



Newsletter

February 2022



Teaching and Learning

What is your child doing at School? How do children learn?

Welcome back, we hope that you enjoyed your February half term break. We have lots of exciting things planned for this half term, some of which is detailed below. Children learn by observing, listening, exploring, experimenting, taking risks and asking questions. Play is the best way to offer them these hands-on experiences. Open-ended resources, natural materials like mud, wood, leaves are perfect for developing the brain. They develop children's creative thinking, problem solving skills, sensory awareness, fine and gross motor skills, social skills, mathematical and literacy skills as well as being lots of fun! Weekly class planning is displayed in our large noticeboard outside, and on the website, which gives an overview of the book and rhyme of the week, our Makaton sign and a synopsis of the enticing teaching and learning opportunities that will be available. We offer a wide range of curriculum enrichment such as Dough Disco, Forest School, All Aboard, Yoga and music and movement. When you child participates in one of these sessions, you will receive a parent's handout about how to support and extend this at home.

"Play is the highest form of research" - Albert Einstein

"Play is the work of a child" - Maria Montessori

As well as your child's Learning Journey on EYLog, the staff put photographs on our Facebook page and on Twitter showing the wide range of activities the children have been participating in and explaining the learning that has been taking place. It will be very useful to you as parents to look at these, especially during current times when you are unable to come into the School to see what they have been doing as a group.

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.

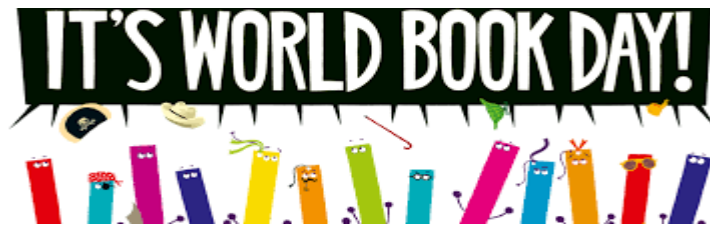
We are hoping for sunshine in the near future so please let us know if your child cannot tolerate us using our own sun cream protection and you would prefer to provide your own in a labelled container.

Please ensure that you do not send any food or drinks with children or in their bags as we have pupils with severe allergies. Thank you.



Would you be interested in being a parent governor?

The School has a Governing Body that guide and shape the development of our services and parental voice is vital. We meet every half term, on a Tuesday at 6pm (meetings usually last no more than 1.5 hours). Free training and a mentor are provided. We are a friendly and supportive group of 9. Please email Jayne.taylor@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk if you would like to know more about this role. We'd love to hear from you.



World book day Wednesday 2nd March

We will be hosting bedtime story sessions at school – please send your child to School in their pajamas with a copy of their favourite book. What about creating a cosy reading area at home to share your favourite books? Please send us photographs or videos of you reading together, either via EYLog or email to office@hirstwoodnscc.co.uk.

We will be having a **DEAR** day, **D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead. Each child will receive a £1 book token that you can redeem at most book shops.

Week commencing 14th March

We will be sending home lots of new rhymes for you to learn and enjoy together with instructions on how to complete the challenge, obtain your certificate and enroll your child at the local library.



Red nose day Wednesday 16th March

Please come to school wearing red. There will be lots of fun activities and all donations are welcome for this good cause.

The Flouride Varnish team are here Wednesday 27th April – please return your electronic authorisation as soon as possible should you wish to participate.



Week commencing 21st March is ART week.

There will be a wide range of artistic opportunities on offer such as a visiting artist who will work with the children. We will be exploring different types of art such as music and movement, working with different media and creative exploration.

Safeguarding

Please let us know if you change your mobile numbers, and those of any emergency contacts. If you could also please let us know in advance if anyone different is picking your child up. If you could let us (and the person collecting) have a bespoke password so that we can confirm their identity.



Log in to your childcare account every **3** months to check your details are up to date. Go to gov.uk/childcareaccount



Don't forget to renew your 30-hour code (if you are eligible) before 31st March please



Eco Schools is an international award programme that guides school on their sustainable journey. We are hoping to be accredited for our ecological awareness so will be sharing with you lots of ways to achieve this.



School closes for Easter Friday
8th and re-opens Mon 25th
April
Happy holidays!

