



Newsletter Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2015

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 a book of the week in each classroom and also a rhyme of the week - copies are outside each room for you to take home and enjoy with your child.

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.

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.



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.

Records of Achievement

Your child's Record of Achievement is in a green folder on a shelf in each classroom. Please read it and share with your child as often as you can. It will help you understand not only the progress that is being made but also your child's developing interests and confidence. Parent consultations are held in November, March and July but you are encouraged to ask questions at pick up and drop off times or you can arrange to have a longer discussion at any time just ask the class teacher.

Children's Centre provision

We are now part of the Airedale & Wharfedale cluster run through Strong Close Nursery School and will continue to have groups here at Hirst Wood. Weekly timetables will be available in Reception. We will continue to provide Family Support and advice - please let us know if you would like to speak to someone.

Remember, remember

Snack charge is £7.00 per child per half term. Lunch charge is £1.40 per child per day - both 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

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.

Half term

School **closes** on Thursday 22nd October for a training day on Friday 23rd