



# Newsletter Newsletter

January 2020



**Welcome back to our returning children and a big hello to our new families starting this term. Wishing you a happy new year.**

## **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.



Thank you for the very generous Christmas gifts that we received. You were also very charitable in helping us raise a brilliant £25.10 on the Christmas jumper day.

Our Christmas Fayre was also a great success, thanks to everyone who donated and/or attended. We raised a huge £152.00. Thank you to all the staff and Governors who helped make the day so great. The community events are a fantastic way to getting to know more about each other and working together.

We have had some exciting staffing changes for the new year and the class teams are now:

N1	Rachel James Ruth Ball Angie Nash Sarah Taylor	Teacher (Monday to Wednesday AM) Teacher (Wednesday PM to Friday) EYP (Monday to Wednesday) EYP (Thursday and Friday)
N2	Sally Lofthouse Richelle Berdeni	Teacher Nursery Nurse
N3	Sam Renwick Ann McKerchar	Teacher EYP

We also welcome two new members staff – Jayne Holland, EYP will be working both in the classrooms and Sunshine Club (Wednesday to Friday) and Anda Priedite joins our Lunchtime Supervising Team. We have a rigorous recruitment process to ensure that our team consists of highly experienced early years professionals who work in partnership to ensure the very best provision for you and your child.

## 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 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.

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 or nuts 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.

## 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.

Stay and Learn sessions on the EYFS curriculum from 9.00 to 9.30

Date	Focus Area of the Curriculum
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Reading
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Phonics

## Parent / Carer consultations

We are offering parent/carers consultations for the January starters on the following dates:

Date	Teacher
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 3.45 – 6.00	Ruth (N1), Sally (N2) & Sam (N3)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 3.45 – 6.00	Rachel (N1), Sally (N2) & Sam (N3)

Please book an appointment on the schedule outside each room. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and learn more about how they spend their time at school. Please feel free to ask any questions.

### Key workers

Children thrive from a base of loving and secure relationships. This is normally provided by a child's parents but it can also be provided by a key person. A key person is a named member of staff with responsibilities for a small group of children who helps those children in the group feel safe and cared for. The role is an important one and an approach set out in the EYFS which is working successfully in settings and in Reception classes. It involves the key person in responding sensitively to children's feelings and behaviours and meeting emotional needs by giving reassurance, such as when they are new to a setting or class, and supporting the child's well-being.

That person is a familiar figure who is accessible and available as a point of contact for parents and one who builds relationships with the child and parents or carers. Whilst the class teacher has overall responsibility for the teaching, learning and development of all children in the class, the Keyworker responsibilities are split between the two members of staff in each room.

Records of Achievement are created and shared by the key person, their class colleague, parents and the child. We would encourage you to contribute to and look at your child's Record of Achievement on a regular basis.

We would love to know more about what you have been doing at home – have you visited relatives / been to a wedding / taken a family holiday??

Feel free to email photographs to [office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk](mailto:office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk) and we can print these off to be discussed during class groups and then included in your child's special book.



We are launching a new initiative in partnership with the Salvation Army called Recycle with Michael. This is a scheme that can raise money for School and for charity whilst raising awareness about recycling. When we organise a donation

day, they will send us collection bags for parents to fill with unwanted clothing and shoes and bring back to school and will then organise for a pick up. This will be followed by a report of how much we have donated and send a certificate for us to display. The money raised from the sale of our donations is split equally between The Salvation Army and our school. Our first organised collection day is **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**. Please pick up your bags from Reception.



### **NEW MATHS LENDING LIBRARY**

This works in the same relaxed way as the reading library, borrow a maths game, share and enjoy it at home, return it and take another.

### **Volunteering opportunities**

If you would like to know more about working in early years education we would love to hear from you. Our volunteers are supported with training to ensure that they get the most out of this valuable role.

We pay for the cost of an enhanced DBS check and are very flexible in terms of time commitments. Please let us know if you would like to support the teaching teams working with children.



**Remember, remember**

Snack charges are £7.00 per child per half term for 2.5 days or £14.00 per half term for those children attending 30 hours.

Lunch charge is 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](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/advice_benefits_and.../free_school_meals)

Don't forget to renew your 30 hour code if applicable

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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.

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**PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

**MUST** be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the latest

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**Half term**

School **closes** on Friday 14th February for half term

Holiday and we **re-open** on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

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