

HARTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

A SCHOOL AT THE HEART OF ITS COMMUNITY



WELCOME TO EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Harthill Primary School is a vibrant learning community where everyone's contribution makes a difference. As a school at the heart of its community, we pride ourselves on our inclusive ethos and commitment to provide the very best learning opportunities for each child. Through our enjoyable and exciting curriculum the children are motivated to achieve high standards and aspire to reach their personal goals.

CONTACT DETAILS

Union Street
Harthill
Sheffield
S26 7YH

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Littlewood

Email: school@harthill.jmat.org.uk
Telephone: 01909 760291

<https://www.harthillprimary.co.uk>

Our school office is open 8.30am - 3.30pm
Mrs McMullen and Miss Mills are happy to answer any questions you may have.

FEATURES

- MEET THE FOUNDATION TEAM
- IMPORTANT TIMES
- SCHOOL VALUES
- CHILDCARE
- OUR ENVIRONMENT
- STARTING SCHOOL
- SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD
- ASSESSMENT
- ATTENDANCE



OUR F2 STAFF

MRS HELEN LIDSTER – CLASS TEACHER

MRS FREYA HAMILTON – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Our early years philosophy:

Through our foundation stage we aim to provide a fun, stimulating environment where learning takes place through the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.

We provide opportunities for your child to explore new challenges and to practise and consolidate skills, competencies and interests. Our approach towards learning is through structured play in a supportive environment which allows children to feel secure and valued.

All our pupils are unique, and we aim to celebrate their talents and abilities.



MEET THE F2 TEAM
IMPORTANT TIMES



FIRST YEAR OF SCHOOL

Throughout their first year in school your child is encouraged to become a motivated learner and thinker, eager to be curious about their world.

At Harthill we recognise the individuality of each child and family and therefore we will work in partnership to ensure your child makes the best possible progress. We encourage our children to be active, responsible learners, developing independence, confidence and an eagerness to question what they discover.

*Play is the highest form of research
- Albert Einstein*

IMPORTANT TIMES

- School gates open daily at 8.40am.
- Children are met in the playground by a member of their classroom staff.
- The school day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm.
- All children will be dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day.

SAFEGUARDING

- Prior to starting school, you will be sent several forms that you will need to complete and return to us. On the Student Data form, please include the names of all adults who are able to collect your child from school.
- If your child is being collected by a different adult not indicated on your form, you must inform the classroom staff/school office prior to collection, otherwise we will not release your child until we have spoken to the person with parental responsibility.

OUR VALUES



SCHOOL VALUES

Throughout your child's time at Harthill we are keen to promote our school values through all areas of school life:

- Belonging
- Resilience
- Attitude
- Kindness

The aim of our values throughout our foundation curriculum encourages children to be kind, caring individuals who respect and value others within our community, competent learners and self reliant, confident team members who are given every opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge to cope with the world around them.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
- Nelson Mandela

SNACK TIME & FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your child will be offered a daily fruit snack and milk. These are free and we encourage all children to partake. If your child has any allergies/intolerances please ensure you complete this information on the Student Data form.

Your child will need to bring a refillable water bottle daily, please ensure you mark their name on this. Please do not send any other drinks to school.

Delicious school meals can be ordered on school grid. Universal Infant Free School Meals are available for all children up to the end of Year 2. However, if you are in receipt of certain benefits we encourage you to apply for free school meals as this entitles you to additional benefits. Currently this includes school holiday food vouchers, help towards the cost of school visits/after school clubs. It is a valuable source of income to school in the form of the Pupil Premium Grant.

Please see : <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/benefits/apply-free-school-meals>

SCHOOL MONEY

We are a cashless school and use the online payment system School Money for breakfast club, wraparound care, trips, after school clubs etc. Payments are easy to make online using a debit or credit card. The school office can assist you with any payments you need to make.

BREAKFAST CLUB



CHILDCARE

Our Breakfast Club is available Monday to Friday from 7.45am until 8.45am in the School Hall.

You must book your child's place via your School Money account in advance. Bookings can be made up to midnight the day before and numbers are limited to 20. If you are unable to book, it will be because the session is full.

Access is via the main visitor entrance door only and you will need to press the separate breakfast club bell.

The current cost is £3.50 per child per session which includes breakfast and a range of supervised activities.

Children can choose from cereals, toast, fruit and juice and enjoy spending time with their peers before the school day starts.



WRAPAROUND CARE

After School Childcare is available Monday to Friday from 3.15pm until 5.45pm. This is onsite and run by our own staff Miss McDonald, Mrs Hamilton and Miss Mills.

Children will have access to games, crafts, paper and pens and the occasional TV session. They will be encouraged to be involved in making their own food to support independence, under full adult supervision.

Wraparound is available in the following sessions:

Session 1: 3.15 - 4.30 - includes a drink and fruit snack (currently priced at £3.50 per session). This session is only for children being collected prior to 4.30pm.

Session 2: 4.30 - 5.45 - healthy wrap, fruit, crisps and yoghurt are available (£4.00 per session). This session can be accessed by anyone attending an after school club first that requires care up until 5.45pm.

You can also combine the 2 sessions and book session 3 which is available straight after school until 5.45pm. The current cost is £7.50.

Please note, you can pick your child up at any point during the session, but they must be collected by the end of the session. Late charges apply.

If you need to contact wraparound staff after the school office has closed the number is: 07443922647



ENCOURAGING NATURAL CURIOSITY

Our foundation area as a whole has been carefully designed to encourage and develop your child's natural curiosity.

They will discover their own talents, become more independent, more confident and through these opportunities enjoy their learning which we believe is key to progression.

Through the experiences our foundation unit provides, our aim is to encourage our children to develop positive relationships and friendships and understand their feelings and the feelings of others.

At Harthill we believe in a balance between child-initiated learning and adult-led tasks, therefore raising children's self-esteem and promoting belonging within the group and we feel the layout of our provision both supports and facilitates this.



OUR ENVIRONMENT



PE SESSIONS

We have equipment stations for children to design their own games to extend our PE sessions on a large grass pitch complete with goals.

Our timetabled PE sessions do not take place in our area as it is important for the children to focus on the value of exercise and specific skill teach away from their free flow play equipment.

We have 2 PE sessions each week that take place on the playground, ball court or field. These areas are also used for our whole school daily mile initiative which will be explained in our parent meetings.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of your child in school are important to document their learning journey. We also love to share what we are doing in school and children enjoy seeing themselves in photographs.

We must obtain consent from the parent/guardian/carer before we are able to take these. Please consider carefully whether you would like to see photographs of your child's school life and complete the relevant section on our consent form.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

We value the importance of role-play to develop language and communication, imagination, interaction and negotiating skills as children learn a great deal of self-regulation through the play they choose with adults to model play where necessary and support all children who want to join in therefore helping children to extend their play and have a wider understanding of the world.

We have a variety of construction bricks, planks and blocks available along with cones, tool kits, hard hats and Hi-Viz! This is a great activity to develop team work.

We have toy vehicles for our patio area and a roadway which is marked out, including traffic signal for our range of scooters, balance motorbike and go cart. This area is very popular and necessary to develop the skills of turn taking and sharing.

The above skills can also be developed in our gardening area, where children are encouraged to care for the natural world around us and become familiar with the plants they grow and the animals they see.



OUR CLASSROOM

We are very fortunate to have a new unit with self-contained cloakroom and toilets, therefore the children do not need to leave the area for anything they need during learning time.

We have our whole class learning area at the front of the room. This carpet space is used for whole class teaching which gives the children opportunities to listen to each other, to express opinions and to ask and answer questions. There are also free flow activity areas spaced within the rest of the classroom. These areas include phonics and maths-based tasks, construction with Lego, imaginex and various shapes and sizes of wooden building blocks. This area includes the use of a work bench with vice where children will use saws, hammers, screwdrivers and hand turned drills 1-1 with adult supervision. We have a making/creative area, kitchen/cafe, car garages, train sets and puppet theatre.

There is a finger gym station to develop the children's fine motor skills which help with pencil grip and scissor skills. There are also Playmobil areas which develop the children's imagination and language skills. These reflect the particular theme of each half term. For example, if we are focusing on people who help us we would have the hospital, ambulance, police and fire station and emergency vehicles to enable children to act out real life scenarios.

We have a well-stocked reading and music area with a listening station, iPad and computer for the children to independently access at all times.



OUTSIDE SPACE

This is an amazing space, both in size and provision possibilities which offer the best contribution to your child's learning through carefully planned and structured play, activities and teaching. This area is self-contained with access for foundation children only as it is our learning area and classroom. It can be reached by the children from the cloakroom where they can work under the canopy on a range of phonics, maths and investigative activities which mirror or extend those activities inside.

There are easels for creative art work as well as chalk and magnetic tables for mark making and independent writing. There is also sand and water play, a play house and picnic area with a river pathway and pirate ship. Our children love our mud kitchen and outdoor restaurant. There is a stage with seating area to perform our fairy tales and balance/climbing bridge to develop gross motor skills.

In 2022 we installed an amazing playtower providing an opportunity for adventurous play, encouraging physical development and upper body strength. It has been a big hit with the children.



TRANSITION

We look forward to meeting your child at our transition sessions. These sessions are a great opportunity for your child to actually have a mental photograph of their school world over the summer holidays.

They will have seen different free flow activity areas and sat on the carpet where our whole class learning takes place. They are shown basic routines, for example where we line up, our cloakroom system, where they put water bottles and most importantly the toilet system!

They will meet new children who they will spend their primary school life with, many will remain friends for life.

If you feel you have any concerns about your child starting their school journey that may require them to have additional transition time in school then please do let us know. Any additional sessions offered would need to be after the school day has ended.



STARTING
SCHOOL



SCHOOL LIFE

Most children settle into our school very quickly and are happy and eager to arrive, but for some this can take a little longer as they are getting used to a new environment and routines.

It is important that we recognise each child as an individual to ensure their transition into school is as smooth as possible, therefore working together with parents and having a clear strategy in place when your child comes into school each morning is something we believe to be vitally important.

We strive hard to ensure transition into our school meets the needs of each child to ensure they feel confident and have ownership of their school world. Please do not worry if your child is reluctant, starting school is a big step for all concerned and you are welcome to contact school at any time to check how they have settled.

UNIFORM

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging. These factors contribute to positive wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers. Please see our uniform checklist for full details of what your child should be wearing. You can purchase items embroidered with the school logo, but these are not compulsory.

Please ensure you label **all** your child's clothing to help us return mislaid items, including shoes. You don't need to buy expensive name labels, you can use a biro to write on the size label and it won't come off in the wash.

Top Tip: Pre-Loved Uniform

We have a regular pop-up shop selling pre-loved, good quality uniform very cheaply. We will be running one of our shops during the summer term and will inform you of the date.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD BEFORE STARTING SCHOOL?



SUPPORTING
YOUR CHILD

Practise the skills that will help your child be independent, especially identifying their possessions like their coat, shoes and book bag as well as dressing themselves.

Ensure your child can go to the toilet independently.

Your child will not be expected to read or write but should recognise their name and if possible be able to write their first name. Remember to use a capital letter and not the initial letter sound.

Build social skills- sharing and negotiating are key to success so play games that involve turn taking and build an understanding of winning and losing.

Children feel more confident at school when they can explain themselves and ask for what they need. Talk about the world around them and encourage their responses. It is important your child becomes a confident communicator.

Talk positively about school, emphasising the element of fun, varied opportunities and experiences they will have as this approach will also help deal with any fears they may have.

If your child has any additional needs that would prevent any of the above being achieved, please feel free to speak to us and we will ensure strategies are in place.



Our outdoor reading space



Sail away down our river pathway

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD DURING THEIR FOUNDATION YEAR?

- Talk about your child's school day.
- Talk to staff – no worry is too small.
- Tell us if there has been a change in your child's life e.g. a separation, or death of a relative/pet as this can explain a change in behaviour.
- Celebrate the work they bring home – they are special, and will have taken time, concentration and care to produce something they want you to value. Try to display some of this work at home.
- Celebrate their achievements, star of the week or a text from school to home.
- Ensure you are on time for the start of the school day. This allows your child to see their friends and to come in together for register and be ready to learn.
- Ensure you are on time to collect your child. Your child will be tired at the end of the school day and they will be looking for you. Please let us know if you are delayed as we can speak to your child and explain before home time.
- Parents in partnership working together with the same message/ goal for the child. Our aim in Foundation is to start your child on their journey through school in the best possible way, we are committed to ensuring they are happy individuals who flourish and thrive and the opportunities we provide will equip them with the skills needed to extend their knowledge encouraging your child to know they will succeed.



HOW WILL MY CHILD BE ASSESSED?

Throughout their foundation stage your child is constantly being assessed throughout all sessions including:

- Free flow activities
- Whole class carpet sessions
- Supported group work
- 1-1 sessions

You will be informed of your child's progress in a variety of ways:

- Physical learning journey comprising of snap shots of key experiences in your child's development, with examples of work showing progression in the key areas of the foundation curriculum
- Parent evenings throughout the school year
- Daily opportunities to speak to a member of the team at drop off and collection times
- Appointments can be arranged, and we can meet either in person or chat via phone call

Please be reassured if you feel something needs to be discussed, it is important to you therefore it is important to us.

We have strong links with the Year 1 team to ensure a smooth transition at the end of the summer term. We have staff meetings during this time to discuss each child, this includes assessment information, sharing relevant data and also talking about each child individually; their likes/dislikes, friendships, medical needs etc to ensure Year 1 staff have a clear picture of your child before they become part of their class.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We of course aim high and want all our students to be in 100% of the time as we know there are strong correlations between this and achievement. Our minimum expectations is 96%, within the Attendance policy (found on our website) you can see the interventions that are put in place if 96% is not met.

If your child is unwell for any reason, please telephone the school office before 9am and leave a message on the absence line, giving your child's class, full name and reason for absence.

If you wish to take your child out of school for a holiday, please ensure you complete a holiday request form. This can be obtained from the school office or is available on our website.

Please note that once your child enters full time education (Foundation Stage 2) the Academy will not authorise leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

We hope that this information has been helpful to you and we look forward to working with you and your child in the future