



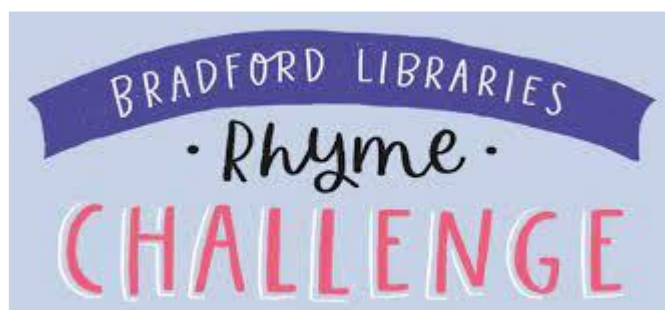
Newsletter

February 2023



Teaching and Learning

Welcome back, we hope that you enjoyed your February half term break. We have lots of exciting things planned for this half term, all of which are detailed in this publication. We will be sending out your child's assessment data via EYLog and have dates scheduled for communication calls. We have decided to maintain the present system of these being undertaken via the telephone rather than in person as your feedback is that it is proving more convenient. There will be sign up sheets outside each classroom, but for you to plan ahead the dates are Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 22nd March between 3.30 and 6.00pm. If this is not convenient for you please let us know and we would appreciate if you could adhere to the time slot as we have limited time and lots of parents to speak to. If you'd like another time to discuss anything in further detail, please email office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk and we will make the necessary arrangements.



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. Don't forget that you can take home a copy of our Rhyme of the Week outside each classroom.



World book day Wednesday 1st March

We will be sending home little books for you and your child to design the front cover to return back to School to share with their peers. How about creating a reading area at home to share your favourite books – please send us photographs of you reading together, either via EYLog or email to office@hirstwoodnscc.co.uk. We will be having a **DEAR** day, **Drop Everything And Read**. Each child will receive a £1 book token that you can redeem at most book shops.



Here's a brief list of books that we'd recommend for children aged 3 to 4 years:

A Bit Lost / Baby Goes to Market / The Gigantic Turnip / The Gruffalo / Jasper's Beanstalk / Little Rabbit Foo Foo / Not Now Bernard / Oliver's Vegetables / Owl Babies / Peace At Last / Rosie's Walk / Run away Chapati / So Much / The Tiger Who Came to tea / The Very Hungry Caterpillar / We're going on a bear hunt / Where's My Teddy / Where The Wild Things Are

Don't forget that we also have our Adults Lending Library in the main corridor – feel free to borrow a book.

Week commencing 13th March is ART week.

There will be a wide range of artistic opportunities on offer. Salt Pots are coming in to work with the children using the medium of clay on Wednesday 15th. We will also be exploring different types of art such as music and movement, working with different media and creative exploration. There will be two themed lunches on Tuesday & Thursday.



“There’s no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes” a Scandinavian statement suggests.

Our outdoor play area is open daily throughout the year - whatever the weather, wellies and waterproofs are provided. Outdoor play and outdoor learning are the cornerstones of our curriculum. From our ‘mud kitchen’ to our Forest School and gardening club, the great outdoors plays an integral part in the learning and development of all the children who come through our doors. When children engage with nature they learn to respect the natural environment and realise their relationship with it. Different sensory experiences allow them to make and form connections, not just with nature, but with their own emotions too. All our spaces are full of positive energy while being safe, secure and risk assessed. Providing children with an element of risk aids in their development allowing them to make better judgement calls in later life. Every space is full of intrigue and gives the children the freedom and space they need to explore and go on their own adventures.

We challenge children to explore their own physical limits, and make their own risk assessments which are developmentally appropriate preparations for them when they push their physical boundaries later in life. Every day there will be a different learning provocation set up, a world of wonder and investigation awaits. Play comes naturally and spontaneously to children. We are very lucky that our children have access to plenty of space and time to play both outdoors and indoors. The range of different areas in our outdoor space is a place where children feel confident, are willing to try things out and know that their effort is acknowledged and valued. Being outdoors offers opportunities to do things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. Our outdoor environment offers children freedom to explore, use their senses, be physically active and exuberant within a safe and well-resourced provision. Please ensure that children are dressed appropriately, even though we have wellies and waterproofs, we can’t ensure that they will come home as clean as when you sent them to School - thank you.

**“The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky”
Margaret McMillan**



Red nose day Friday 17th March

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

Staffing updates

We are delighted to introduce some new members of the team, Laura Doolin and Amy Whittingham join us as Teaching Assistants. Aly (Alessandra) replaces Eileen as kitchen Manager. Kelly Ward has joined her family company and we wish her the very best in a new role and career direction, she is in the process of being replaced and once our safer recruitment process is completed we will let you know who our new colleague is. We know that you will welcome our new colleagues as they get to know your children and the routines of the School.

Primary School Allocations

You should receive notification of your Primary School allocation on 17th April 2023. If anyone is unhappy with their allocation, we are happy to support with advice and guidance about the Appeal Process.

Polite reminder

School finishes at 3.15. We do have Sunshine Club available until 5.45 if you require after school provision. We often have meetings after School so it is important that colleagues are released to attend these, therefore please could we suggest that if you have children attending another Primary School, that you collect your child from Hirst Wood first as we have lots of children waiting until 3.30 – thank you for your understanding.

Snack donations are much appreciated as School covers this cost. Dinner money can be paid weekly, monthly, half termly – to suit you, via cash or cheque payable to Bradford Metropolitan Council.

School closes for Easter on Thursday 30th March and
re-opens Mon 17th April
Happy holidays!

