



Newsletter Newsletter



January 2018

Welcome back to our returning children and a big hello to our new families starting this term.

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.



Thank you for the very generous Christmas gifts that we received. You were also very charitable in helping us raise a brilliant £37.50 on the Christmas jumper day.

Children's learning and development

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 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.



We continue to offer our parent / carer workshops on various areas of learning. Each session will be on a Wednesday at 2.30 to 3.00 in the Gallery. The next dates and subjects are shown below. Places are limited, so please book early at Reception.

Wed 21 st Feb	Speech & language development
Wed 28 th Feb	Personal, social & emotional development
Wed 7 th March	Physical development
Wed 14 th March	Early reading
Wed 21 st March	Early writing

Parent / Carer consultations

We are offering parent/carers consultations for the January and April 2017 starters on the following dates:

Nursery 1 with Julie	Wednesday 31 st January
Nursery 2 with Jan	Friday 2 nd & Tuesday 6 th February

Please book an appointment on the schedule outside each room. At the review meeting you will also be presented with the 'Where are now' assessment form that shows your child's current level of development and ideas about the type of things you can do at home to support and extend their learning. 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. We will be sending home a list of who is your child's Key Person and this would be your first point of contact, however in terms of concerns - please speak with the class teacher first.

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 and we can print these off to be discussed during class groups and then included in your child's special book.



Please remember to let the class teacher know if you 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 car park is for staff and permit holders only. Thank you.

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 £1.50 per child per day - both payable at Reception. This 5p increase per day is with effect from 1.1.18 and imposed by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council rather than the school.

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)

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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

MUST be submitted by 15th January 2018 at the latest

Fluoride varnish

Authorisation session Wednesday 24th January sensory room
Applications Wednesday 31 January - this will be done during Nursery sessions for children (no need for parents to be present)

Half term

School **closes** on Friday 9th February for half term holiday
and we **re-open** on Monday 19th February.