



# HILLSIDE

## school

Hillside Nursery Newsletter May 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope everyone has enjoyed a lovely spring break and are looking forward to the final term of the 2023-2024 session, I can't believe it's May already!

As expected, this term will be another busy one with upcoming **Bikeability** sessions, **Sports Day**, a **Sponsored Event** and **Transitions**, all alongside our usual routines and experiences that are planned for our little learners. You will find dates and more information about these events later on in this newsletter and please look out for invitations and sign up sheets to ensure your place at these highly sought after events!

As always, if you have any questions regarding anything in this newsletter, or any other nursery matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the nursery team.

We look forward to seeing everyone in setting very soon!

Kind Regards

Maryanne Middler

Early Years Senior Practitioner

## Primary One Information (2024-2025)



Preparations are now underway for the pre-school children transitioning on to Primary 1 from August 2024. All parents will have received an email from Mrs Grieve and Mrs Middler, detailing the transition process and an invitation to a short induction meeting and tour of the school on **Thursday 30th May 2024 at 6pm**. As part of our nursery sessions, pre-school children will experience all aspects of Primary 1 through organised visits and activities, in and around the school building and its grounds. The children will also have the opportunity to meet their teacher and explore their new classroom just before the summer holidays.

Alongside this, literacy homework packs will be issued to preschool children on a bi-weekly basis during the month of June. This is a lovely way to introduce the concept of sharing learning between home and school and provides an opportunity for the children to develop a sense of 'responsibility' and 'ownership' of their personally assigned packs.

If you have any questions regarding your child's transition onto Primary 1, please speak to Mrs Grieve (DHT) or Mrs Middler. (EYSP)

## Hillside Nursery ELC Admissions 2024-2025



If your child is returning to nursery in August 2024, you will soon receive an email informing you of everything you will need to know for session 24/25. We will also be asking families to reconfirm their child's attendance timings etc so that we can ensure adequate staffing levels are in place to complement the setting requirements for the year. Alongside this, there will be an opportunity for you to attend an Induction meeting for new and returning nursery families on **Thursday 6th June 2024 at 6pm** which will be held in the nursery playroom.

If you have any questions regarding your child's ELC placement at Hillside Nursery during 2024-2025, please speak to Mrs Middler (EYSP)

## ASN Stay and Play - Every Thursday 3.20pm-4.30pm



Thank you very much for all your positive feedback following the introduction of ASN stay and play sessions in Term 3!

***We are delighted to share that drop-in sessions will be available from 3.20 – 4.30pm every Thursday in the community room for the remainder of this term.*** Some families have indicated their preference to come straight from school/nursery pick up and others would rather go home and change etc first so please do just come along at the time that suits your family best. We are also adding to the resources to reflect feedback received. If there is anything else that you would like us to add please do just let us know!

New faces are always welcome, if you'd like more information please do ask!

Kind regards

Gemma Grieve

## Nursery Sports Day



We are happy to announce that our nursery sports day will take place **Thursday 23rd May 2024**. We will split our children into two groups for the occasion and parents/carers are invited to select either a morning or afternoon timeslot in line with the children's usual pattern of attendance. Children who do not normally attend nursery on a Thursday are invited to join us on this day and are welcome to select whichever timeslot suits best. Our aim is for this Sports Day event to be held on the school pitch and refreshments will be available for both children and parents. We look forward to seeing you then!

**Morning Session Sports Day: 10.30am-11.30am**

**Afternoon Session Sports Day: 2pm-3pm**

*A sign up sheet is available in the nursery cloakroom area.*

## Hillside Nursery Staffing Update

# Welcome

We are absolutely delighted to introduce **Louisa Snelling** to the Hillside Nursery Team. Mrs Snelling is a qualified **Early Years Support Worker** and brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous position at **Mucky Boots**. The children have spent the last week or so getting to know Mrs Snelling, and we are certain she will do a fantastic job of stepping in for Mrs Ajah who will be starting her maternity leave at the beginning of June.

Mrs Snelling is employed on a full time 2 year fixed term contract, and will be in setting from 8.45am-4.30pm every day.

Sadly, we will also say a fond farewell to **Gillian Smith** who has accepted a new opportunity as a **Child Practitioner** with a social services remit. Miss Smith will end her employment at Hillside School at the end of May and will be dearly missed by colleagues, families and children. We are very proud of Miss Smith and all that she has achieved within her role here at Hillside and wish her all of the very best for the future!



*1 - Mrs Louisa Snelling (Early Years Support Worker)*

# Kid's Healthy Eating Plate



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Due to our current Early Years Support Worker compliment, we have had to slightly adjust our afternoon high tea offering for the children to ensure we able to provide the children the appropriate level of supervision from our Early Years Practitioners after 4.30pm. High tea will now be offered to the children at a slightly earlier time of around **3.30pm**. This will allow the children to enjoy a relaxed social mealtime with peers, whilst still ensuring our Early Years Support Worker has sufficient time to tackle the dishes and re-organise the playroom.

I also wanted to clarify that the nursery high tea is not designed to be the equivalent of a home tea/dinner, but more of an offering of a balanced larger snack for children who are spending a longer period of time in setting than in pervious years eg before the 1140 Expansion from August 2021. It is an introduction to school meals and is often a combination of a small portion of soup, mini sandwich, mixed fruit and veg salad. As you can imagine, the consumption of this meal can be extremely variable from child to child, and from meal to meal depending on many factors such as individual likes and dislikes, mood, energy levels and calories burned through physical activity and play.

If you have any questions relating to the nursery meal menu or mealtime routine, please feel free to speak to a member of staff at any time.



## 1pm Nursery Session Crossover



This is gentle reminder that those attending the morning session should collect their child **by 12.45pm at the latest** to allow time to gather the children and their belongings ahead of the end of their session. The next session starts **from 1pm** and it is becoming increasingly difficult for staff to manage the crossover between these sessions which has a direct impact on the handover and attention that staff can provide to our families during this busy spell. Please remember, if you would like a fuller handover for your child at collection time, it would be advisable to arrive slightly earlier eg **12.30pm** to allow for this opportunity. Alternatively, you can agree a mutually convenient time directly with your child's keyworker for a more in depth conversation eg via the communication tool on Learning Journals, by sending an email or by telephoning the school and choosing option 3 .

## 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.

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.



<https://youtu.be/ISMfUJhU7n8>

2 - Children's Trays

Please take a few minutes at the end of the session to check your child's tray for artwork and personal belongings.

## Question of the Month- May 2024

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your views are important to us and we will use your feedback as part of our ongoing self-evaluation process. Our focus this month is on gathering information on **the quality and care our setting provides our children and their families**,. 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/KBQKxeat5kwvRB8G7>

## Policy of the Month 'Food Provision Policy' May 2024



Please read our **Food Provision 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/wYyNHVCipLAMo6ho9>

## 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 6th May 2024 - May Day Holiday (closed to everyone)**

Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st May 2024 - School Photos (Whole School)

Thursday 23rd May 2024 - Nursery Sports Day (10.30am-11.30am & 2pm-3pm)

Thursday 30th May 2024 - Primary One Induction Evening (Parents/Carers only)

Thursday 6th June 2024 - Nursery Induction Evening (Parents/Carers only)

Tuesday 4th & 18th June 2024 - P1 Transition (Yellow Zone Group1 - children only) **SEE PERSONALISED EMAIL**

Tuesday 4th June 2024 - P1 Transition (Canteen Lunch Group 1 - children only) **SEE PERSONALISED EMAIL**

Thursday 6th & 20th June 2024 - P1 Transition (Yellow Zone Group 2 - children only) **SEE PERSONALISED EMAIL**

Thursday 13th June 2024 - P1 Transition (Canteen Lunch Group 2 - children only) **SEE PERSONALISED EMAIL**

WC 1st July 2024 - Nursery end of term party (more information to follow)

Monday 8th July 2024 - Friday 9th August 2024 - Summer Break (open to all year round families)

**Monday 12th August - Friday 16th August 2024 - Summer Break (closed to all families)**

**Monday 19th August 2024 - INSET (closed to all families)**

Tuesday 20th August 2024 - New Term

## Nursery Contact Details



EYSP: Maryanne Middler

DHT: Gemma Grieve

EYLP: Debbie McDermott, Kirsty Clarke & Aileen Lindsay

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

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

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