



Wednesday 14th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year! Welcome back to our returning families, and a very warm welcome to all our new families joining us this term. We'd also like to say a huge thank you for supporting our Christmas raffle – the money raised has helped us buy a wonderful new interactive light table, which the children are already loving.

Learning Focus areas (linking to the Early Years Foundation Stage) Understanding the World - *Know that there are different countries and communities in the world.*

We will be discussing the cultures and customs for the Chinese New Year, which is the year of the Horse. We will have a display to show the children, which will have a variety of Chinese and other multi-cultural items. Also, we will be making Chinese money bags and reading the book titled 'My First Chinese New Year'. The children will also have the opportunity to try some Chinese food and use chopsticks.

To extend your child's learning at home, you could show them any pictures or news items regarding the festival, which takes place around the 17th February 2026. If you have knowledge of another culture, or can speak another language that you could share with the children please do let us know; we would love it if the children could experience some new foods, languages and culture!



Term Dates

2026

Spring Term

First Day of Term -
Tuesday 6th January

Half Term - Monday 16th -
Friday 20th February

INSET DAY (Closed) -
Monday 23rd February

Children Return - Tuesday
24th February

Last Day of Term - Friday
27th March

Summer Term

INSET DAY (Closed) -
Monday 13th April

First Day of Term -
Tuesday 14th April

MAY DAY HOLIDAY (CLOSED)
- Monday 4th May

Half Term - Monday 25th
May - Friday 29th May

Children Return - Monday
1st June

Last Day of Term - Tuesday
21st July

(First School finishes
Wednesday 22nd July)



Talk about emotions, and begin to understand how others might be feeling -

Throughout this half term we will continue to talk to children about their emotions so they can begin to manage their feelings and be sensitive to the feelings of others. We will be supporting the children to manage and describe their emotions with visual pictures, stories and discussions at circle times.

At home, please help your child to express their feelings by providing them with the language that they need, for example “I know you are feeling cross” (frustrated, sad, excited, happy, worried)

Mathematics – counting objects and number recognition (EYFS 2021) -

We will be helping children to ‘subitise’ – which is when a child can quickly recognise up to three or four objects without counting them individually (e.g. spots on a dice or a few pieces of fruit in a bowl).

At home you could encourage your child to count objects around the house, or when shopping.

‘WOW’ Moments - Our ‘WOW’ exchange scheme is working really well - the children love sharing their photos with the class! Please keep sending them in using our QR code at the bottom of this newsletter.

If you have an iPhone, you can also take a screenshot of the QR code, then press and hold on it in your photos to send your pictures directly.

Bad weather - Staff will endeavour to get into pre-school so that parents can be advised if we have to close in the event of snow or storm. As soon as we have information regarding closure, it will be put on our Facebook page and our website.

Please remember if Hillside School is closed then the pre-school is also closed. In the event of bad weather please do not risk life and limb to get here!

Please label your child's belongings especially coats, hats, scarves and gloves!

Lunch boxes - Please do not put chocolate or sweets in your child's lunch box, and please do not put in any peanut based products such as Nutella or nut cereal bars. We have some leaflets which give tips and ideas for healthy lunches if you would like a copy.

Can we also remind you to cut up grapes and small tomatoes longways to prevent any risk of choking. We would also discourage the sticky fruit ‘Winders’ as the children are unable to unravel them by themselves and they are very messy.





Illness - Due to increase in Winter coughs and colds, and Covid-19 cases, we want to remind parents to please keep children at home if they have any symptoms or are generally unwell. If a child needs Calpol to reduce a temperature then they should not be at pre-school, as they usually go downhill as the day progresses. It is also our policy that if a child has sickness or diarrhoea then they must not return to pre-school until at least 48 hours after the last incident. We have had a few cases of head lice recently. Please check your child's hair and treat promptly if you find any - this really helps us prevent further spread.

The school grounds - We have been made aware by the school that a number of parents are using the staff car park to drop off and collect their child. Please park on the roadside or the parents car park and walk your child in to pre-school. Also, when leaving pre-school, please use the pathways rather than walking through the staff car park. There has been a near miss incident so we want to keep everyone safe.

Attendance - If your child is unwell, please contact us by telephone or email on the first morning of their illness. Regular attendance is a requirement of the Early Years funding, we would be grateful if children can arrive promptly at 9am, in order to start their learning with the register and weather board activities. We understand that some parents have to drop off their older children at other local schools. If your child is booked into Breakfast Club, please ensure they have arrived by 8:30am.

Please look out for updates and photographs on our Facebook page, as well as our website and newsletters. Hit on the icons below to access our social media pages, look at our website or to send us an email. Scan the QR Code to send in 'WOW' pictures.

Kind regards,

**Elaine Ford,
Pre-School Manager**



Scan this QR Code to send us
your child's WOW photo

