



Newsletter Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2018

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 being part of our federation means that we are all working collaboratively together for the children and families in Saltaire and Shipley. 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:

Our aims:

- To work in partnership to ensure the best possible experiences and outcomes for all our children, families and community
- To share and develop knowledge and expertise for the benefit of all our children
- To respect each school's unique identity
- To work together to be more than the sum of our parts

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 safe schools

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

We are proud of our schools and the community we serve

We are privileged to have diverse school communities 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 all the world around them.

The children who learned to play a musical instrument, children who participated on a residential visit, children who achieved awards, children who sang in front of an audience, the number of guests who visited, extra activities for all abilities, the awards and achievements we celebrate that can't be measured in our schools.

Please support in us in achieving these aims.

Children's learning and development

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2017) 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 intention 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.

Planning and parental involvement

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 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.

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.

9 to 1930 pm in the Gallery "an introduction to" listed below:

Monday 24th September - personal, social & emotional development

Friday 5th October - communication & language

Friday 12th October - physical development

Monday 15th October - literacy

Half term

Monday 29th October - mathematics

Friday 2nd November - expressive arts & design

Monday 5th November -phonics

Friday 9th November -Forest Schools

You don't have to book on the course, just meet in the Gallery - everyone welcome.

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 and contributions to office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk and we will print them for insertion.

Parent consultations are held termly, 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.



Please remember to let the class teacher know if you intend to 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.

We are a **NUT FREE ZONE** and ask that parents do not send children with snacks or food. If your child is unwell and not attending school, please ring us to let us know 01274 584368.

Diary dates

Friday 14th September - Bamboo Tamboo parade @ 2.15pm

Thursday 27th September - We are Saltaire exhibition in the Gallery

Wednesday 10th October - coffee mornings in Nursery 1 and 2 @ 9 to 9.45am

Friday 12th October - fluoride varnish authorisation session @ 8.45am

Wednesday 17th October - birds of prey visit

Thursday 18th October - fluoride varnish application session

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 £1.50 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](#)

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 18th October for a training day on Friday 19th October and we **re-open** on Monday 29th October

Happy half term everyone