



# Newsletter Newsletter



January 2017

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

## Teaching and Learning

Part of our focus this term will be to settle new children in that they feel happy, secure and confident in their new environment. We will also be moving the returners forward in their learning. We will consider 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 planning displayed outside each classroom. Feel free to ask members of staff about how the experiences and activities on offer support children's growing independence and develop particular skills such as speaking and listening, cooperative play and building and maintaining relationships.

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.



Thank you for the very generous Christmas gifts that we received. You were also very charitable in helping us raise a brilliant £41.00 on the Christmas jumper day.

## 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.

### **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 would encourage you to share anything exciting that your child does at home - photographs welcome.

Parent consultations are held in March, July and November 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.

## 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. Please do not allow sweets to be brought to school in children's bags as we have children with severe allergies and we would ask that you support us in keeping them safe.



Please remember to let the class teacher know if you collect your child early. Also, could we please remind all adults to check behind you as you close the doors to enter/exit the building. This is in an important safeguarding aspect. The doors in Reception have been replaced and work on sensors, please do not let children push against the doors as this strains the mechanism and results in the doors failing to open/close. Could we also ask that you supervise your child (ren) at all times whilst waiting in the Reception area. Please do not allow your children to independently go in and out of the doors as these can close quickly. Thank you.



Hirst Wood Nursery School & Children's Centre welcomes and supports volunteers to help run our services. Volunteering can have many benefits for example; meeting new people, gaining valuable skills and confidence, improving self-esteem as well as leading to further training and/or qualifications. As a volunteer you decide on how much time you are able to give and how often. If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with Chris Martin, Headteacher or Jayne Taylor, Deputy Headteacher.



## Early Years Pupil Premium - does your child qualify?

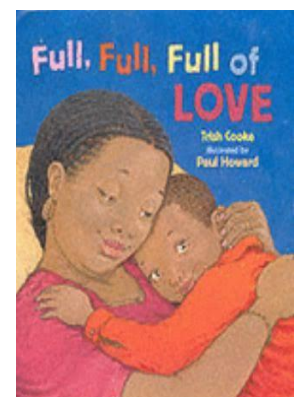
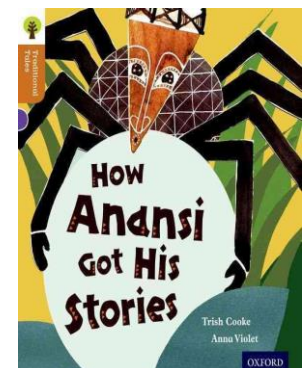
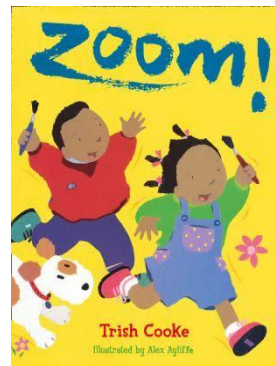
The Early Years Pupil Premium provides up to an extra £302 a year for each child taking up their full hours of funded early education. We can use the extra funding to continue to improve the quality of the early years education we already provide for your child, e.g. for additional staff, resources or training to further our expertise. It is well documented that high quality early education can influence how well a child does at both primary and secondary school so we do want to make the most of this additional funding.

You may be aware if you have older children that a pupil premium has been available for school age children and it has proved to have given a real boost to the children receiving the funding. We want to do the same for our early years children entitled to this funding. Therefore we ask **ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS** to complete the voluntary registration form and return it to us as soon as possible. This will allow us to claim the additional Early Years Pupil Premium to benefit your child.

## Trish Cooke, author visit to Nursery classes on Wednesday 1st March



Trish Cooke, author of the classic children's books such as 'So Much!', 'Full, full, full of love' and 'How Anansi got his stories' and many more wonderful publications will be visiting the Nursery classes to share her books and enthusiasm for literacy with the children. Each child in Nursery will receive a £1 book token which can be redeemed against a book purchase at most retailers.



## Remember, remember

Snack charge is £7.00 per child per half term  
Lunch charge is £1.45 per child per day - both payable at  
Reception (this 5p increase per day is with effect from 1.1.17)

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

MUST be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the latest

\*\*\*\*\*

Could all parents of January starters complete our  
questionnaire on the 30 hour provision for September 2017.

Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

### Half term

School **closes** on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February for half term holiday  
and we **re-open** on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. (Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
February is a whole school training day.)