

Welcome to Newton Hill Foundation Stage



Nursery 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 Nursery

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 Nursery 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.

Transition information – All children will receive a welcome new starter pack to fill in with their families prior to starting.

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 Nursery children to start.

Transition weeks – The first 4 weeks of school will be transition weeks to help the children settle into their new environment and routines. As we are unable to hold our FEET (Families Enjoying Everything Together) sessions to aid transition this year we will be holding similar stay and play sessions instead which Parents/Carers can attend as well. This will mean that, to begin with, your children will only spend specific days or sessions at school, building up to their start date. 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 nursery@newton-hill.org.uk.

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

Mrs. C Wheatley
Headteacher

Mrs. C Luck & Mrs L Greaux
Nursery Teachers

Meet our Nursery Team



Mrs Greaux
Nursery Teacher



Mrs Luck
Nursery Teacher, SENCO &
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Holliday
Nursery Nurse

Our Class is called:

Cubs Class



Curriculum

What will my child learn?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the beginning and most important stage of school life. Children learn to adapt from the home environment to the new and challenging experiences of school. They meet new people and learn to work together, to share, to co-operate and to solve problems. The EYFS curriculum is built upon 4 themes – a unique child, positive relationships, enabling environments and learning & development.

We encourage the children to express their ideas, thoughts and feelings through the following 7 areas of learning and development:

3 prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal social and emotional development

4 specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The curriculum guidance for the foundation stage places as much emphasis on learning outdoors as it does indoors. For this reason children need to come to school suitably dressed for the weather (e.g. wellington boots, raincoats, sunhats etc.)

All children's progress is regularly assessed from the time they start school and is shared with parents at consultation evenings. If you wish to discuss your child's progress or to raise any concerns you have at other times throughout the year then the class teacher is always happy to arrange a meeting to discuss these matters further.

How you can help

Encourage your child to play. Talk with them about their ideas and offer suggestions to stimulate thoughts and increase concentration.

Involve them in everyday activities, talking about what is happening and why. Use journeys and outings to stimulate talk about the world around them. Encourage counting, point out numbers and signs in the environment to develop early reading skills. Read to them often and let them see you reading. Play games like I-spy and develop an interest in games with rules.

Encourage sharing and turn-taking. Help to develop their independence by letting them do things for themselves, like dressing and undressing.

Allow them to be creative and to experiment with different materials. Provide them with opportunities to move freely and develop their physical skills.

Phonics

At Newton Hill Community School we use the Letters and Sounds Programme to teach our Phonics. We begin by teaching Phase 1 and move on to the next phases as and when your child is ready.

Phase 1 – Activities are designed to help children with their listening skills, language development and hearing of sounds to help them prepare for reading and writing.

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

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.

Session times

Morning session: 8.50am – 11.50am (Doors open from 11.45am)

Afternoon session: 11.50am – 2.50pm (30 hours)

On the first day, depending on how your child settles, parents can stay for some of the session. This will reassure your child and also give you the opportunity to ask any further questions.

On following days it should only be necessary to bring him/her in to help with arrival routines. If your child does not settle easily we will make alternative arrangements until they are ready to be left. Settling in can take a very long or very short time depending on the personality of your child. We want the transition from home to school to be a happy one.

To allow time to help with your child's transition into school, we will be staggering the children's start days. We will inform you of these dates as soon as we can.

Daily routines

Nursery children will enter and exit through the Foundation Stage playground. Doors open at 8.50am so that children can take part in their morning arrival activities before registration begins.

If you have any questions or concerns, a member of the FS team will be at the door or in the classroom and will always be happy to help – for quick messages you can catch us first thing on a morning or when you pick your child up but if you need a longer chat please don't hesitate to make an appointment.

Please let us know of any changes to the people picking up your child.

Daily routines (30 hours children)

Children doing 30 hours will need to bring a healthy packed lunch with them each day. We ask that children do not bring in any sweets or chocolate bars.

Lunches are eaten in the hall. Nursery children sit together on their own table and are supervised by a member of the Midday Support Staff.

Pick up for 30 hours children is at 2.50pm. Children need to be collected from the main entrance (reception area). There is an option for children to stay until 3.15pm at an additional payment of £2 per day. These additional hours are charged through our afterschool club, NEWTS.

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

Children in Nursery can wear our school uniform if they would like, although it is not compulsory.

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

Bringing things to school

Each week there is a 'Show & Tell' session where children can bring things in from home, however children are only allowed to bring in items linked to our 'sound and number of the week'. There will be other times where your child may be asked to bring in something related to the topic that they are learning about that half term. We try and encourage children to leave all other toys at home so that they are not lost or damaged.

It would also be helpful if you would encourage your child to bring cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes, yoghurt pots etc. for our creative area.

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).

School 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.

In Nursery we also ask children to bring a spare set of clothes in their bags, just in case they need to change for any reason.

Milk & Fruit

All part-time children are entitled to free milk and fruit. All children are encouraged to bring water in a named bottle.

Parent Pay

School does not take any monies therefore any payments e.g. for class trips 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 once your child has started school.

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.
- Nursery 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 Nursery.
- 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

Newton Hill Community School
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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