



# Newsletter

June 2023



## Teaching and Learning

Welcome back, we hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing Spring Bank break.

We are starting to work with the Primary Schools who will be welcoming your children in September. We have already had some visits and individual schools should be contacting you about what other transitional arrangements they are offering such as stay and play, stay for lunch, open evenings. The receiving schools will also be provided with a copy of your child's leavers report and their final assessment data. All these documents will, of course, be shared with you towards the end of next term. We will also have some special celebrations planned for children in school as some of them prepare to move on to the next part of their educational journey. We have two picnics planned for both Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. We are also hosting a Graduation event on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 3.30 to 4.30. We will be sending out invitations with more details nearer the time but please save the date.

For those children who are leaving us, please see the link below about what we feel are important in terms of 'school readiness'. This is formed on a whole child approach and covers predominantly the personal, social and emotional skills that will support children as they move to a new setting. Some children suffer from increased anxiety when there is lots of talk about transitions, it may be worth considering how soon you start to talk to your child about moving school.

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/being-school-ready/>

For children who are returning in September we will be offering 10-minute communication call appointment to discuss your child's latest assessment profile and how we can work together to ensure that they are happy and making progress. The dates are Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July between 3.30 and 4.45 – there are sign up sheets outside each classroom. If you are unable to make any of these times, please email [office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk](mailto:office@hirstwoodnsc.co.uk)

For those children who are leaving us to join Saltaire Primary, please let us know if you would like to continue the before & after school provision at Sunshine Club so we can ensure a place is reserved.

## **What is the curriculum?**

The curriculum is everything we want the children to experience and learn whilst they are in nursery. Learning includes new words, new skills and new knowledge. Experiences include trips out of nursery, times when we invite people in, like the balance bikes or the Life Caravan. We also have special extra experiences in School such as the caterpillars this half term and our regular themed weeks.

Children learn a great deal of our curriculum through play and activities of their own choosing. They also learn through our careful selection of 'books and rhymes of the week' that we highlight on our short-term weekly planning.

## **How do young children learn? How do we teach young children?**

We have lots of evidence about how young children learn. Here are some of the key points:

- **Language:** chatting, playing and reading with children every day helps them learn lots of new words. Language is the foundation of children's thinking. Children who are good communicators at five are most likely to be successful learners throughout their time in school.
- **Relationships:** it is very important for children to feel safe and secure. That's why every child has a key person within the staff team. Children become more independent when they have strong and loving relationships to fall back on. They also become better at developing emotional resilience when they find something hard, or get upset, angry or frustrated.
- **Independent play:** children need uninterrupted time to choose their own play and make friends. Adults will often get involved, in a sensitive way, to help the children to learn whilst they are playing. Adults will think about the important knowledge children need and how they can learn this whilst they are playing.
- **Adult-guided play:** children also need times when adults plan and guide their play. A play activity might be guided so it has a clear focus on learning to count, for example.
- **Direct teaching:** sometimes adults work directly with children to teach them new things. This could include learning to use scissors, or ride a bike, or writing some of the letters of their name.

## How can parents support children's learning?

Our partnership with parents is an integral part of our ethos. You know so much about your child and your ongoing support and encouragement will make a big difference to their learning. We regularly share photographs, videos and ideas for home learning via EYLog and our parental handouts of our enrichment groups. You can get some more ideas from this website covering various topics <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/learning-to-talk/3-to-5-years/>



### THE WORLD

#### **“We are explorers” week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> June**

We will be looking at a range of different experiences such as the caterpillars that will be temporarily residing in each classroom whilst we watch them change. If you could please let us know where you or your child were born, where you've lived, where you've travelled to on holiday or for work (or where you'd like to go). Perhaps you'd like to dress your child in the traditional outfits of a particular country. We will have two themed lunches that week – menu to follow. Children do not separate their experiences into play and learning since they

learn as they play and can have fun while they learn; there are therefore many contexts for children's learning. Recognising that different contexts encourage different types of play and exploration is a key factor in providing suitable experiences to support both children's transient and long-term interests. When children show such long-term interests' colleagues can build on the opportunities offered by inspiring children's investigations, providing further ideas or resources and recognising that children need time to explore at their own speed.

Tina, teacher in Maple on Friday is collecting books for a School in Gambia that her friend (ex Headteacher of Lilycroft Nursery School) is supporting. All donations of unwanted books for children aged 0 to 6 years would be very much appreciated. Please donate by leaving your books at the office – thank you.



Your views are important to us; therefore, if you could spare the time to complete to complete a brief questionnaire about Hirst Wood on Survey Monkey via this link, we would very much like to hear from you.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N96BVSL>

**Remember, remember - dates for your diary**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Ian's mobile farm visit (outside in the car park)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July (for leaving children only)**

3.30 – 4.30 Graduation ceremony

**We close for Summer break on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

We hope that you all enjoy a restful break, stay happy and healthy

Training days Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, school reopens to returning children  
on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September



The time has come to say goodbye, each day has been filled with fun,  
Always happy and busy but for some our time together is done  
We have read so many stories, and sang so many songs  
From start to finish so many different weeks,  
what an adventure we've come along

We watched you going home covered in paint, or top to toe in mud  
We hope you will agree the endless choice of learning opportunities  
is really what makes it a very special Hirst Wood

Thank you for choosing to be a valuable part of our school  
community