



Newsletter Newsletter

February 2025



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. Claire Fagan is joining Maple class on Thursday and Friday, we are sure that you will make her feel welcomed as part of the Hirst Wood community.

We plan activities, experiences and provocations to meet needs identified from observation and assessment, and extend children's learning through to be involved, as far as possible, in reviewing the way they learn, what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn. This supports the development of positive self-esteem whilst also promoting children to see themselves as positive and successful learners.

We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, and to be involved, as far as possible, in reviewing the way they learn, what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn. We provide a rich and varied learning environment, planning sequenced and vocabulary rich learning in all areas of the curriculum and allowing children to learn in a variety of ways, with a balance of child and adult initiated learning.

We aim to develop the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning through our teaching:

- Finding out and exploring
- Using what they know in their play
- Being willing to have a go
- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping on trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

Our curriculum is extended through

- Planning in the moment for child-initiated learning during free flow play which builds on opportunities for sustained shared thinking
- Maths and phonics group time
- Action songs and nursery rhymes to build up vocabulary and understanding of rhyme and rhythm
- All staff are experienced in using Makaton and this is implemented to support routines and transition throughout the day.

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

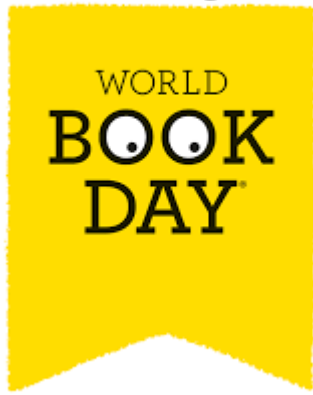
Margaret McMillan

We equally value learning outdoors, and believe that being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and on their development. We plan for learning outdoors across the curriculum and children have access to the outdoor learning environment throughout most of the day. 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. 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.

Celebrating with

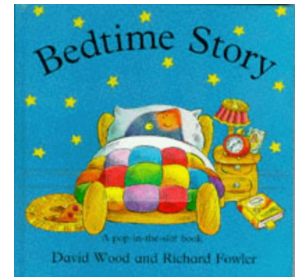


World book day Wednesday 5th March

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, **D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead. Each child will receive a £1 book token that you can redeem at most book shops (check their pigeon hole for your token).

Bedtime story session – Wednesday 5th March from 3.30 to 4.15

On World Book Day we will be hosting a bedtime story session with hot chocolate and biscuits. Please email office@hirstwoodnscc.co.uk if you'd like to attend.



READING SHOULD NOT BE
PRESENTED TO CHILDREN AS A
CHORE, OR A DUTY.
IT SHOULD BE OFFERED
AS A GIFT.
- KATE DICAMILLO

BilingualKidspot.com

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. Traditional tales such as Goldilocks, Jack and the beanstalk are also extremely valuable.

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

"We are Scientists" week commencing 10th March

We will be undertaking a variety of scientific experiments, plus some for you to try at home. Please send photographs and comments via EYLog. Perhaps you could devise your own investigations.



Communication calls (parental consultations)

We will be sending out your child's assessment data via EYLog and have dates 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 Wednesday 12th and 19th March between 3.30 and 6.00pm. If this is not convenient for you please let us know. 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.



Red nose day Friday 21st March

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

Primary School Allocations for September 2025

You should receive notification of your Primary School allocation on 16th April 2025. If anyone is unhappy with their allocation, we are happy to support with advice and guidance about the Appeal Process. We look forward to working with your child's new School to support a positive transition.

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. Lunch money can be paid weekly, monthly, half termly – to suit you, via ParentPay directly to Bradford Council.



Easter lunches
Tuesday 1st and Thursday 3rd April

School closes Thursday 3rd as we have
a training day Friday 4th.
We reopen Tuesday 22nd April.

