

Welcome to Hillside Nursery!

What parents say...

“Hillside Nursery gave a really good introduction to school life, they even have P.E. sessions and visit the school library”

“My son learned the importance of sharing and taking turns”

“The records of their learning were a really informative way of seeing how my daughter was making progress, lots of photographic evidence that we will keep forever!”

“The staff are always welcoming and happy to offer advice and support at any time”

“Hillside Nursery is a welcoming, supportive and creative environment in which my daughter flourished”

“My son has benefitted from the freedom to play inside and outside and also from the structured sessions. A great mix.”

Welcome to Hillside Nursery

Our aim is for your child to have a happy and successful time at Nursery. Hillside is a school Nursery run by qualified teachers. We provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment in which we follow and develop the children's existing knowledge and interests. We encourage the children to consider the feelings of others and to be kind and caring to their friends and peers. Across the year we promote independence in all the children, encouraging them to take responsibility for their belongings and small tasks around the Nursery.

We believe that a successful home-school partnership is essential. We make sure that you are involved in your child's learning by sending home a weekly newsletter and ensuring there are always members of staff available to talk to when you drop off and collect your child. We also have opportunities for you to arrange formal parent's meetings with your child's teacher to discuss their progress throughout the year. You will have constant access to your child's learning journey using Tapestry, an online system.

We hope this brochure provides you with some useful information about Hillside Nursery and answers some of the questions you may have. Do not hesitate to contact the school office if you feel you need more information or would like to arrange a visit to the Nursery.

The Nursery Team

General Information

School address:

Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery School
Hillside Avenue
Thorpe St Andrew
Norwich
NR7 0QW

Telephone: 01603 433453

Email: office@hillsideavenue.norfolk.sch.uk

Headteacher: Anita Gutteridge

Nursery staff:

Teacher: Sara Neville (mornings)

Lizzy Pendleton (afternoons)

Teaching assistants: Amanda Nevard

Trudie Press

Susan Buttifant

Samantha Podmore

Nursery session time:

Morning 8:30-11:30

Afternoon 12:30-3:30

Nursery lunchtime 11:30-12:30

Here at Hillside we have space for 26 children in the morning and 26 children in the afternoon. We accept both the

universal 15 hour funding and the extended 30 hours funding (*Please note: it is the responsibility of the parent or carer to apply for the 30 hours funding before the 31st of the month before they wish the finding to begin*). It is also possible to pay for Nursery sessions at a cost of £12 per 3 hour session.

Parents may opt for their children to do any combination of morning and afternoon sessions and can also chose for their child to stay all day.

There is a lunchtime supervision cost of £3 per lunchtime. We ask that children bring a packed lunch with them. Snack packs can be ordered from the school canteen at a cost of £2.20. Early Years funding cannot be used to cover this hour.

The Curriculum

We plan an exciting play based curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The majority of this learning takes place as child initiated activities but we also plan for adult led activities.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is for children from birth to 5. At Hillside, Foundation stage is our Nursery and Reception classes.

The EYFS is split into 7 areas of learning, covering a variety of skills and developmental stages.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- getting on with others, playing together, knowing they are good at different things.

Communication and Language- speaking, listening and understanding.

Physical Development- gross and fine motor skills. E.g. threading beads, holding a paint brush, riding a bike, throwing a ball.

Literacy- reading and writing, early mark making, drawing and enjoying books.

Mathematical Understanding- recognising numerals, counting, shape and measure.

Understanding the World- explaining own knowledge, talking about past experiences, using technological toys and the computer.

Expressive Arts and Design- singing, music, art work, pretend and role play.

Your Child's First Week in Nursery

We have a staggered start in September which means not all the new children start together. We find this gives your child a settled start to Nursery and gives us the opportunity to get to know all the children in their first few weeks. If your child starts Nursery in January or at Easter they will start with a small number of new children.

Collecting Your Child

Please collect your child promptly at 11:30 or 3:30 to avoid them becoming distressed. Should there be any changes to the collection arrangements, please let us know. If someone we are not expecting arrives to collect your child we will not

allow them to take your them until we have contacted you to confirm this.

Observation and Assessment

Your child's development and achievements are recorded in their learning journey. We use an online learning journey called Tapestry. This is a secure, online system that you are able to log onto whenever you like from any internet enabled device. You have an individual user name and password and each parent is only able to view their own child's learning journey. Using this system you can also upload photos from home showing us the things your child has been up to. You can also comment on the observations we have made at Nursery.

Things to Bring

Your child should come to Nursery wearing comfortable clothes and shoes. Your child does not have to wear a uniform for Nursery, however you may wish them to. School polo shirts, jumpers, sun hats etc. are available to purchase from the school. Please be aware that activities at Nursery are messy, so do not send your child in clothes that you do not want to get dirty! Please ensure all your child's clothes are named.

Please bring a bag of spare clothes for your child to have at Nursery, this should include a full change of clothes and a bag for wet clothes. This is in case they have an accident or get wet or muddy while at Nursery.

Outside play is always available unless the weather is dangerous, so please send your child with a coat each day or a sunhat if it is hot.

A Typical Nursery Session

Children love routine and therefore we keep to a similar routine for each session. The activities will vary, however, the general set up will be the same. As the children come in they are encouraged to hang their belongings on their pegs and find their self registration name tag. They are then free to find an activity to start with. We are very happy for parents to help with this, especially at the beginning of your child's time at Nursery. As the year progresses you should find that your child needs less support with this.

After the children have had some time choosing activities we then stop for a carpet session. Here we talk about the adults in Nursery today, choose our special helpers and possibly have a story or a song. As the year progresses the children become more able to sit for longer periods of time so the carpet sessions become slightly longer and the children may have some group learning sessions.

For the main part of the session the children will be engaged in child initiated independent learning. They will be able to choose to play inside or outside and can move between areas as they please. Some children may be asked to work on an adult led task in this time. Adults are available to interact with the children and to enhance and take part in their play. During the session we have a snack and a drink together. This

consists of fruit, vegetables and sometimes a cracker, breadstick, biscuit or piece of cheese. Please let us know if your child has any allergies. Before the children go home we get together on the carpet once more.

This is a flexible plan, dependent on a variety of factors and will be modified and changed as the year progresses to meet the needs of the particular group of children. Sessions will always be appropriate for your child's needs and development.

Cooking

We like to cook regularly at Nursery. We cook a variety of things, including sweet and savoury, and hot and cold foods. We ask for a voluntary donation of £3 per term to help to cover the cost of ingredients. The children love joining in with cooking activities and lots of learning happens at these times. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.

Books

We visit the school library once a week. Each week the children choose a book to take home with them. It is helpful if the children bring a named book bag with them on library days. Hillside book bags are available through the school office. We also have a large selection of story sacks available for you to borrow. There will be more information about these things once your child has started at Nursery.

P.E.

We visit the school hall weekly for a P.E. session. We begin these sessions when the children have settled into the Nursery routine. There will be more information about this nearer the time.

Illness and Holidays

Please do not send your child to Nursery if they are ill. If they have had sickness or diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped. If your child is ill at Nursery we will inform you immediately. Please ensure we have an up to date contact number for you.

We are unable to claim funding for your child if they are absent from Nursery due to a holiday, however, we still have the same costs to cover. Due to this we now have to charge parents/ carers for any Nursery sessions missed due to holidays. Absence due to illness does not incur any charge. For more information on this please see the Nursery charging policy or phone the school office.

Questions

We hope that this brochure has been useful, however, if you have any other questions please don't hesitate to contact the school.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Hillside Nursery!