they need.

Children have access to a variety of materials including sand, water, paint, collage materials, large and small construction sets, large and small role play areas, music resources, books, mark-making, jigsaws, dough, maths games and ICT equipment.

We offer a wide range of curriculum enrichment such as yoga, dough disco, Forest schools, gardening club and all of these are a sequence of skills and experiences that are built up over time. When your child participates in additional opportunities we will also send home a parent guide so that you can support and extend this learning at home.

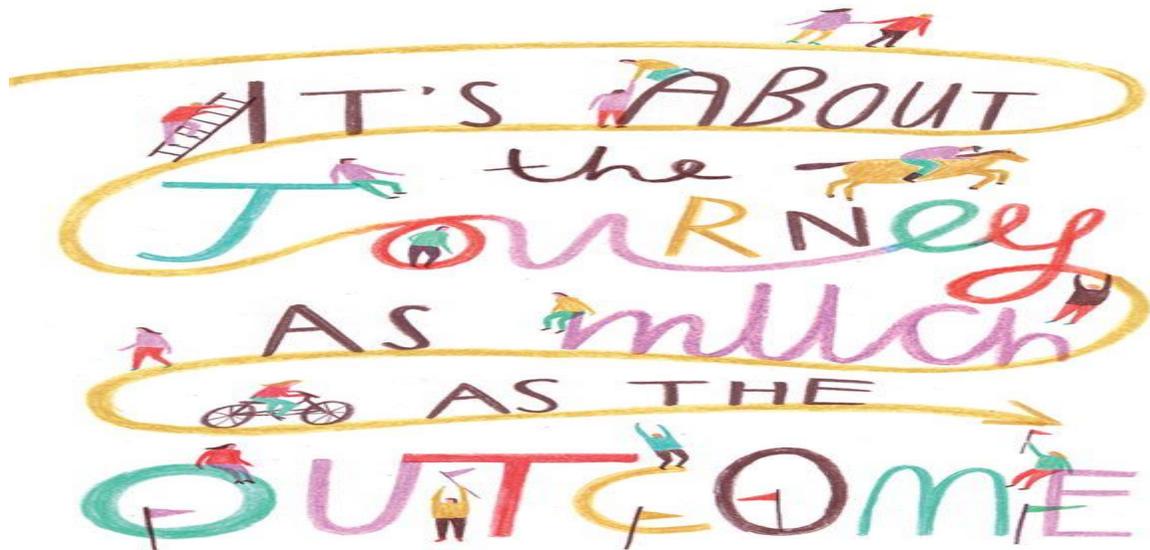


### **Learning outside**

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 (can we recommend that you write your child's name inside any equipment that belongs to you).

Outdoors children can run, climb, explore natural and reclaimed resources, use wheeled toys and take care of the garden. Children are encouraged to make their own choices. Children's spiritual and moral development is an important aspect of their whole development. We foster this through giving children opportunities to share the wonder of the world, e.g. looking at the beauty in the world around them, a new baby, animals, flowers; helping them develop responsibility towards friends, other people and the environment.

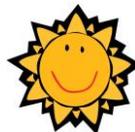
The mud kitchen is an exciting place for children to explore but it does mean that some clothes get a little messy - please appreciate the importance of this type of exploratory and investigative play and do not put children in their best clothes for school as we cannot guarantee that they come home dressed as cleanly as when they arrived.



Our intention is to empower children by providing an environment that encourages thinking and offers opportunities to explore a range of experiences and ideas.

If you would like a copy of our full school improvement plan for 2021-22, please email [office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk](mailto:office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk)

## The Sunshine Club



We are able to offer additional sessions at the moment, either full days or half days so if you'd like to enquire about the opportunity of paying for extra time, please email [office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk](mailto:office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk). We are very competitively priced with half days @ £13.75 and full days @ £25.00. We also have an amazing before and after school provision, morning session from 7.45 @ £6.00 and evening session to 5.45 @ £12.00 which includes a hot meal.

## Academic calendar 2021 - 22

### Autumn term

Training days (Closed to children)  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
Children return Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

Close for half term Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Children return Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Close for Christmas Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December



### Spring term

Bank Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January  
Training day Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Children return Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Close for half term Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February  
Children return Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Close for half term Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April



### Summer term

Children return Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Close for half term Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Children return Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Close for summer break Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Training days (Closed to children)  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

