



# Newsletter Newsletter



April 2018

## Teaching and Learning

Welcome back. We are pleased to welcome new children into all three classrooms, we hope that they will settle in quickly and enjoy being at Hirst Wood. The planning is displayed outside each of the three Nursery classrooms. This will explain to you what activities we are doing and how this supports your child's learning. 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. Practitioners work in partnership with children, skillfully and sensitively interacting to support and develop their learning. We also have copies of the rhyme of the week for you to take home and enjoy with your child.

Our core story for this half term will be Jack and the beanstalk which supports our theme of growth and change. There will also be accompanying texts such as the alternative version of Jasper's beanstalk, Oliver's Vegetables and Titch. Children will have the opportunity to plant seeds and consider what conditions they need to be able to flourish and grow. We will be looking at how children themselves have changed since they were born. The role play area will be transformed into a baby clinic which will provide opportunities for weighing, measuring, making appointments and writing for a variety of purposes.

The vegetable patches will be planted with seeds that will hopefully produce a harvest for children to cook and eat. Each classroom will soon have some tadpoles that children can observe as they make their natural transformation into frogs. Children are encouraged to produce observational drawings as they study the features and reproduce these with their own representations.

Once the frogs are fully grown they are safely returned back into their natural habitat. Sunflowers and beans will be planted in the classrooms and these will help develop children's mathematical awareness relating to height, and the comparative language of size.

Spring is such a wonderful time for us to further explore the local environment, and we will plan walks into Saltaire, using these opportunities to also draw children's attention to the local historic buildings and looking for natural evidence of the change of seasons.

We have a new life cycle display in Reception for children to sequence whilst they are waiting. We also have little books of Jack and the beanstalk for you to write at home.



## Lunchtime options

Following feedback from the questionnaire, we are pleased to offer parents/carers the opportunity to pre-order lunches for their child (ren). This will be done 3 weeks in advance. We will provide you with a list of daily options for you to select your choices and return forms to Reception. We will trial this new system week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> May to give you time to make your choices. The choices need to be submitted by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April** to start week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> May please. There will be new menus issued on a 3 weekly cycle after that. If you do not wish to participate we will continue to serve your child with the meal as before (taking into consideration vegetarian, halal or individual dietary requirements).





helping children make healthy choices

## Life caravan visit Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May

The life caravan will be in the car park for all Nursery school children to attend a session on learning how to look after their bodies. The Life Caravan staff will discuss healthy eating and exercise and the need to care for ourselves in order to stay healthy and safe. These sessions are a fun and interactive way for children to gain new knowledge.



## Road safety visits

The Bradford road safety team will be visiting to talk with children about staying safe. The sessions will be Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

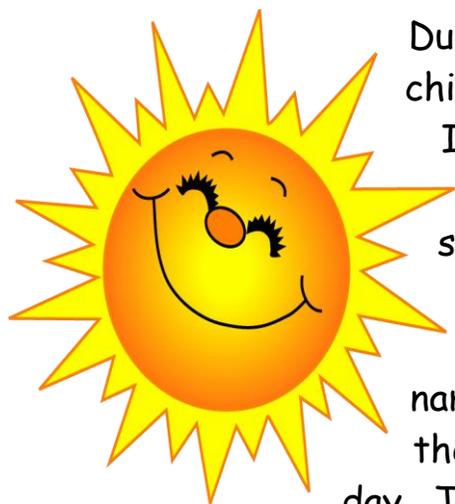
## School Governors



## Governor Vacancy

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 9<sup>th</sup> May 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!!

## 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. Thank you.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the recent questionnaires. Your opinions are important to us and help us to continue to shape our service to meet your needs. Below are some of things that we have actioned immediately in response to your comments:

### **You said**

We would like more variety of school meals

We would like to know more about how my children are progressing

We would like to know how to help children at home

### **We did**

Provided parents with the option of choosing meals in advance

Provided parents with copies of learning reviews and assessment information

Provided parents workshops every term covering all areas of the EYFS curriculum

Provide you with copies of our weekly learning reviews for individuals and ideas about how to promote learning at home

## You said

We would like to know more about what children do at Nursery

We would like regular consultations meetings for parents with teacher

We would like text updates about forthcoming events

We would like academic years to be aligned with Saltaire Primary

We would like to be able to pay on-line

We would like pick up times to be aligned with Saltaire Primary

## We did

Ensure that copies of all class planning (weekly and half termly) are on the website and in the half termly Newsletter

Allocated each child a Key Worker who communicates daily with parents & carers

Provide termly consultations

Update parents via Textround, social media (Twitter & Facebook)

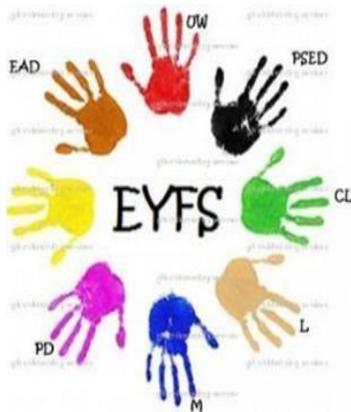
2018 - 19 calendars are aligned

Investigating the possibility of providing this facility

Investigating the interest in a later start and finish - possibly September 2018

## 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 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Personal, social and emotional development
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Communication and language
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Physical Development
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Early reading skills
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Early maths skills
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)

## Toys to school



Whilst we appreciate that some children need a toy / comfort item for security to come to school (and then these are placed out of reach until home time) could we please ask that general toys are kept at home for safe keeping? It is difficult to keep an eye on special toys and other children don't always understand that they are not toys for everyone to play with and this can cause upset and frustration. Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation.



## Easter raffle & chocolate tombola

Thank you to everyone who donated and bought tickets. We raised a total of £68.55.

## Refurbishment on a budget ....



We are hoping to submit a successful big lottery funded bid to refurbish the outdoor area, however until then we wondered if anybody might have any items that they no longer use and would be happy to donate to us? The things that would be most helpful are logs, wooden pallets, tyres, plastic jugs, pans, cutlery, wooden spoons, any natural materials - conkers, pine cones,

wooden twigs, tents, cushions, planters, buckets, spades, waterproof ground sheets, picnic benches, garden sheds, storage baskets or containers, paint brushes ..... thank you in advance if you are able to help. Collection could possibly be arranged if required.

We would also welcome any offers of manual labour - could you help us refurbish some of the areas? Do you have joinery or building skills? If so please get in touch.



Remember, remember .....

**CHEESE!**



**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Tempest Photography will be here. Each child will be photographed individually (if they are happy to be) during their normal Nursery session. If you would like a photograph of your child with their sibling/s, please come along before the start of your child's session (8.30 for morning session or 12.15 for afternoon session). We will provide a waiting area in

the Gallery.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May** - close for Spring Bank holiday

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - training day

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - school reopens

