



# **HILLSIDE**

**s c h o o l**

**Hillside Nursery Newsletter November  
2023**



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 Hillside 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 Learning Journal 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 informative and helpful. If you were unable to attend on this occasion, and would like to receive a copy of the Curriculum PowerPoint, please let me know and I will make sure this is sent across to you as soon as possible. We are also continuing to promote our nursery '**Question of the Month**' within our nursery newsletters. All feedback gained will be collated and reflected upon and any questions and responses will be displayed in the nursery cloakroom area for your perusal by the end of term. 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 would also like to remind everyone that we are continuing with our **community larder** and **book exchange library** this year so 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 to nursery can also be made at any time by referring to our **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 was created last year to support the setting to effectively respond to children's learning directives and interests, and we are delighted by the 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 😊.

Kind Regards

Maryanne Middler

Early Years Senior Practitioner

## Nursery Christmas Dates



*With Christmas fast approaching, I wanted to take this opportunity to share dates for the diary to enable you to plan ahead.*

- **Christmas Fayre**

The first event will be our annual Whole School Christmas Fayre which will take place on **Thursday 30th November 2023**. *More information has been provided on this event directly from the school.*

- **Nursery Christmas Performance**

The main event will of course be our highly anticipated **Nursery Christmas Performance**. As you may be aware, nursery use a child-led, play based approach to learning which we were able to showcase last year by using this approach to reflect on the children's favourite traditional tale at the time and were able to successfully produce a fantastic imaginative storytelling performance of 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears at Christmas'. Our hope is to replicate last years success by using the children's current story of interest which is 'Room on the Broom' under the revised title of '**Make Way on the Sleigh!**'. Nursery staff and children have already begun work on adapting this autumnal story into a wintery Christmas tale and we are all very excited to see where the children's imagination will lead us!

The Nursery Christmas performance will take place in the school hall and families will have the opportunity to sign up to either the **Monday 11th (9.30-10.30am)** or **Tuesday 12th (2.15-3.15pm) December 2023** performance. The performance will include a melody of familiar Christmas songs and the children will be supported throughout by staff and parents/carers. To support engagement

and interaction, seats will be positioned in a circle with the children in the middle and parents/carers will be invited to engage with and support their child at their level.

- **Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day**

The children will also have the opportunity to receive a **Christmas lunch** whilst in setting on **Wednesday 13th December 2023** which coincides nicely with our annual **Christmas Jumper Day Fundraiser** in support of our very own Portlethen Larder. *More information will be provided on this event directly from the school.*

- **Nursery Christmas Parties**

Finally, the **Nursery Christmas Parties** will take place on **Thursday 21st December 2023** during the morning and afternoon sessions. *If your child does not normally attend nursery on a Thursday, please feel free to join the afternoon party which will take place between 2-3pm. All children joining the afternoon session party should arrive at the nursery door prompt at the allocated drop off and collection time.*

## Vision Screening - Tuesday 28th November 2023



Children with a birthdate of **March 2019 to February 2020** will have the opportunity to have a vision screening assessment carried out during their usual session on **Tuesday 28th November 2023**.

If your child is eligible for this vision screening opportunity, but does not normally attend nursery on a Tuesday and you wish to participate, please let a member of staff know and we will arrange a suitable time for you and your child to pop in past.

## Scottish Cafe - Nursery Fundraiser Event



Nursery will be hosting a Scottish Cafe fundraising event on **Wednesday 29th November 2023** to help secure additional funding for sensory equipment to support the schools *inclusion* priority this year alongside the very kind **£1000** donation contribution that was made by **Hillside School Parent Group** in September 2023. The plan is to develop the schools 'Sensory Room' and nursery 'Quiet Room' to support our plan to develop an environment that is *engaging, stimulating* and *inclusive*.

***Please see the attached poster for more information.***

## HILLSIDE NURSERY SCOTTISH COFFEE MORNING



# HILLSIDE NURSERY SCOTTISH COFFEE MORNING



**WHEN**  
9.15 – 11am WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER

**WHERE**  
HILLSIDE SCHOOL CANTEEN

£2 ADMISSION

- REFRESHMENTS
- BOOK SALE
- RAFFLES
- MUSIC
- GAMES

WIN ME!!



TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SENSORY EQUIPMENT

### 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 continue 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. So far we have only received one note of interest for a meeting in February. To indicate your interest in joining our focus group please complete the following google form.

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



## 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.

## Policy of the Month 'Accidents & Incidents' - November 2023



Please read our **Accident & Incidents** 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/psNrkBzeFCJEiZ186>

Question of the Month '**Settling In & Transitions**' - November 2023



Our focus this month is on gathering information on your child's 'settling in' experience as a new child attending the setting for the first time. As always, please feel free to approach a staff member if you require any help or advice whilst completing this short questionnaire.

<https://forms.gle/Y5iUSv3z6uHjFWwA7>



## 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



Monday 13th November 2023 - Whole School 'Odd Socks Day' - Celebration Diversity (Donation)

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

Wednesday 15th November 2023 - Children in Need Day - Spotacular Dress Up Day (Donation)

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

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

Tuesday 28th November 2023 - Preschool Vision Screening

Wednesday 29th November 2023 - Scottish Cafe - Nursery Fundraiser Event

Thursday 30th November 2023 - Whole School Christmas Fayre 4.30pm-6.30pm

Monday 11th (9.30-10.30am) and Tuesday 12th (2.15-3.15pm) December 2023 - Nursery Christmas Performance

Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Children's Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day (Donation)

Thursday 21st December 2023 - Nursery Christmas Party (AM & PM)

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

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Website: [hillside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://hillside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

Learning Journals: [hillsideschool.yourlearningjournals.co.uk](http://hillsideschool.yourlearningjournals.co.uk)