



HILLSIDE

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**Hillside Nursery Newsletter October
2023**



Hello

I hope everyone has settled in well during this first term of 2023-2024 and look forward to all of the great opportunities that we have planned for both the children and families over the coming months. We have tried to create a varied programme of **Stay and Play opportunities, Open Afternoons, Parent/Carer Induction** and **Curricular** events and are very excited to be offering the opportunity for parents/carers to become involved in a **Hillside Nursery Focus Group** again this year. We are also still keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in volunteering to become a '**special visitor**' in nursery to support the children's learning experiences. Please let a staff member know if you wish to learn more about these Hillside Nursery family partnership opportunities.

Kind Regards

Maryanne Middler

Early Years Senior Practitioner

Hillside School Portlethen Parent Group (HPG) - Donation Contribution



We are beyond delighted to announce that the funding request made to **Hillside School Parent Group** for sensory equipment to support the schools **inclusion** priority this year was accepted! As part of the agreement for this **£1000** donation contribution, Hillside Nursery will be organising a fundraising event of their own to help secure the full **£1500** that is required to develop the schools 'Sensory Room' and nursery 'Quiet Room' to support our plan to develop an environment that is *engaging, stimulating and inclusive*.

It is hoped that this event will take place around **November 2023** so please keep an eye out for more information. We are so thankful for the support and kindness that is always provided by our parents, families and HPG and we will work hard to ensure this event is a huge success so that we achieve the target we have set ourselves.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the **Hillside School Parent Group (HPG)** and the support they provide for Hillside School, please contact hillsidepcsecretary@gmail.com

Parent Curriculum Event



Tuesday 3rd October 2023 6-7pm – All parents/carers are invited into Nursery for a short presentation on Nursery learning led by Mrs Middler and a few other volunteers from the nursery team. 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 hillside.nursery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Nursery Focus Group 2023-2024

As part of our ongoing self-evaluation and development, and in conjunction with our 2023/2024 Nursery Improvement Plan, we would like to invite parents to join Mrs Middler and Mrs Grieve as part of a focus group to chat about things that are going well and potential lines of development for nursery. To indicate your interest in joining our focus group please complete the following google form.

<https://forms.gle/7ZccyjGipV6t3w8EA>

Learning Journals



Our ***Interactive Learning Diary*** agreement is due to expire very soon so we will be making a switch across to ***Learning Journals*** from ***Monday 30th October 2023***. In preparation for this transition, we kindly ask for all parents to complete the google form below in order to gain permission for Hillside Nursery to use this learning profile platform for documenting children's learning journeys.

Staff will be on hand to provide families with advice and support during the learning profile transition period, but in the meantime, please feel free to speak to Mrs Middler if you have any questions or queries relating to this topic.

<https://forms.gle/dfCCtqo15erYZuYB9>

Childsmile - Recycle and Smile



Hillside Nursery will be supporting **Childsmile** with their new **Recycle and Smile** incentive which aims to rescue Childsmile toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes used as part of the supervised toothbrushing programme from the bin, helping to protect our planet. It is a service developed and provided in partnership between Childsmile, NHS National Services Scotland (NHS NSS) and a local contractor.

Please speak to member of staff if you have questions about this incentive or the recycle process.

Recycle and Smile Process



NHS

National Services Scotland

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.

As the weather is beginning to turn a little colder it would also be very helpful you could support your child to prepare their outdoor wear for the day ahead at drop off time whenever possible. This will reduce the amount of time staff spend in the cloakroom locating and retrieving waterproofs,

wellies, hats and scarves etc for every child which means more quality time can be spent with the children enjoying the outdoors.

'All Year Round' Families - October 2023 Provision



Thank you to all of our 'All Year Round' families for confirming children's October Provision requirements. Session numbers have now been submitted to the **Catering** and **Early Years Team** and we look forward to enjoying another fun filled October break in setting.

A little heads up that we have also organised a few induction visits during this time for our new **October 2023** and **January 2024** families - it is always exciting to meet new friends and we are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity during this quieter time.

Policy of the Month '**Curriculum Rationale**' - October 2023

CURRICULUM



Please read our **Curriculum Rationale** Policy (found 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/P1r2tVzcH7jrcc529>

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)

5.30-5.45pm (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

Important Dates



Tuesday 3rd October 2023 - Nursery Curriculum Session

Friday 13th October 2023 – Last Day of Term

Monday 16th – Friday 27th October 2023 – October Break (**closed to term time children**)

Monday 30th October 2023 – Term Starts

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th November 2023 - 'Stay and Play' sessions

Thursday 16th November 2023- INSET (**no nursery for children**)

Friday 17th November 2023 - INSET (**no nursery for children**)

Thursday 30th November 2023 - Whole School Christmas Fayre 4.30pm-6pm

Friday 22nd December 2023 - Last Day of Term

Monday 25th Dec 2023 -Friday 5th Jan 2023 - Christmas Break (**closed to everyone**)

Monday 8th January 2024 - Term Starts

Nursery Contact Details



EYSP: Maryanne Middler

DHT: Gemma Grieve

EYLP: Debbie McDermott, Kirsty Clarke & Aileen Lindsay

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

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

School Phone: 01224 472850 (nursery option 3)

Twitter: [@HS_Nursery](https://twitter.com/HS_Nursery)

Website: hillside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Learning Journals: hillsideschool.yourlearningjournals.co.uk