



HILLSIDE

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Hillside Nursery Newsletter September
2022

Welcome to Hillside Nursery!



I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely summer break and I am so happy to see our new and returning children settling so well into nursery over the past few weeks, engaging with their new environment and playing alongside all of their new friends! It has also been lovely to see all of the interactions that have already been taking place on ILD. We just love it when you share your child's achievements from home via ILD and we are beginning to print these photos and share them on our achievement board in nursery and using these in discussion with the children. For anyone who still hasn't quite managed to get on to ILD, please do let me know so we can remedy this and get you all set up and ready to go as soon as possible. With regard to our nursery drop off and collection routine, we are delighted to finally be able to allow parents back into the cloakroom area. Please be reminded that this area is still quite small unfortunately, so there may be a requirement to limit the number of adults that enter the setting at anyone time. Generally this may be around 3 families at one given time if possible. This will allow for some social distancing and will enable the children to be safely passed over to the nursery staff at the start of the session, or back to their adult at the end. Please also be aware that due to the size of the setting, there may be a variety of staff members greeting you and your child at the door. Please feel free to pass on any relevant information regarding your child and their care to any member of staff, but remain aware that you are welcome to ask to speak with your child's keyworker at anytime. If your keyworker is unavailable for whatever reason, we will make sure they contact you as soon as possible so please let us know how best to contact you should this be the case eg call, email, at the door. Also, please feel free to email hillside.nursery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or call the school on 01224 472850 to keep us informed of absences, holidays or anything else you might need to share with us. We look forward to getting to know you all this year, as always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,

Maryanne Middler

Early Years Senior Practitioner

A message from Mrs Grieve (DHT)



Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who I haven't yet met! My name is Mrs Gemma Grieve and I am a Depute Head Teacher at Hillside and currently have pastoral responsibility for Nursery to Primary 3 pupils. Although, on a day-to-day basis, any questions that you might have will be answered by our EYPs, Lead Practitioners (Mrs Nelson, Mrs McDermott and Mrs Clarke) or Senior Practitioner (Mrs Middler), please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the school office if required.

Nursery Improvement Priorities

This year, Hillside Nursery will be working towards 3 key areas of development:

1. **Increased parental and community engagement, through increased staff leadership** (we're very excited for you to spend much more time together with your child in nursery now that Covid restrictions have eased!)

2. **Development of approaches to learning of Numeracy in nursery**
3. **Redevelopment of our School and Nursery Vision, Values and Aims**

We would love for families to share their skills with our children to develop their learning. Please do just chat to a member of staff if you have something that you would be able to share e.g. talking about being a nurse/fireman etc or reading a story in another language.

Open Afternoon and Curriculum Session

20th September 2022 4-5pm – All parents/carers are invited to come to school and nursery with their children (children already in nursery will be safely playing with nursery staff) to have a look around and see the early successes of this term. This might provide newer families with an opportunity to begin to visualise the wider school environment as well as the chance for your child to show you their favourite things in nursery. Please enter via the main school office.

4th October 2022 6-7pm – All parents/carers are invited to come to the school canteen for a short presentation on nursery learning led by Mrs Grieve and Mrs Middler. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to provide creche facilities however we would be more than happy to forward the information by email to any interested families who are unable to attend. If you have any questions which you would like us to answer as part of this presentation, please email them to the school office by the 22nd September.

We look forward to meeting you then!

Kind regards,

Gemma Grieve

Depute Head Teacher

[Nursery Staffing Update](#)



We would like to introduce a few new faces to the team for 2022-2023. We have Mrs Kirsty Clarke who is our new Early Years Lead Practitioner (job share with Mrs McDermott), Ms Leanne Guyan and Miss Paula Sherratt who are new Early Years Practitioners, and finally we have Miss Georgia Sutherland who is our fixed term Early Years Support Worker. We are also expecting two more Early Years Practitioners in the coming weeks and will keep you updated as appropriate. We are also sad to announce that Mrs Michelle Forbes (EYP) left us last week to embark on a new adventure. She will be missed dearly but we wish her all the best for the future!

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 bases. 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.

'All Year' Families (50 week) - October Provision



If you have chosen for your child to attend nursery all year round, you will receive a form this week which will allow you to indicate your requirement over the October break period (17th-28th October 2022). We kindly ask that you return this form to myself (Mrs Middler) by *FRIDAY 23rd September 2022* as will allow us to plan for the provision and to ensure that appropriate staffing levels are in place.

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 - September 2022



Please see below a link to our September 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.

<https://forms.gle/MXmBYiceUt7TBsPo9>

Policy of the Month 'Administration of Medication' - September 2022

MEDICATION



Please read our Administration of Medication Policy (attached to this email). We would be very grateful if you could complete the link below to confirm you have read this policy.

<https://forms.gle/vFvzvKM1zKFg3h6>



1 - Important Dates

Tuesday 23rd August 2022 – Term Starts

Tuesday 20th September 2022 - Nursery Open Day

Tuesday 4th October 2022 - Nursery Curriculum Session

Friday 14th October 2022 – Last Day of Term

Monday 17th – Friday 28th October 2022 – October Break

Monday 1st November 2022 – Term Starts

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

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

Friday 23rd December 2022 - Last Day of Term

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

Monday 9th January 2023 - Term Starts

Nursery Contact Details



EYSP: Maryanne Middler

DHT: Gemma Grieve

EYLP: Debbie McDermott, Errin Nelson and Kirsty Clarke

Nursery Email: hillside.nursery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

School Email: Hillside.Sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

School Phone: 01224 472850

Twitter: @HS_Nursery

Website: hillside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

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