

Hillside Infant School

Parent Information



Welcome to Hillside Infant School



At Hillside Infant school we aim to provide all children with a secure and nurturing environment where they feel safe to express themselves and 'be the best that they can be'.

Our staff team work hard to support each child's individual needs. Our priority is to ensure our children have an excellent start to their education and are provided with an exciting curriculum which allows them to reach their full potential and achieve the highest possible standards. Our attainment and progress for all pupils has progressed year on year over the last four years.

We have four key values that support our day to day work and development.

Trying our best every day

Kindness and honesty

Working as a Hillside team

Using good manners.

Pupils are very courteous and respectful to each other and adults. Their behaviour, conduct around the school and attitudes to learning are excellent. Their personal development and welfare are exceptional.

Ofsted 2018

Mrs Rebecca Fennell

Headteacher

Our Curriculum



We believe in offering your child a rich and varied curriculum. Our curriculum mantra is 'practical and purposeful' which in practice means that we want the children to have hands-on experience of activities that are highly relevant to their lives now and in the future. In our classes you will see children actively involved and have an understanding about what they are learning and why.

From Nursery to Year 2 our children learn through a range of exciting termly topics which encompass areas of the national curriculum and develop the skills and knowledge required in each subject area. We have fantastic facilities such as a food tech room, computing suite and large play areas which enable us to plan exciting lessons. Children's learning is supported with a wide range of trips and workshops each term.

Our varied teaching styles and fluid groupings allow all children to make good progress from their starting points. We provide small group and individual teaching support for all children including those with additional needs or who are very able. Children's attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) in Standard Assessment tests (SATs) has been consistently in line or above national averages. We are particularly proud of our results for the government's phonic screening for year 1 pupils, which has been significantly above national averages for the last 4 years.

Children in early years benefit from strong teaching and make good progress. They are prepared well for Year 1.

The wider curriculum

At Hillside we offer children a wide range of extra-curricular after school and lunchtime clubs. Our sports coach runs a range of sports clubs for all children. Our teachers run a range of lunchtime clubs following the children's interests these have included art, yoga, French and lego.

The curriculum is broad and balanced and engages pupils well in their learning. A range of clubs, visits, trips and sporting activities enriches the curriculum. Pupils experience a cross-curricular, skills-based approach to the curriculum, covering the full range of national curriculum subjects.

Ofsted 2018

Pastoral support



Our personal development, behaviour and welfare of our pupils has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted (2018) as continues to go from strength to strength.

We are proud of our ability to support all children with their emotional development, mental health and well-being. We do this by knowing our children well and also ensuring that the curriculum covers the things that matter: being able to talk about friendships, feelings and how to be resilient. Some children may experience events that are hard to make sense of and we can offer individual or small group sessions in school, delivered by one of our qualified therapeutic play workers. We have a mental health first aider and our pastoral support lead has a degree in therapeutic psychology and both are available to support parents with any questions related to their child's wellbeing.

We have clear systems in place to support the children understand the expectations for behaviour. All adults have consistent expectations and help the children meet these through positive and respectful relationships.

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Ofsted 2018

Working together with families



At Hillside Infant School we offer many opportunities for parents and families to be involved in their child's learning and school life. We believe it is essential to work with parents as partners in your child's journey with us.

Before your child starts school, we offer lots of opportunities to visit. Stay and play sessions support children's induction and integration into school. We also hold parent meetings on how to support your child in preparing for school and what to expect in the first term. We recognise that each child is unique and therefore we expect that induction into school will take many forms and can be tailored at a pace that suits. You will guide us getting to know your child.

Communicating with families

Each week we send home a newsletter with information about school events, key dates and key learning for the next week for each year group.

Our teachers regularly communicate with parents through our online learning platform 'Class Dojo'. This platform is useful if you have a quick question or query. We also send home learning information and homework through this platform.

Parent consultation meetings take place twice a year; a one to one meeting with your child's class teacher, discussing their development and future targets. We also enjoy welcoming parents to our 'learning together' mornings. This is an opportunity to see your child at work in their class, learn about teaching strategies and how you can support further at home.

Each term we run a range of workshops for families on key curriculum areas. In addition, we are developing a range of 'how to' videos which will be available on our website.