

Welcome to Newton Hill Foundation Stage



Reception Class Information Booklet

Newton Hill Community School
3 – 11



Vision Statement

Central to the community of Newton Hill, our fully **inclusive** school provides a **safe, healthy** and **happy** environment for every child to fulfil their potential. Supportive parents, staff and governors embrace the **creative, innovative** and **diverse** curriculum which promotes **successful, confident** and **responsible** individuals.

Newton Hill Community School
Ready for learning - Ready for life

Welcome to Reception Class

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Newton Hill Community School. We are looking forward to meeting you all in September 2020 and we hope that the time spent with us will be a happy and rewarding one.

We understand that we are living in unprecedented times and even though starting school is a big event and an exciting time for everyone, you will have lots of questions that you would like answering. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with useful information about our school and what to expect when you join us. This will hopefully make your child's transition into Reception Class as smooth as possible.

In addition to our welcome pack, there are some additional things we are doing to make your child's start to school as easy as possible:

Electronic forms – you will be asked to complete our school admissions forms and return to school by July 2020.

Reception transition information – Mrs Neal & Miss Fletcher will be liaising with your child's current pre-school/ nursery over the coming weeks to ensure the effective handing over of transition information.

Return to School – We are closely following the Government's guidelines about re-opening schools. Once we have further information about returning to school in September 2020 then we will be able to announce a date for Reception children to start.

Transition weeks – We are very aware that the first week the children return to school may be their first time back in a classroom for a very long time, if at all. Therefore, our first two weeks back at school will be 'transition weeks'. This will mean that, to begin with, your children will only spend specific days or sessions at school. We will provide you with dates and times as soon as we are able to do so.

In the meantime, if you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me at reception@newton-hill.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you at Newton Hill Community School very soon.

Mrs. C Wheatley
Headteacher

Mrs. C Neal
EYFS Leader

Meet our Reception Team



Mrs Neal
Class Teacher
& EYFS Leader



Miss Fletcher
Class Teacher



Mrs Paine
Teaching Assistant

Even though the children will be sharing the EYFS provision and the staff work together as one team, your child will be allocated a class teacher who will have overall responsibility for them. There will be times throughout the day when your child is with their class teacher, for example; registration and story time.

- Our two classes are:

Lion Class (Mrs Neal)



Tiger Class (Miss Fletcher)



Curriculum

At Newton Hill Community School, we aim to provide a broad, balanced and creative curriculum that will enable each child to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually so that they can achieve their full potential. The curriculum will cover all areas of learning and will set in place firm foundations for further learning and development.

EYFS curriculum areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Alongside our provision areas, which enable children to access all the different curriculum areas independently, we also take focus groups for Phonics, Reading, Writing and Maths. Throughout the week there is also a focus creative activity which is usually linked to our class topic.

This year our class topics are:

Term 1- Homes and Families

Term 2- Pirates

Term 3- Minibeasts & Growing

Phonics

At Newton Hill Community School we use the Letters and Sounds Programme to teach our Phonics. We begin by teaching Phase 2 and move on to the next phases as and when your child is ready.

Phase 2 – This phase teaches your child 19 letters and sounds and allows your child to practise the skills of blending and segmenting. By the end of the phase many children should be able to read and spell simple words. Children will also be introduced to two-syllable words and simple captions.

Activities are designed to help children:

1. Blend sounds together so that they can read words
2. Segment sounds so that they can spell words
3. Read some 'tricky' words

Phase 3 – This phase teaches your child another 25 graphemes, most of them comprising of two letters (e.g. oa). Children will continue to practise CVC blending and segmentation and will apply their knowledge of blending and segmenting to read and spell simple two-syllable words and captions. Children will also learn letter names, learn to read some more tricky words and also begin to learn to spell some of these words.

Phase 4 - The purpose of this phase is to consolidate children's knowledge of graphemes in reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants and polysyllabic words.

Further information about our Phonics teaching, along with information about how we use phonics to help support with the teaching of reading and writing will be shared with you during a 'Phonics Meeting', which we will hold once your child has settled into school.

Behaviour

All our children are encouraged to follow the school's 5 Golden Rules:

1. We always keep everyone learning
2. We are always honest
3. We always keep everyone included
4. We always keep everyone safe
5. We always try our best

We encourage all children to be sensitive towards others. Some children may be shy and will need careful encouragement while others may be naturally outgoing. If disputes arise we talk to the children and provide language to negotiate a reasonable settlement calmly and quietly – through our whole school behaviour policy. Should any inappropriate behaviour give us cause for concern we will of course talk through the problem with you.

Safety

Children should always be brought and collected by a parent or responsible adult. Please inform staff of any changes in routine so that we are always aware who is collecting your child. We are unable to let children go home with a different adult without prior notification.

For safety reasons please ensure that cars are parked outside the school grounds and not in the school car park.

The school day

A typical day in Reception Class:

8.50am – **Classroom doors open:** Reception children will enter through the Foundation Stage playground. We will welcome your child into school and help them to put away their belongings and start their morning activity.

9.00am – **Registration:** Children will come to the carpet for registration and to choose their lunch for the day.

9.15am – **Phonics:** Children work in small groups to learn to read and write sounds and simple words, building up to captions and sentences later in the year.

10.15am – **Writing:** Children work in small groups to practise their writing skills. They will be encouraged to use their phonics knowledge to write simple words, captions and sentences.

11.00am – **Maths:** Children work in small groups to practise their maths skills. The focus activity will vary each week depending on the topic being taught e.g. number, shape, space or measure.

11.40am – **Tidy up:** Children tidy their indoor and outdoor learning spaces before coming together as a class to review their morning's learning.

12.00pm - **Lunch:** Children will eat their lunch in the school hall and then have the opportunity to play outside on the main playground.

1.00pm Handwriting/Guided Reading

1.30pm – **Focus activity:** Each week your child will take part in an activity led by the teacher. The activity is usually linked to the class topic and incorporates objectives from other areas of the EYFS curriculum.

***Child-initiated learning:** When your child is not taking part in a taught focus activity they will have the opportunity to take part in child-initiated learning. This is when your child chooses what and where they wish to learn from a wide range of carefully planned indoor and outdoor provision. Adults support children to learn by interacting with them in this provision.

2.30pm – **End of day routines:** children will tidy up their learning spaces and prepare for home. They will then enjoy a story and songs on the carpet.

3.15pm -**End of school day:** Please wait in the EYFS playground. When we see you are here for your child, we will call them one at a time to ensure they go to you safely. If you do need to speak to us, then all we ask is that you wait until we have seen all the children out safely before coming over.

Before & After School Club

Welcome to NEWTs



Newts, our Before and After School Club, provides care for children aged 3-11 years of age. The setting is run and managed by Newton Hill Community School staff. Newts have a staff team that are experienced and well trained, approachable and supportive towards the children's needs and the needs of their family. The provision is open 7:30am-8:50am and 3:15pm-6.00pm each weekday, term time only.

All our activities are planned around the children and are adapted to the age and ability of each child. Activities are planned to ensure the children have a varied and enjoyable time at the setting. The play opportunities promote children's development, self-esteem and confidence. We have a relaxed and fun atmosphere where children feel valued.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from 7:30-8:50am. The children are encouraged to eat a balanced and healthy breakfast from the menu before they take part in the activities available to them to get them ready for the school day. Every morning we have wake-up shake-up in the school hall.

After School Club

After school club runs from 3:15-6pm every week day term time only. Children are collected from their classrooms at the end of the school day by our after-school club staff. The children enjoy a healthy snack at 4:15pm. The weekly menus are planned by the children and vary each week. The children can take part in the variety of activities including art, crafts, computing, outdoor play and many other activities. We offer daily homework support.

If you wish to use our NEWTs provision and would like to express an interest, then please complete a registration form which is available on our website. Payments for NEWTs are made through ParentPay.

Any further details please contact **Mrs Marie Myton**
on **07767001972** or **newts@newton-hill.org.uk**

Uniform

Our uniform consists of:

- Bright red plain jumper, sweat shirt or cardigan
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Black trousers, skirts or shorts
- Red gingham dresses

- Plain black or red tights (no patterns please)
- Plain socks (black or white)

- Sensible **black** shoes. In bad weather children may change from wellingtons / boots in the cloakroom (exceptions for medical needs).

- Long hair (beyond shoulders) should be tied back. School coloured/neutral hair accessories to be kept to a minimum.

Uniform which has our school logo sewn on is optional. It can be purchased from our uniform supplier (see website for details)

http://www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk/website/school_uniform/28066

PE

The children will have at least one P.E. session per week. All children will need a change of clothes for PE. Once PE kits are brought into school they can be left and taken home at the end of each half term.

PE kits include:

- Plain dark shorts
- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain dark track suit top and bottoms for cold weather.
- Trainers (any style/colour) that your child can fasten themselves.

*Please remember to name all of your child's belongings.

Jewellery

No jewellery please, only stud earrings. These will need to be removed or covered with plasters during PE. Please make sure children have their own micropore tape or small plasters with their PE kit if they are not removing their earrings. Adults are not allowed to remove earrings.

Water Bottles

All children are encouraged to bring water to school to drink throughout the school day (these are kept in an allocated space in the classroom so that they can be accessed at any time).

Book bags

It is recommended that children bring a bag to school with them each day. This is so they can bring home important letters and any work that they have done that day in class. For your guidance, the homework books we will be sending home are A4 size.

Books

Reading books will be handed out once children have settled into school. A reading meeting will be held in September to give further information about the school's reading policy and procedures.

Children can also choose a library book from our school library to bring home and share with you.

Lunchtime

All children will eat their lunch in the school hall. School meals are free for children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

School meal choices vary daily and children are given the option to choose their own meals each morning during registration. We will provide you a menu when your child starts so that you are aware of the different food options that are available each week.

If you prefer, children can bring in their own packed lunches. This can be done on an ad-hoc basis depending on the meal choices that day/week.

*** No peanuts, peanut butter sandwiches or biscuits with peanuts – due to a number of allergies to nuts. No sweets/chocolate bars in lunch boxes, but chocolate biscuits are allowed.**

Milk & Fruit

Fresh fruit is available to children each day and this can be accessed at any time. Children are also allowed a carton of milk. This is free until the start of the term in which they turn 5 when you are then given the option to pay for it. Letters will be sent out with additional information on once your child starts school.

Parent Pay

School does not take any monies therefore any payments e.g. for class trips, milk etc. will be made online through a system called Parentpay. All parents will be given a barcode and password to use in order to access the website (for children new to school this will be given to you in September).

Home-School links

We believe that strong home-school links are important; therefore we have lots of ways in which we communicate with you:

- Whole school newsletter – this is shared on our website every week and includes our class 'star of the week', an overview of what we are learning about and other information needed for that week.
- Reception Class weekly letter – this informs you of the learning that will be taking place throughout the week so you can support learning at home. It also includes any key dates and messages specific to Reception Class.
- Parent Hub – we send out texts as reminders and you can also keep updated with your child's learning in school.
- Speaking to staff – If you have any questions or concerns then a member of the FS team will be happy to help. You can speak to us when you drop your child off or catch us at the end of the day. If a longer time is needed then an appointment can be made for after school.

- Parent open morning/afternoons – These give you an opportunity to look through your child's learning journal. During these sessions we may also hold curriculum meetings to tell you a little more about what we are doing in class.
- School website – Our school website is regularly updated so that you can keep up to date with key dates, events and messages. Our website also provides lots of additional information about school so please feel free to take a look.
- School Twitter – This is used to showcase all the wonderful learning that takes place at school and all the different events that we are involved in.



Thank you for reading our booklet. We hope that you have found it informative and we would like to wish your child every happiness in our school.

If you do have any questions – please do not hesitate to ask!

Contact information

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Newton Hill
Wakefield
WF1 2HR

Telephone: 01924 303680

Email: admin@newton-hill.org.uk

Website: <http://www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk/website>

Follow us on Twitter: @Newton_Hill_Sch