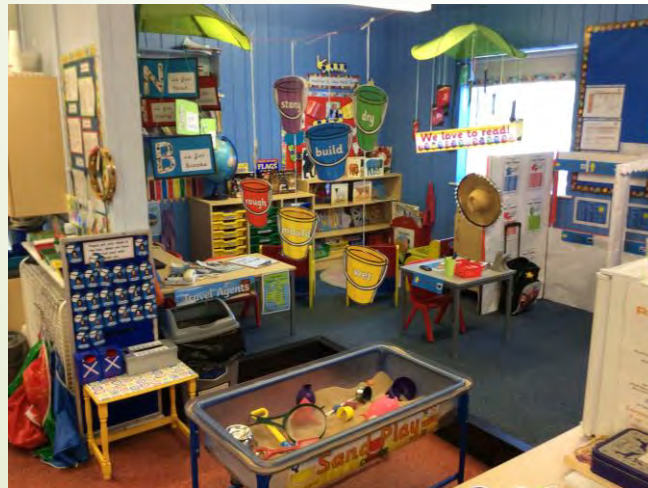




Nursery Induction



Welcome to Hillside Primary School



We want to...

- Share the ethos of Hillside Primary School
- Meet members of our staff
- Find out arrangements for children starting school
- Learn more about the curriculum your child will follow
- View the school environment



Welcome from Head teacher: Mrs K. Schonau

**Thank you for taking the time to enquire about life at Hillside.
We hope that here you will find lots of information to help
you to make an informed choice about choosing the right
primary school for your child.**

**If you have any further queries or questions please do not
hesitate to contact our school office either via email:
office@hillsideprimary.org.uk or via telephone: 01782 235350**





Our Ethos and Values

Hillside Primary School is a friendly, caring school where everyone works hard towards our school motto which is: 'Developing the Individual'. We facilitate this by fostering the values of Inspiration, Determination, Excellence, Friendship, Respect, Equality and Courage. These promote outstanding behaviour and mutual respect for one another.

At Hillside we provide an excellent foundation for our children to develop as individuals and are committed to enabling all pupils to fulfil their potential. We encourage children to grow personally, socially and morally as well as academically.

The aim of our provision is to encourage and foster an inquisitive nature and a love for learning. We believe that this is the key to academic success. Our dedicated, hardworking team of staff deliver an exciting, broad curriculum and are continually striving to improve outcomes for our pupils.

Hillside Primary is a fully inclusive school and welcomes applications from all pupils, including those with special educational needs.





Ofsted

Our last Ofsted was in November 2019

“Hillside Primary School continues to be a good school. There is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if we were to carry out a section 5 inspection now”

<https://hillsideprimary.org.uk/ofsted-information/>





What does Ofsted say about Hillside:

Pupils love learning in this hardworking school. Pupils are very happy at work and play. Their attendance and behaviour are very good. Leaders and other staff are ambitious for pupils. They set pupils interesting work and encourage them to think hard. They teach pupils to learn in different ways. Leaders take great care to ensure that pupils learn effectively. A well-organised curriculum helps pupils achieve high standards....

...Staff know each pupil very well. Warm and trusting relationships underpin the school's high aspirations. Pupils are kind to each other. Bullying is rare. Pupils who struggle with friendships get help straightaway. Great teaching and concern for welfare ensure that all pupils thrive at Hillside. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) get very regular support. Like all other pupils, they enjoy effective teaching and individual care. Disadvantaged pupils achieve well. Parents trust staff to do what is right for their children. They appreciate the great effort the school makes to interest all pupils in learning. Communication between home and school is very good.



What do Ofsted say about our early Years:

“ Children settle quickly when they start in early years. Specialist and enthusiastic staff get children off to a great start. They provide imaginative resources that help children learn with enjoyment. Care for children is very good. Children’s experiences in Nursey and Reception prepare them very effectively for Year 1.”



Nursery Staff

Staff can change from year to year dependent on the needs of each class. This year our Nursery team includes:

➤ Miss Hewitt – Nursery Class Teacher



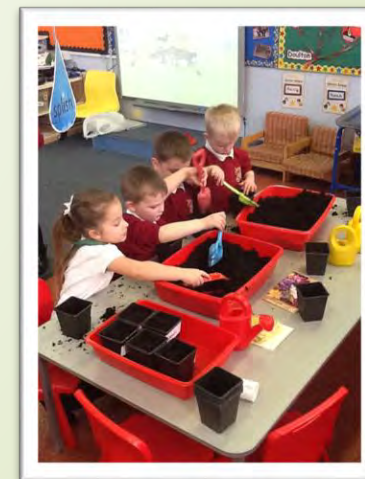
➤ Mrs Pope – Early Years Practitioner



What it is like in Nursery...

As you will already be aware with having your child at home, no two days are ever the same; however, at school we endeavour to implement a clear structure to the day. Having a timetable allows the children to gain a sense of what is coming next and it helps them to feel secure in their environment. During the transition stages this is extremely important to help your child settle.

Throughout the day the children will work with Miss Hewitt and Mrs Pope, this could be 1:1 or as part of a small group. They will be involved in whole-class carpet time sessions, and they will also have the independence to initiate their own learning through play.



The Importance of Play!

- ▶ Play is both indoors and outdoors, it is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge.
- ▶ Play needs effective adult support to extend and support children's learning.
- ▶ Play needs a stimulating, challenging and secure environment.
- ▶ Play needs a wide range of resources that are safe and clean and suited to the needs of the children.
- ▶ Play gives children opportunities for many practical activities which are interesting, enjoyable and based on first hand experiences.
- ▶ Play gives children time to practise, and build up ideas, concepts and skills.
- ▶ Play allows children to take risks and make mistakes.
- ▶ Play allows children to think creatively and imaginatively.
- ▶ Play gives children time to relive anxious experiences or talk about fears in a secure and safe environment.



The Early Years Foundation Stage



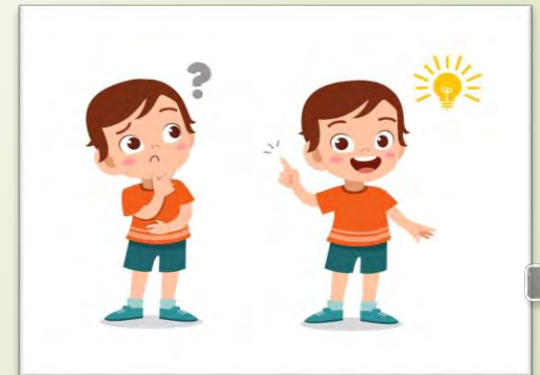
- ▶ At Hillside we provide the children with a wealth of experiences to enrich their lives.
- ▶ Compulsory full time education begins the term after a child's fifth birthday. The period from birth to the end of the reception year is the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is distinct and important in its own right and in the preparation of children for later schooling. The Early Learning Goals set out what is the expected attainment by most children by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.



The Early Years Foundation Stage



- ▶ **Early Years' education is important for all children. An educational programme appropriate to their age and stage of development is essential.**
- ▶ **In this environment children will be safe and secure to play, have fun, explore, experiment, develop confidence, curiosity and to learn. They should be involved in activities, which have a clear purpose and rationale, not necessarily an end product.**



The Early Years Foundation Stage



- The curriculum is made up of 7 different areas; 3 prime and 4 specific as detailed below.

Prime

- Personal , Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



► Personal, Social and Emotional

This area of learning is about emotional well being, knowing who you are and where you fit in and feeling good about yourself. It is also about making relationships, building self-confidence and managing feelings and behaviour.



► Communication and Language

This area of learning includes listening and attention, understanding what has been said and speaking confidently in many situations.



► Physical Development

This area of learning is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Physical development helps children to gain confidence in what they can do and enables them to feel the benefits of being healthy, active and looking after themselves.





► **Literacy**

This area of learning includes being read a wide range of books, Reading simple texts, letter sounds and writing for a variety of purposes.

► **Mathematical Development**

This area of learning is about developing mathematical understanding through stories, songs, games and imaginative play. This will include counting, sorting, matching, patterns and working with numbers, shape, space and measures so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers. Children's mathematical development arises out of daily experiences in a rich and interesting environment.

► **Understanding of the World**

In this area of learning children develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. This forms the foundation for later work in science, design and technology, history, geography and information and communication technology.



► Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning is about developing the child's imagination and the ability to express ideas and feelings. It includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play. Children's creativity develops best within a rich learning environment supported by sensitive and responsive adults.



This curriculum is planned around four main themes:

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.	Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.	The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.	Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. All areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.





Assessment

- ▶ **2simpl observations – children will be observed regularly throughout their child initiated learning. These will be recorded and sent home by email on a half-termly basis.**
- ▶ **Teacher-led activities – while your child completes activities set by the teacher they will be assessed against the learning intentions for the specific activity, from this next steps can be planned to develop your child’s learning.**
- ▶ **WOW moments – you will be given some blank WOW moments during the transition week. We love to hear of new/special moments that your child has done, we ask for you to fill in a WOW moment and send it in so that we can share this with the class and celebrate your child’s achievement.**
- ▶ **End of year reports- this is an overview of your child’s time in nursery and will discuss social, emotional and academic achievements.**





Reading in Nursery!

At Hillside, we place great emphasis on encouraging the children to read for pleasure. We do this in a number of ways.

- ▶ **Author of the Term – Each half term we focus on a different author, we read stories from the author and find out some interesting facts about the author.**
- ▶ **Reading Rocket – As an incentive to encourage reading we have the reading rocket initiative, we ask children to read 3 times a week to be entered into a prize draw. The draw takes place at the end of each half term.**
- ▶ **Reading for Pleasure – When starting nursery each child receives a 'Reading for Pleasure' booklet, this has a list of 25 books that we feel are 'must reads' for Nursery age children. Each week your child will choose to take one of the listed books home, giving them the opportunity to access them all during the year.**



A Typical Day in Nursery

- 8:50 – 9:00 Welcome/Self registration/Special helper
- 9.00-9.15 Dough Disco/Name Writing
- 9:15 – 9:45 Child initiated learning (through play and free choice)
- 9.45 – 10.05 Phonics
- 10.05 – 10.15 Carpet time – teacher input
- 10.15-11.40 Child initiated learning/ teacher activities
- 11.40-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:15-Carpet time - teacher input (Maths focus)
- 1:15 - 2:40 Child initiated learning/ teacher activities
- 2:40 Tidy away – Story time
- 3:10 Home Time



Tuesday Mornings

- Things are a little different on a Tuesday morning, the children are taught by our two specialist teachers.
- Firstly they will have PE with Dan.
- After PE the children then go to Music with Mr Hall. They will explore instruments, enjoy music and movement and have lots of FUN!



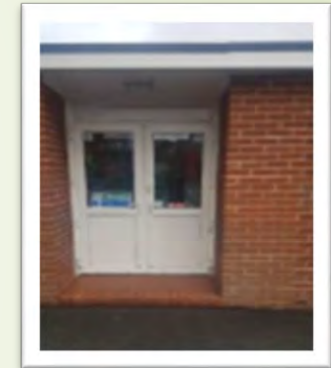
School Drop Off and Collection

- ▶ **Coming to school....**

The children enter through the nursery and reception door - this is accessed through the KS1 playground, the left hand door as you look at the building.

- ▶ **Going home...**

Children are collected from the same door that they were dropped off at.



- ▶ **A member of staff is available each morning and afternoon to answer any queries from parents.**

- ▶ **If someone unknown to the staff is collecting your child please give the school prior warning and make sure the adult collecting has the password you set up. Children MUST be collected by an adult.**





Lunchtime

- We are very lucky to have our meals provided by city catering, they offer a lot of choice between meals and these are on a 3 week cycle.
- Each day there is a selection of hot or cold food.
- At the beginning of the term we will send home a copy of the menu for you to look through with your child. If you know your child may struggle with choosing, it would be helpful if you could discuss with them in the morning before they come to school to help them with their choice!
- Our lunchtimes are a lovely social time, the children sit down with each other, aswell as Miss Hewitt and Mrs Pope. During this time we learn good eating habits, table manners and we develop our speaking and listening!



Hello Little Ted

- ▶ Little Ted is our class bear, he likes to spend a weekend with each child in Nursery.
- ▶ He comes to visit Friday – Monday. We ask that he is returned on a Monday with his belongings so that we can get him ready for his next adventure.
- ▶ When he comes to your house he will have a diary sheet to record what he has been doing over the weekend. You may want to include photos or get your child to draw a picture. We will then share this with the rest of the class upon his return! How exciting!



Forest Schools

When the children are more settled in the Nursery environment we begin Forest Schools. Once a week we will take our learning into the woods.

A letter is sent out during the first half term to confirm when this will start.

For our forest school adventures children need:

- Waterproof trousers and coat (not an all in one suit)
- Wellies

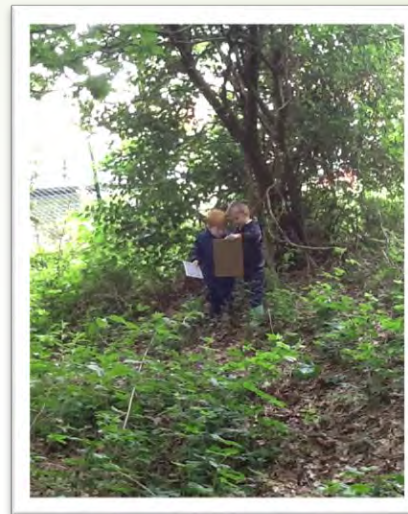


Forest Schools

Circle times



Exploring



Campfires



Treasure hunts



Looking at nature



Stories



Minibeast hunts

Making dens



Outdoor Learning



Exciting events during the year!



- School trips – throughout the year we go on different visits linked to our topics, we have one visit a term. We choose and plan these carefully to make it a memorable and meaningful experience for your child. The adventures we have been on previously include...
- Showcases – this is an opportunity for you to come into school and share time with your child, taking part in activities linked to the learning they have been doing in class.
- Celebration Assemblies – each week children are recognised for their work and get the opportunity to showcase this to the school aswell as receiving an award from Mrs Schonau. Children are also be recognised for displaying our school values and they too receive an award.
- Christmas time sing-a-long
- Sports day
- Mother's Day Assembly & Lunch
- Father's Day Lunch





Common Worries

- **Toileting** – we ask that all children are toilet trained prior to starting Nursery.
- **Settling/leaving** – some children may find it upsetting when they are left for the first few days. Please be assured that we do all we can to comfort your child and make them feel safe and secure. When dropping off we ask that you make it as quick as possible as it can make it harder for them. In most cases the tears stop before you are even out of the gates!
- **Eating** – many parents worry that their child will not enjoy the meals at school. As explained there are many different choices and we can support your child with making these choices. If we are concerned about your child's eating habits we will discuss this with you.





Induction Process

As things currently stand, the induction process currently looks like the following:

- ▶ You will receive a transition PowerPoint all about your child's new teacher and learning support assistant along with images of the classroom. You will also receive a leaflet to share with your child. Many children find this useful to look at and discuss at their leisure.
- ▶ Miss Hewitt will contact all parents to discuss the transition for each child and answer any queries or concerns with parents.
- ▶ Miss Hewitt will contact any previous settings that your child has attended (if your child has used one).



Please be mindful that this may change in line with government



Induction Process

The Induction process can vary from year to year but typically it will look like this:

July

Parents and children are invited into school in an allocated slot to visit the school environment, meet their class teacher and answer any further questions parents may have.

First week of school in September

Children attend either a Morning session (9.30am-11.30am) for the week OR an afternoon Session (1.15pm-3.10pm). These are allocated by the class teacher.

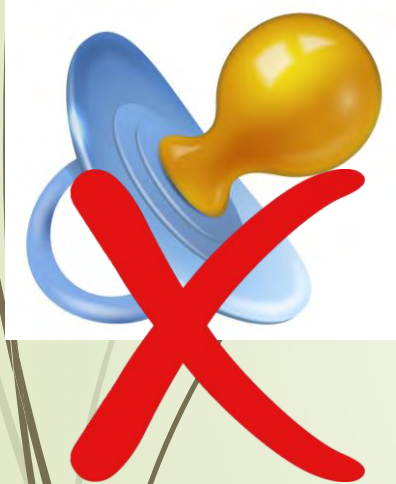
Second week of school in September

Children will be in school full time.



Speech and Language

- ▶ 40% per cent of children in Stoke On Trent show a delay in language skills compared to 15 per cent nationally**
- ▶ Concerns? Under 5's can be self-referred via your Health Visitor.



Early Communication Screening

- ▶ Completed within the first few weeks of the child attending Nursery
- ▶ Short and fun 10 question assessment
- ▶ Identifies any areas of need that can then be addressed through interventions during your child's time in Nursery.
- ▶ Children are re-assessed at the end of the Summer Term

****If your child has a dummy please work on taking this away, this can have a huge impact on their speech development. ****



Partnership with Parents

- ▶ **Parents and Carers are the most important first educators in the child's world. They continue to develop this teaching role.**
- ▶ **Partnership with parents has a positive impact on the child's development and learning.**
- ▶ **Partnership with parents means sharing information, knowledge and expertise.**
- ▶ **Partnership with parents means everyone working together in an atmosphere of mutual respect to support each individual child.**
- ▶ **Partnership with parents means the staff and parents sharing information and concerns about the child.**
- ▶ **Partnership with parents is the staff and parents feeling valued and respected.**
- ▶ **Partnership with parents is when the staff talk about and record information about the child's progress and achievement with parents.**





Parents Evenings:

- Parents are invited to parents' evenings during the year. You will be able to discuss your child's progress with members of staff and letters of the dates and times will be sent home.
- If, at any time you have any questions or concerns please come in and discuss them with a member of staff or the Headteacher.

School Website

- The schools website www.hillsideprimary.org.uk has a wealth of information, including policies, uniform requirements, a calendar of events, class information, newsletters and much more.

School App

- We have a school app that can be found on your app/ play store. We strongly recommend downloading this, it is updated regularly with examples of the children's learning, notices and special events that have taken place.

Newsletters

- The school provides regular newsletters for parents/carers, giving up to date information of activities and events.



Preparing your child for Nursery

- Encourage independence – dressing and undressing particularly!
- Toileting
- Talk about the transition – share the transition documents we have sent home, walk past the school
- Share songs and stories
- Encourage talking
- Losing the dummy



We can't wait to welcome you to Hillside



We look forward to a happy partnership in your child's first year at school and beyond.

Useful websites:

<https://hillsideprimary.org.uk>

www.foundationyears.org.uk

What I love
most about my
classroom
is who I
share it with

