



# Newsletter Newsletter

June 2018



## Teaching and Learning

Welcome back to the last half term of the academic year. Our core story will be Pezzettino by Leo Lionni. Pezzettino, Italian for "little piece," is so small compared to everyone around him. He's convinced that he must be the missing piece of something else. After looking and looking, he finds out that he isn't a piece of something else after all. He is himself! A book about positive self-esteem and recognition of our own uniqueness.



Confidence and independence is a vital part of the curriculum here at Hirst Wood and this is especially important if we consider the transitions that children will be making to Primary School in September. This can be a daunting, and sometimes worrying prospect for children particularly as they don't know how it will be. We encourage all our Primary Schools to come and observe children in the setting, have chance to speak with teaching colleagues and really get to know children before they arrive.

We also encourage parents to take every opportunity that their Primary School offers to support transition - these may include open days, opportunities to stay for lunch, play and learn sessions and or open evenings. All are valuable experiences to learn more about the schools and how they run. We do, of course, have many children returning to us in September, and we also have a new cohort of children arriving. Some children will be moving into a different class with new members of staff, be assured that this will be handled positively and sensitively. We will provide you with a list of which class team your child will be with. We will be issuing new *CHIPs* (Children's Information Packs) with a picture of the class teams and their self-registration, milk label and coat peg picture. We have introduced a weekly challenge that is available in Reception should you wish to take it home to enjoy with your child. The challenge will usually be linked to the current topic / theme. Please take a copy to do with your child at home.

## **Governor Vacancy**

### **School Governors**



We still have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in this rewarding and valuable role, please speak to Jayne. Alternatively, if you would like to attend our next *Governors* meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm as an observer, please let us know. We offer a comprehensive training package, an experienced peer mentor and tea and biscuits at all meetings!!

## Changes in September 2018

We have some staff changes to let you know about for the new academic year. Ian Tohill who has been with us for many years is retiring and Jan Vekaria is also leaving at the end of the Summer term, Both have been fantastic members of staff and we thank them on behalf of all the children that they have helped learn and develop of the years. Jenny Buckland also comes to the end of her supply contract in July and it has been wonderful have to someone as experienced as Jenny join the team. We wish all three of our colleagues the very best and should you wish to donate towards a gift please hand this in at Reception.

However, we have appointed three fantastic new members of staff. They are Sally Lofthouse, who will work full time in Nursery 2 with Jackie. Rachel James who will work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Ruth Ball who will work Wednesday, Thursday and Friday based in Nursery 1 with Richelle. All three new colleagues bring fantastic experience, expertise and enthusiasm and we are sure that they will continue to develop our amazing provision with their new ideas and inspiration.

We have planned some dates for the returning children to meet their new class teachers and these will be in the form of a coffee morning, tea and biscuits provided. The dates are

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July   | Nursery 1 Ruth and Richelle   |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July | Nursery 2 Sally and Jackie    |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | Nursery 1 Rachel and Richelle |

As you are now aware, Sally Stoker, Executive Headteacher plans to retire at Christmas. Sally has brought the idea of the federation of the two schools to life and we will continue this vision to work together in partnership for the good of all the children in both schools. "WE ARE SALTAIRE"

## 30 HOURS CODES

For returning children, please don't forget to renew your code in anticipation of September. Thank you.



## Consultation on lowering the age range

As you are aware we have been consulting on lowering the age range at Hirst Wood to include 2 year olds. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete either the paper questionnaire or the on-line version. The responses will be submitted to the Council Executive in June.

We plan to have the younger children in a separate classroom with their own dedicated outdoor area. Whilst there are many benefits to older and younger children playing and learning together in the first instance the younger children will have their own space as their developmental needs are very different to those of our older children. Please feel free to ask any questions about how we hope to run this provision.

Our curriculum is based on the all-round development of children. Everything that children encounter is how they learn more about the 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. Our environment will be carefully planned and designed, and all resources have been put there for a purpose and will help children acquire new skills. Children will have access to a variety of materials and experiences 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. Children will be allocated a Key worker and their day will be planned according to their needs, very much as it is child-led learning in the Nursery School.

We are still at the early stages of planning and will be considering staffing, patterns of attendance and prices but would love to hear from you if you would like to put your (or anybody else's) child's name on our waiting list. We can assure you that what we provide will continue to be of the highest quality to have the greatest impact on learning and development.

## Summer Fayre, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 12 - 3pm

We are delighted to be co-hosting some of the events for the annual summer fayre. Both Hirst Wood and Saltaire schools will be open for families to join us for entertainment and food. There will be lots of different activities for families to enjoy - please come along and join in the fun.

### Consultations

As you are aware we offer consultations every term and below are the allocated dates. A list will be outside each classroom for you to choose an appointment with the class teacher. If you are unable to attend any of the dates offered, please speak with a member of staff who will endeavor to offer you an alternative time.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June      3.45 - 5.00      April new starters      (all classes)

Parents of the other children have a choice of the following dates:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June      3.45 - 5.00

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July      3.45 - 5.00

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July      3.45 - 5.00

Additional times for specific class dates shown below

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July      8.30 - 3.00      Nursery 1 with Jenny

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July      8.30 - 3.30      Nursery 3 with Ian

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July      8.30 - 3.30      Nursery 2 with Jan

### Leavers' picnics



It has become an annual tradition at Hirst Wood for all (not only leaving) children to enjoy a picnic together in the grounds to celebrate our learning community. All children have chance to participate and the dates are Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July. For those parents who have pre-selected meals, the picnic

has already been noted. We have booked the sunshine and there may be some surprise ice lollies as a little treat.

## Health & Safety



During the summer months it may be necessary that children need sun protection to be applied (hopefully!).

In this respect the Nursery will provide sun cream for each classroom unless your child has specific skin sensitivities that would necessitate the use of their own specific cream. If this is the case, please bring in the sun protection clearly labelled with your child's name. If you could apply sun-cream to your child before they come to Nursery and we will reapply it later in the day. Also, children wearing sunglasses can be a health and safety risk if they were to fall and break the lenses. Research has shown that the lenses are ineffective at reducing the rays from the sun so we recommend that children don't wear them to school. Thank you.

## Parents' workshops



Another area that you told us you would like to know more about is how young children learn. We offer regular informal workshops for parents where Ian Tothill, Nursery 3 teacher discusses how our provision works in supporting knowledge and understanding and how you can extend this at home. The workshops are in the Gallery from 2.30 to 3.00pm - come along before you collect your child. The dates and subjects are:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Expressive arts and design

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Understanding the world

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Linking sounds and letters (phonics)

## Feedback - compliments, complaints, challenges



# YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

There seems to have been lots of requests for your opinions recently but we feel that parental involvement in the development of our provision is vital, therefore before the end of term we would be pleased to hear your views on how we are doing. Feel free to tell us what you like, what could work better or how we could improve. A form will be available outside each classroom and we would ask that you take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts on what we offer and return it to Reception. Thank you in advance.

## WE ARE THE WORLD



As a federation we are planning to introduce the idea of 3 themed weeks throughout the year starting with "We are the world". On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June we will make a draw of countries who are participating in the World Cup. Every class from both schools will represent a different country, with the ultimate winners of the football tournament culminating in a picnic featuring that particular country's cuisine on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July.



We close for summer on  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July and re-open on  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.**

(Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September is a training day)

May we wish all our leaving children the very best of luck in their new schools.

Hirst Wood has very confident, independent and enthusiastic learners that these skills will undoubtedly enable children to make a positive transition to the next phase of their educational journey.

It has been a pleasure working with all parents and carers. Without your commitment to your child's education in partnership with us the children would not have achieved the fantastic successes in their learning.

Best wishes everyone, enjoy the summer break. We look forward to welcoming back our returning children in September.



P.S. We always love to say hello to children that have left us - call in to show us your school uniform, tell us about all the new friends that you have made - keep in touch!