



# HILLSIDE school

Hillside Nursery Newsletter November  
2022

Message from Mrs Grieve

# Hello.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to November's Nursery Newsletter. With Christmas quickly creeping up on us, we wanted to take this opportunity to share dates for the diary to enable you to plan ahead. We are excited to have all of our opportunities back 'in person' this session, including a wee performance.

As you will know from our nursery improvement plan and curriculum information that we shared last month, we use a child-led, play based approach to learning. Our nursery team have reflected on our traditional nursery Christmas performances and have used our imaginations to create a more child-centred developmental approach for this Christmas. We wanted to share the rationale behind this with you before inviting you to join the fun with your child.

This year we will have 4 performances each with up to 22 children in them. **There is a sign up sheet available at the nursery entrance for you to sign your child up to one performance. Please choose a slot that your child attends nursery in if there is one.** Each performance will take place in the school community room and will be entitled 'Goldilocks and the 3 bears at Christmas.' Over the coming weeks the children will develop a floor book which will enable them to explore Christmas changes that could be made to the traditional tale that they are all familiar with following recent immersion in nursery. They will then ad lib to create and perform the story and some Christmas songs, supported by staff and parents at the show. Seats will be in a circle with the children in the middle and parents will be invited to engage with and support their child at their level. **We ask, due to space that only one adult per child attends, however we will film all of the performances and share them on ILD for you to celebrate at home with the wider family.**

Thank you very much for all of the fantastic and useful responses to the planning input that we shared with parents last week. If you have yet to return this or would like another copy please ask a member of nursery staff.

Finally, we have recently noticed an increase in precious toys/items from home in nursery. Please check what your child is bringing into nursery to ensure that it is appropriate for playing with in nursery.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Gemma Grieve

Depute Head Teacher

Hillside School

## Message from Mrs Middler



Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to offer a very kind welcome to the families who joined us this term, we are delighted to have you with us and hope you are enjoying a wonderful first few weeks here at Hill Side School Nursery. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the nursery team if you have any questions or queries regarding your child's time with us and do keep an eye on your child's ILD for regular keyworker updates.

I would also like to say a big thank you to those who joined us for our curriculum evening back in September. We hope you found the evening (and follow up email for those who were not able to attend) informative and helpful. All feedback gained during the evening was collated and reflected upon, and you will find a display of all questions and responses on our nursery window for your perusal. As always, please continue to ask questions or to offer feedback at any time using our parents feedback box in the cloakroom area, by communicating directly with staff, or by phone or email.

I am pleased to share with you that our **community larder** and **book exchange library** have also both got off to a great start and we are absolutely blown away by all the kind donations that have been coming through. Please **do** keep those donations coming in, and please **do** continue to keep using these fantastic incentives! They are for the whole community so please make sure you **give and receive** from both.

Donations have also begun to come in from our nursery **Wish Tree** which has already had a great impact on the provision and the experiences the nursery team are able to provide for your children. The **Wish Tree** incentive has been created to support the setting to effectively respond to children's learning directives and interests, and we are delighted by level of support we have received, and continue to receive, from our families. We replenish our **Wish Tree** requests frequently so please

feel free to browse the tree for new requests at any drop off or collection time. The tree can be found in the cloakroom area beside the parent feedback box.

Finally, our **Explorer Book Bug** packs have arrived for our **3-year-old** children. Our practitioners are currently exploring these packs with the children during November, and we expect the packs to come home in the next few weeks.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming families back into setting over the festive period so please remember to sign up to one of our nursery Christmas performances if you can [📅](#).

Maryanne Middler

Early Years Senior Practitioner



1 - Community Larder



2 - Community Library

## Nursery Staffing Update



We would like to introduce Miss Macloed (EYP) and Mrs Raby (EYP) as the most recent recruits to the Hillside Nursery team. Miss Macloed will be working alongside Miss Bradley on a fixed term bases, and Mrs Raby has taken on a full time permanent position and is very excited to meet all of our families next week. We would also like to let you know that Miss Smith will be taking a short period of absence from **Thursday 17th November 2022 until the end of term** so Mrs Clarke (EYLP) will be increasing her hours to ensure continuity for our families, but you may also see a few new faces by way of relief staffing on a Tuesday and Thursday. We will sensitively introduce any new relief staff members to the children and families over this period but please be assured that we have a great rapport with our relief team and hope to secure regular staffing to cover these days.

## 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\*

## Clothing Reminder



Please provide your child with suitable clothes for the weather on a daily basis. We use our outdoor area throughout the session (rain, sleet, snow and sun) and so it is important that your child is wearing layers if possible so that they are prepared for every weather eventuality. Please also remember to label ALL removeable items so that staff can match these items to the right child at the end of each session.

## Nursery Catering



From 1st August 2021, the Scottish Government have covered all catering costs for children in receipt of ELC funding. This means that the children are now enjoying a complimentary light snack, lunch or high tea whilst attending their usual nursery session. The menu is displayed on the nursery window for your perusal. We are happy to accommodate packed lunches where preferred, but please remain mindful that we are a NO NUT provision and that we no longer have the capacity to store packed lunches in the fridge. It is therefore advised that all packed lunches contain an appropriate cool pack to help maintain a safe storage temperature in line with food safety guidance and advice. For ideas on creating packed lunches that are healthy and nutritious, please see the following guidance [Setting the Table \(NHS Health Scotland\)](#)



## Question of the Month - November 2022



Please see below a link to our November 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**

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, both on your own and alongside your child, on their current learning at home and in nursery and would love if you could take the time to share some ideas for us to implement in our nursery planning. It's lovely to share the wider experiences and interests of the children and for them to build on them with their friends in nursery. One child's experience can spark excitement and learning for all!

<https://forms.gle/D2gaYxtv9RwB6gP57>

# MEDICATION



Please read our Infection Control Policy (posted on the school website). We would be very grateful if you could complete the link below to confirm you have read this policy.

<https://forms.gle/pVeUg7vyzWtMAobi9>



3 - Important Dates

***\*Please note that all nursery children will receive an invite to the nursery Christmas performance and the nursery Christmas party, but due to the complexity of individual session selections, it is not feasible for every child to participate in every seasonal event or experience. Consideration has therefore been given to ensuring stand alone events and experiences have been fairly distributed across the full spectrum of the week\****

Monday 14th November 2022 - Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 16th November 2022 - Children in Need - Spotacular - children to welcome to come in spots and to bring donation if they wish

Thursday 17th November 2022 - INSET (no nursery for children)

Friday 18th November 2022 - INSET (no nursery for children)

Thursday 1st December 2022 - School Christmas Fayre - 5.30pm-7pm - enter via main school door

Tuesday 13th December & Thursday 15th December 2022 - Nursery Christmas Performances - SEE DETAILS ABOVE

Tuesday 20th December 2022 - Nursery Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 20th December 2022 - Nursery Christmas Parties

Wednesday 21st December 2022 - School Panto (AM) / Christmas Movie Day

Thursday 22nd December 2022 - Reindeer Visit

Friday 23rd December 2022 - Last Day of Term

Monday 26th Dec 2022 -Friday 6th Jan 2023 - Christmas Break

Monday 9th January 2023 - Term 3 Starts

## Nursery Contact Details



EYSP: Maryanne Middler

DHT: Gemma Grieve

EYLP: Debbie McDermott, Errin Nelson and Kirsty Clarke

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