



Newsletter Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2020

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 planning for each class and these are located on the learning portal that is accessed via the website. If you are yet to request your login details, please email jayne.taylor@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk

It has certainly been an interesting few months for everyone and we sincerely thank you to you as parents for respecting the new routines and procedures that we have in place to keep our community safe. We very much appreciate you dropping off and collecting on time and maintaining the health and safety measures that we are recommending. 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.

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. Towards the end of the term we will be offering our usual parent consultations via telephone so we can share how well your child is doing.

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 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
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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.

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.

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. Whilst we are working in bubbles, each class group has their own outdoor area and equipment.

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.

Planning and parental involvement

The planning for each of the Nursery classrooms is uploaded onto the portal on a weekly basis. 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.

Please sign up for the EYLog if you haven't already done so. This is a quick and easy way to see what amazing experiences your children are enjoying. We do put an 'age and stage' against our observations, please bear in mind that these are just snapshots and not an overall descriptor of where your child is placed academically. For this purpose we undertake a baseline assessment which 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 (these are via communication calls this term due to us not being able to meet in person) and teaching teams will explain how they have reached their judgements.

Appointments will be offered Tuesday 6th or Thursday 15th October via EYLog with your allocated time at 10 minutes per child.

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. Assessment is used so that we can ensure we are working at the right level for your child and groups of children and also that we are successfully personalising the provision to ensure that each and every child succeeds. It is not to put children in to tick boxes and teach a narrow, prescribed curriculum as we pride ourselves on our creative provision that values each and every child and all the wonderful skills that they bring to our learning community.

We have a vacancy for a parent governor if you are interested in joining us. Please contact the office via email office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk to express your interest. We have half termly meetings (virtually at the moment) and are a friendly, supportive and enthusiastic team of people who want to work together for the best outcomes for children and the community.

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. 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.

Don't forget that we have a Covid section on the website where all the latest information from both School and the DfE is stored. We have updated this with information on the test and trace APP which should hopefully answer any questions that you have. Our risk assessment is updated regularly as we strive to ensure the highest levels of health and safety.

Take care of each other and thank you for being part of Hirst Wood Nursery School. With very best wishes

Jayne Taylor, Headteacher