



HILLSIDE

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**Hillside Nursery Newsletter February
2023**

Message from Mrs Middler



Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to remind you that Aberdeenshire's admission to Primary One and Early Learning and Childcare application periods have now ended, but please be aware that the links provided in our January 2023 sway newsletter will continue to remain open for any late applications should there be any. Please also feel free to continue to reach out to Mrs Grieve or myself should you have any queries regarding this application process or are unsure of your options for academic year 2023-2024.

*I know the Christmas period has also passed, but I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for their patience and support whilst we trialed our Christmas performance of **'The Three Bears'**. The children were absolutely brilliant and we could not have been prouder, they were all superstars!*

*Thank you too to all of the parents and carers who joined us for the Play and Learning session today, **Tuesday 7th February 2023**. This was a great opportunity to explore the context of learning through play and staff were able to provide real examples of what these experiences look like for young children here at Hillside. Please don't worry if you missed this session, we have a QR code containing all 'Book Creators' used for this event and there are also a few leaflets available to take home which can be found in the children's cloakroom area. We hope you find this information useful and feel free to provide feedback on this session, or share any thoughts on future session themes in the google form document supplied in the **'Question of the Month'** section of this newsletter.*

Maryanne Middler

Early Years Senior Practitioner

Nursery Staffing Update



Unfortunately we have had another staffing reshuffle over the past few weeks so would like to let you all know that Miss Macloed and Mrs Raby have now moved on due to family commitments and new work opportunities. Miss Sutherland is also due to move on next week after her recent successful interview to become an Early Years Practitioner at Newtonhill Nursery, and Mrs Nelson is delighted to finally be starting her new role as a Community Project Worker later this month. This is fantastic news for our colleagues and we would like to wish everyone the best of luck on their new ventures!

To support with these changes, Mrs Clarke will take on more EYLP hours which will maintain continuity and we are currently advertising our other vacancies so will be accessing support via our relief EYPs in the interim. So far we have been able to enlist regular support from Mrs Brown, Mrs Forbes, Miss Sutherland, Ms Lindsay and Ms Taylor which is fantastic news due to the rapport these EYPs already have with our children and families.

Your assigned EYLP will be in touch to discuss any changes to keyworker should you be directly impacted by this staffing reshuffle and we shall inform everyone in due course as we induct all new staff members into the setting.

1140 Session Timings



Morning Sessions

8am-8.15am (Extended drop off)

8.45am-9am (Core drop off)

11.40am-11.55am (Core collection)

12.30pm-1pm (Extended collection)

Afternoon Sessions

1pm-1.15pm (Drop off for all)

3.25pm (Early collection)

3.55pm-4.10pm (Core collection)

5.30-6pm (Extended collection)

****We kindly ask for families to stick to the drop off and collection times they have selected to support us to ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained across the day****

Birthday Celebrations



We appreciate that birthdays are a significant event in our young children's lives so look forward to celebrating this occasion in nursery by way of a group gather and a sing song. However, due to sector guidance staff are discouraged from accepting party cakes or favours for distribution and would appreciate your support on this matter.

Children's Bags



This is a reminder for all parents/carers to check children's bags and belongings before heading home at the end of every session. This is because it is not always possible for staff to alert every parent/carer to every change that occurs throughout the day so it may be advantageous to check for any changes of clothes/items requiring replenishment daily to avoid anything being missed or forgotten. This is particularly important over a weekend or holiday period.

Question of the Month - February 2023



Please see below a link to our February question of the month relating to our nursery improvement priority area 1 - **Increased parental and community engagement, through increased staff leadership**. Your views are important to us and we will use your feedback as part of our ongoing self-evaluation process.

Family Voice to Support Nursery Planning & Experiences

As part of our work towards our 2022/2023 Nursery Improvement Plan target of further developing planning approaches within the nursery, we would like to invite you to reflect on the experiences and opportunities you have been given to support parental and community engagement since August 2022. Please also share your thoughts on future session opportunities that you feel may be beneficial moving forwards.

<https://forms.gle/XAtrdP9aae19GNkQ6>



1 - Important Dates

Wednesday 8th February 2023 - Occasional Day (closed for children)

Thursday 9th February 2023 - Occasional Day (closed for children)

Friday 10th February 2023 - Occasional Day (closed for children)

Monday 13th February 2023 - Midterm Holiday (closed for staff or children)

Tuesday 14th February 2023 - INSET (closed for children)

Wednesday 15th February 2023 (closed for children)

Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April 2023 - Spring Break

All Year Provision - Monday 10th April - Easter Monday (closed for staff or children)

Nursery Contact Details



EYSP: Maryanne Middler

DHT: Gemma Grieve

EYLP: Debbie McDermott and Kirsty Clarke

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Interactive Learning Diary: <https://www.interactivelearningdiary.co.uk/>