



Newsletter Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023



Welcome back to our returning children and welcome to our new families starting this term, welcome to our School community.

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 uploaded to the website

https://www.hirstwoodnsc.co.uk/website/weekly_nursery_plan_for_parents/255843

sent via email (please ensure that we have your correct email address), displayed outside each classroom noticeboard, and the main noticeboard near the main Reception doors.

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. Staff work in partnership with children, skillfully and sensitively interacting to support and develop their learning. Children have access to both indoor and outdoor areas, and can move freely between any of the classrooms. We have some themed weeks planned across the year for each half term covering topics such as we unique, we are a community, we are scientists, we are artists, we are healthy and we are explorers. Hopefully these will inspire some different learning experiences and opportunities for children to engage with. We will, of course, keep you updated about school events, what is happening and when (either via email or text reminders), you can also see upcoming events on the weekly planning and on the website.

Planning and parental involvement

The planning for each Nursery classroom is displayed on the noticeboards outside the rooms. We have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hirstwoodnursery/> 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 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. The government has placed a high priority on the reduction of teacher workload therefore, we aim to spend less time working on an iPad recording observations on EYLog, therefore teaching teams will put more emphasis on being engaged in direct teaching and learning with your children. We hope you will support us in achieving these aims as staff wellbeing and work life balance is important.

Towards the end of the term we will be offering our usual parent consultations so we can share how well your child is doing, these are to be held Wednesday 1st and Tuesday 7th November between 3.30 and 6.00pm – sign-up sheets will be outside each classroom for each 10-minute appointment. In advance of the consultations, we will share with you our assessments of your child via EYLog and what wonderful things they can do. The purpose of assessment isn't about putting children into boxes, it is about celebrating their achievements and ensuring that our provision and interactions mean that they continue to make progress. For this purpose, we undertake a baseline assessment when 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 and teaching teams will explain how they have reached their judgements. 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. You should have received a copy of the Birth to 5 matters leaflet explaining the different stages – please let us know if you need a copy.

Please note that in order to offer everyone an appointment, the time is limited to 10 minutes per child. We will continue to offer these via communication calls as your feedback has told us that this is the most convenient method. If you are unable to make any of the times, or need an increased time allocation, please speak to the class teacher.

Staffing and provision

We are delighted that we have expanded our staff team and the range of services that we can offer. Teaching teams are listed below:

Jayne Taylor	Headteacher & SENDCo	
Samantha Renwick	Assistant Headteacher	
Maple	(Nursery 1 and 2 combined)	
Ruth Ball	Teacher (Monday to Thursday)	
Tina Alston	Teacher (Friday)	
Ruth Peacock	Early Years Practitioner	
Angie Nash	Early Years Practitioner	& Sunshine Club
Sarah Taylor	Early Years Practitioner	& Sunshine Club
Claire Hinchliffe	Early Years Practitioner	& Sunshine Club
Liam Glen	Teaching Assistant	& Sunshine Club
Sarah Richardson	Teaching Assistant	& Sunshine Club
Chestnut	(Nursery 3)	
Rebecca Simpson	Teacher	
Vanessa Keighley	Early Years Practitioner	
Trudy Buckroyd	Early Years Practitioner	
Laiba Ali	Teaching Assistant	

Woodlands**Rosy Vincenzi****Kath Zuchlinski****Melanie Mathers****Amy Whittingham****Grace Fortuna****Karen Dutton****Jayne Bennett****Anam Arzu****Enhanced Specialist Provision**

Teacher for SEND

Specialist Early Years Practitioner & Sunshine Club

Specialist Early Years Practitioner

Specialist Early Years Practitioner

Specialist Early Years Practitioner

Teaching Assistant & Sunshine Club

Teaching Assistant

Teaching Assistant

Our core hours are from 9.00 to 3.15 (half day Wednesday for 2.5-day children). Please could we ask that you try to keep to these times as much as possible, for some children arriving late in the session can be quite distressing. Whilst we understand that some parents have other children to collect, story time at the end of the day is a wonderful group activity for children to enjoy together so if children can stay until 3.15 that would be very much appreciated, thank you for your understanding.

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 school and the community we serve

We are privileged to have a diverse school community 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

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.

We are a safe, happy and creative school where excellent early education is our highest priority. We are inclusive in all that we do and place utmost importance on listening to and respecting one another. We strive to make a real difference to the children and families of Bradford and aim to enable and support you and your child to achieve all that you can. We use real, exciting, interesting experiences both indoors and outdoors, to inspire the awe and wonder that young children have such capacity for. We allow children to delight in discovering and experiencing the world around them which we hope will develop into a lifelong love of learning.

We have high expectations of our children and through nurturing their confidence and self-belief we encourage them to have high expectations of themselves. Equally we have high expectations of ourselves, we aim to be approachable, respectful and professional. We consider it a privilege to be part of your life.

Children's learning and development

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2021) 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

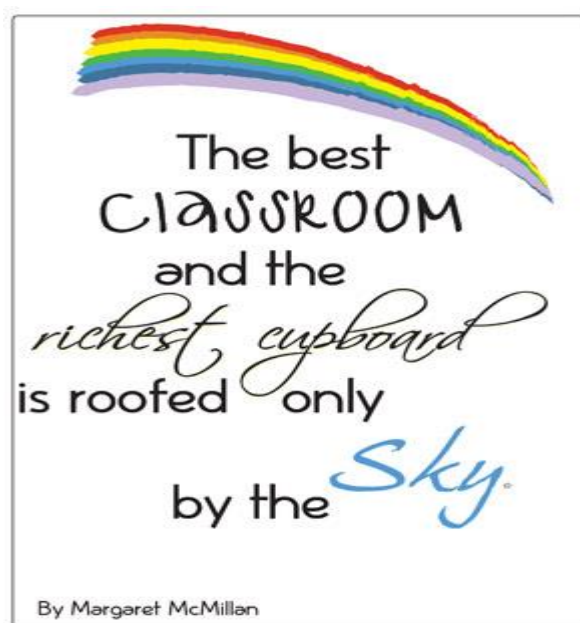
Learning is often a social experience where children learn from each other, learn how to be with each other and learn new skills and ideas. Each child's individual needs are identified by observing them in their play and using this as the basis for our planning. We hope that children develop an awareness 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. Children develop quickly in the early years, staff aim to do all they can to help children have the best possible start in life. A child's experiences in the Early Years have a major impact on their future life chances.

The curriculum is about the all-round development of children. Everything that your child does, sees, hears, touches, smells and tastes is the curriculum because this is the way she/he learns about their world. The way in which children engage with other people and their environment is through playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically. Play is a very important part of all children's development; play and learning cannot be divided during the earliest years. Everything in the environment has been put there for a purpose, to help children acquire the skills they need.

Children have access to a variety of materials including sand, water, paint, collage materials, large and small construction sets, large and small role play areas, music resources, books, mark-making, jigsaws, dough, maths games and ICT equipment.

We offer a wide range of curriculum enrichment such as yoga, dough disco, Forest schools, gardening club and all of these are a sequence of skills and experiences that are built up over time. When your child participates in additional opportunities we will also send home a parent guide so that you can support and extend this learning at home. Our timetable for enrichment for the first half term is shown below – these will be rotated half termly to ensure equality of opportunity. Each enrichment will be accompanied by a parental information leaflet highlighting the intended benefits and some ideas of how you can implement these at home.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday AM	Wednesday PM	Friday
Music and movement (Angie)	Storytellers (Vanessa)	All Aboard (Ruth P) Dough Disco (Liam)	All Aboard (Ruth P) Forest School (Ruth B & Liam)	Gardening Club (Sarah T)



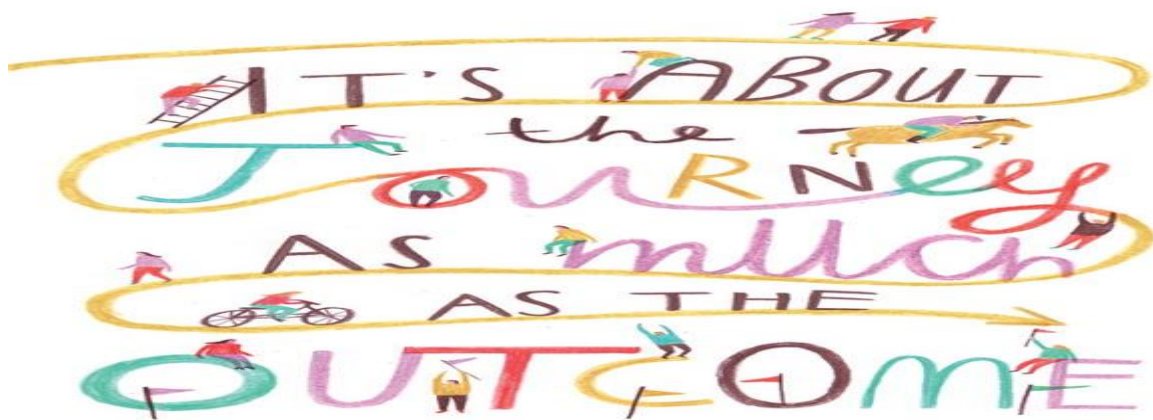
Learning outside

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 (can we recommend that you write your child's name inside any equipment that belongs to you).

Outdoors children can run, climb, explore natural and reclaimed resources, use wheeled toys and take care of the garden. Children are encouraged to make their own choices. Children's spiritual and moral development is an important aspect of their whole development.

We foster this through giving children opportunities to share the wonder of the world, e.g. looking at the beauty in the world around them, a new baby, animals, flowers; helping them develop responsibility towards friends, other people and the environment.

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 arrived.



Our intention is to empower children by providing an environment that encourages thinking and offers opportunities to explore a range of experiences and ideas.

If you would like a copy of our full school improvement plan for 2023-24, please email office@hirstwoodnscc.co.uk

Safeguarding

Please ensure that we have up to date contact numbers for you and emergency contacts; if anyone has changed their mobile phone number, please let us know so that we can update our records. If your child is ill, please let us know on the first day of absence by telephoning 01274 584368 explaining the reason. If someone else is going to be collecting your child, please let us know and give the nominated person a password, that you will also share with us so that we can check their identity. **We are a NUT FREE ZONE and would ask that you do not send children with snacks or sweets in their bag.**

For spare clothes, please do not use plastic or draw string bags as these are potentially dangerous for children.

If your child needs any medication administering (prescribed or otherwise), a Medicines Agreement Form must be completed in advance, and the medication must be handed to the teaching team (not in children's bags please). For any longer-term medical support, we would ask that you complete a care plan with the teacher. If your child has any allergies, please let us know, specifically if these related to food items.

Please note that the use of mobile phones is prohibited in the School building – thank you for your cooperation.

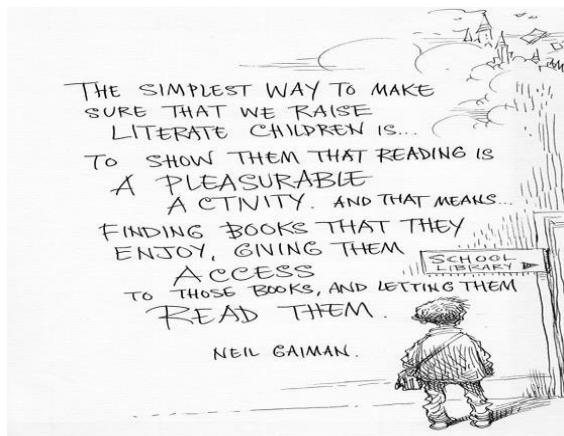
Snack

Snack is offered to children both in the morning and in the afternoon. Snack is usually a rotation of fruit, bread sticks, oat cakes, cream crackers, digestives, cucumber, peppers etc. We will provide envelopes for you to make a half termly voluntary contribution please.

Lunch

We are happy to accommodate all dietary requirements – please let us know your preference. We collect lunch money on behalf of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, which at present, is £1.90 per day. As our numbers have grown, we are now able to offer payment via card using ParentPay. A letter will be distributed explaining how this will work.

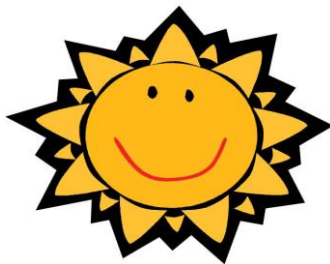
Lending libraries



We have expanded our range of resources for you to borrow. As always, we have the children's reading book lending library in the main corridor and each child should have a book bag. We have also started an adults lending library – please feel free to borrow and if possible, donate a book. This is located next to the children's book library.

At the beginning of the corridor we have a new maths library which is stocked with games, puzzles and jigsaws for you to enjoy at home. Please take a game, return it, swap and continue ... enjoy.

The Sunshine Club



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 sunshineclub@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk. We are very competitively priced with half days @ £13.75 and full days @ £25.00. Many parents use this opportunity to add on an extra half day to the Wednesday for 15-hour (2.5 day) children. Please ask about availability. 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 which includes a hot vegetarian meal.

Autumn term dates to remember

Training days (closed to children) Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September

Children return Wednesday 6th September

Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th September, 3.30 to 4.30 School Meal taster session. Please sign up if you'd like to experience the delicious food that your child enjoys for lunch.

Week commencing 2ndrd October – “we are unique” themed week. This includes a visit from Wise Owl, birds of prey on Wednesday 4th, both morning and afternoon for all children to participate.

“We are all, each and every one, unique in the Universe. And that uniqueness is what makes us valuable.”

~ James A. Owen ~



Close for half term Friday 20th October

Children return Monday 30th October

Wednesday 1st and Tuesday 7th November – communication calls between 3.30 and 6pm – please sign up for an appointment outside each classroom

Wednesday 15th November

Children in Need cake sale – all donations and purchases welcome. Children are welcome to wear spots a la Pudsey Bear.

3.30 to 4.00 Nursery at Night – please book on at Reception

Please could we ask for a parent volunteer to come to talk to the children about Diwali?

Week commencing 28th November – “we are a community” themed week.

Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th December – Christmas parties

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Jumper day (donations being collected for NSPCC)

Close for Christmas Friday 15th December

Training day (closed to children) Tuesday 2nd January 2023

Children return Wednesday 3rd January

