

Hillside First



School



“Where children are at the heart of everything we do”





A day in the life of Hillside Little Owls EYFS



Children are met at the gate by a member of staff and welcomed into the classroom, supporting a smooth transition from home to school and promoting **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**.

Children are encouraged to put their belongings away independently, supported by visual prompts and Early Years staff. This develops independence, self-care skills and confidence, which are key aspects of the **Prime Areas of Learning**.

As they enter the classroom, children choose from a range of morning activities. These may include fine motor activities to develop pencil grip and control, gross motor tasks to strengthen core stability, or social communication activities to support **Communication and Language and PSED**. This promotes the **Characteristics of Effective Learning, particularly playing and exploring**.

We begin the day together on the carpet, where we take the register, update the daily weather board and calendar, and review our visual timetable. This supports children's understanding of routines, sequencing and time, contributing to **Understanding the World and mathematical development**.

During assembly, children participate in songs, celebrations and shared themes, fostering a sense of belonging and supporting **PSED, listening and attention skills**.





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Phonics and Early Writing

Children take part in daily phonics and handwriting sessions. We follow *Unlocking Letters and Sounds* to support early reading, blending and segmenting skills within **Literacy**. Handwriting sessions using *Kinetic Letters* develop fine motor strength, posture and letter formation, building strong foundations for writing.

After phonics, children enjoy milk or water and a snack provided from home. Snack time provides opportunities for social interaction and the development of early mathematical concepts such as counting, sharing and comparing quantities during our daily 'Snack Maths' session.

Outdoor Provision and Physical Development

Children have daily outdoor play, where they can access small play equipment and collaborate with their peers. Outdoor provision supports **Physical Development**, including balance, coordination and spatial awareness, while also encouraging cooperative play and communication.





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Mathematics

After play, we gather for a short mathematics session, introducing new concepts through stories, practical resources, songs and rhymes. These sessions promote deep understanding through active learning and hands-on exploration, supporting the **Specific Area of Mathematics**.

'Let's Explore' – Continuous Provision

During 'Let's Explore' time, children engage in a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. Small group teaching in reading, phonics and writing takes place during this time to provide targeted support.

Our continuous provision indoors includes:

- Loose parts play (**problem-solving and creativity**)
- Role-play (**language development and imaginative play**)
- Fine motor activities (**Physical Development**)
- Creative crafts (**Expressive Arts and Design**)
- Construction (**spatial reasoning and collaboration**)
- Maths and literacy challenges

Outdoors, children can access:

- A mud kitchen (**Understanding the World and imaginative play**)
- Large and small construction (**spatial reasoning and collaboration**)
- Obstacle course building (**Physical Development**)
- Musical and role-play areas (**Expressive Arts and Design**)
- A forest garden (**Understanding the World and imaginative play**)
- Bikes, trucks and scooters (**Physical Development**)

These experiences support all seven areas of learning and encourage *active learning and creating and thinking critically*.

We also provide calm areas for quiet reading or relaxation, supporting emotional regulation and wellbeing.

Throughout the year, children participate in gardening activities and nature investigations, deepening their understanding of the natural world within

Understanding the World.





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Drawing Club

After 'Let's Explore', children take part in Drawing Club. Using a high-quality weekly text as inspiration, children develop vocabulary, imagination and storytelling skills. They create characters, inventions and story events, strengthening their **Literacy, Expressive Arts and Design, and Communication and Language skills.**

Lunchtime

Lunchtime takes place in the hall, where children choose either a packed lunch from home or a hot meal prepared on site. This social time promotes independence, turn-taking and conversation skills.

Afternoon Learning

After lunch, we gather for a short carpet session introducing a new topic or area of learning. This may focus on:

- **Expressive Arts and Design**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Children then continue their learning through further 'Let's Explore' time, where adults scaffold play, extend vocabulary and support sustained shared thinking. The afternoon includes outdoor play, a fruit snack provided by the school, and a story session to promote a love of reading and language development before home time.

At the end of the day, children are encouraged to prepare independently for home, strengthening self-care and organisational skills. They are then safely handed over to their parent or carer.





Hillside First School

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