



# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Prospectus 2025 - 2026

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**Airy Hill Primary School**

Dream | Believe | Aspire | Achieve

## Letter from the Early Years Leader

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whether your child already attends Airy Hill School, or you are currently looking for a school place for your child, I hope that this document will provide you with much of the information you need about Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Airy Hill. We are a rights-respecting, family school with an open-door policy, and we would love for you to come and visit us.

Staff at Airy Hill School are dedicated, hardworking and passionate about delivering the best educational outcomes for the children in our care. We believe in developing the whole child through our nurturing and Rights Respecting ethos. Our exciting EYFS curriculum is built around the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, and with a firm belief that children are uniquely capable, creative and intelligent. We aim to develop and embed the foundations for our children to be successful learners and have a life-long love of learning through wonder and exploration. At the heart of our EYFS community is a strong partnership with parents and carers. We recognise that you know your child best, and we value the insights, experiences, and support you bring to your child's learning journey. By working together, sharing successes, concerns, and milestones - we create a nurturing environment where every child feels secure, confident, and ready to thrive. We hold the shared aim that every child will develop a love of reading and that success in reading is the gateway to learning across the school

Please come and visit us and see this for yourselves! For more details on our approach to early years learning, please see our EYFS Policy, Guidance and Offers. We look forward to welcoming your child into our school and helping them to achieve their full potential.

Yours Sincerely,  
**Miss M Sumpton**  
(EYFS Lead)



### **Our Vision**

Working together so every child succeeds.  
Broad and exciting learning opportunities to achieve the best we can.  
A Rights Respecting, nurturing and positive learning community.

### **Our Values**

- Educates the whole child through a world class curriculum.
- Emphasises the rights of everyone and the importance of community.
- Works in partnership with parents, carers and all stakeholders, including the local community.
- Nurtures all children and actively cares for their wellbeing and social and emotional development.

### **Our Aims**

- We are resilient and tackle challenges.
- We go on overnight adventures.
- We are polite and kind to others.
- We are proud of our heritage.
- We are confident and try new things.
- We are happy and friendly.
- We are artistic.
- We respect the rights of others.
- We represent the school at sports.

### **Our Pledges**

At Airy Hill Primary School, we will ensure that all children will have the opportunity to;

- Go on an overnight residential
- Have cultural experiences
- Learn to play an instrument
- Represent the school in the community
- Take part in termly visits outside of the school environment
- Learn in a Forest School
- Learn to swim
- Visit London



**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**



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### **Where are we?**

Airy Hill Primary School is situated on Waterstead Lane in Whitby, just off the A171, within walking distance of the town centre.

### **Staffing**

HeadTeacher	Mr S Butters
Early Years Leader	Miss M Sumpton
Nursery Lead Practitioner	Mrs L Dickinson
Nursery Practitioner	Mrs K Melton
Nursery Practitioner	Miss H Stewart
Reception Teacher	Miss M Sumpton
Reception Teaching Assistant	Mrs P Stewart
SENDCo	Mrs V Hobson
School Administrator	Mrs B Brannick
School Administrator	Mrs S Highwood



### **Session Times**

Nursery morning:	8.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.
Nursery afternoon:	11.45 – 3.15 p.m.
Reception day:	8.45 a.m. – 3.15 p.m.



### **Wraparound Care**

#### **Breakfast Club:**

The school runs breakfast club daily from 7:50am. There is a small charge to attend. Breakfast options include: Choice of cereals, Toast with a choice of toppings (including hot beans or spaghetti), a drink.

#### **Night Owls:**

Our after-school club, night owls, runs from 3.15pm until 6pm. There is a small charge to attend. Activities range from arts & craft, cooking, Lego, mindfulness and games. Pupils who stay after 4.30pm will get a snack and a drink.

Wraparound care is available to all pupils from Nursery to Year 6. Places can be booked on MCAS.



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## Welcome

We welcome children and families of all abilities and backgrounds to join us at Airy Hill Primary School. Starting school is a major stepping stone in any child's life and it is our intention to make the transition as smooth as possible. We aim to develop each child to their full potential as an active, happy and confident learner working in partnership to build on the foundations that parents have already laid.

### Starting Nursery

Our Nursery is situated in the bungalow next to the main school building. It has a large outdoor area.

It is vital to us that your child has a successful and happy start in nursery. We work with you to transition your child into our setting by doing the following:

1. You are invited to visit nursery either with or without your child. During your visit you will have opportunity to look around the provision and ask as many questions as you would like. You may also like to take this opportunity to have a tour of the school.
2. We will encourage you to bring your child in for a few informal visits of 30 minutes- 1 hour in the half term before they start. Parents stay with children for this session to help them to feel confident and comfortable in their new surroundings.
3. On your child's first day, we ask for you to keep your mobile phone on and we will contact you if we have any concerns about how your child is settling.
4. If you are ever concerned about whether your child is settled and happy at nursery after you have dropped them off, do give us a ring.

### Starting Reception

Children join reception class in the September after their fourth birthday. Reception class is situated in the main school building and has a large outdoor area. Nursery and Reception classes work closely together.

1. Applications for Reception Class places must be submitted by the January before they are due to start school in September.
2. If your child already attends the Airy Hill School Nursery, they will make regular visits over to Reception class as they prepare to move up.
3. If your child does not attend our Nursery. Class teachers will make a visit to meet your child at their setting. Enhanced transition can be made for pupils needing additional support.
4. Parents and their children are invited to an open morning during our school transition event. On this day, children will have an opportunity to play in the Reception class whilst an informal talk is held in the school hall to share with you all the information you need to know ahead of your child starting school.
5. In the first weeks of starting Reception, we will provide a phonics workshop for parents and provide information on how your child will be learning to read.

Please try not to worry if your child is upset during the first few days, this usually only lasts a short time. It is often the best policy to give him/her a hug/kiss and leave. Our staff are experienced in dealing with these situations and children are usually quickly distracted and consoled when you have gone. The staff will keep you fully informed of how your child is settling in.

If you are delayed picking up your child, please try to inform school by telephone. If someone else is collecting your child, please inform the office in advance. At the end of the day, Reception parents/carers are to collect their child via the ramp. Nursery parents/carers are to collect their child from the bungalow.



## A Day in the Life

### A Day in the Life of a Nursery Pupil:

**8:45am** Children from breakfast club are brought over to nursery by a member of staff.

**8:45am** Morning children arrive and are greeted at the door by a member of staff. They say goodbye to their parents/carers. Staff then help them to take off coats etc and settle into the morning routine of self register and play.

**8:45am – 11:25am** The children can choose from a wide selection of activities both indoors and outside in the garden. During this time children have snack together and enjoy a story and phonics activities on the carpet.

**11:23am – 11:30am:** The children help to tidy up.

**11:30am – 11:45am:** The children go to group time where children take part in a range of activities such as counting rhymes and maths activities

**11:45am:** Nursery doors open for children to be collected. Children who are staying for lunch wash hands and go to the school hall for their lunch.

**11:50am – 12:30pm:** Lunchtime.

**11:45am:** Afternoon children arrive and, once registered, join the rest of the children for lunch

**12:30pm – 2.45pm:** The children can choose from a wide selection of activities both indoors and outside in the garden. During this time the children all come together on the carpet to brush their teeth.

**2.45pm – 2:50pm:** Children help to tidy up.

**2:50pm – 3:10pm** Afternoon children & 30 hours children enjoy snack, share a story and sing some rhymes

**3:15pm** - Children go home. Children who are going to after school club are collected and then taken over to school.

### A Day in the Life of a Reception Pupil:

**8:45am** Children arrive, self-register, and put their belongings away. They join in 'wake up, shake up'.

**9:00am – 9.30am** Children rotate between a spelling activity, dough disco, and guided reading.

**9.30am – 10.15am** The children can choose from a wide selection of activities both indoors and outside.

**10.15am – 10.30am:** The children help to tidy up. We have snack and 'We Love to Read' session.

**10:30am – 11:20am:** The children can choose from a wide selection of activities both indoors and outside.

**11.20am – 11.50am:** Children help to tidy and join the carpet for phonics session.

**11.50am:** Children wash hands and go to the school hall for their lunch.

**11:50am – 1.00pm:** Lunchtime and outside play.

**1.00pm – 1.20pm:** Afternoon register. Children join the carpet for a mathematics input.

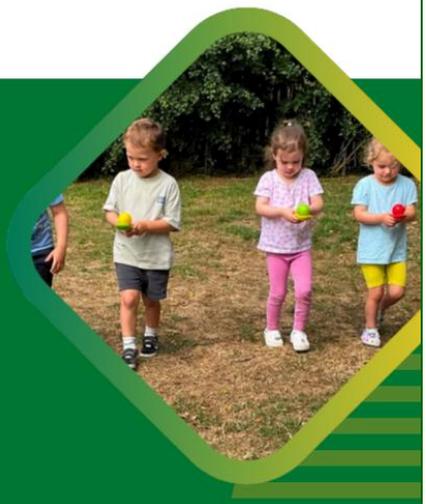
**1.20pm – 1.50pm:** The children can choose from a wide selection of activities both indoors and outside.

**1.50pm – 2.20pm:** Children help to tidy up and join the carpet for afternoon meeting.

**2.20pm – 2.50pm:** The children can choose from a wide selection of activities both indoors and outside.

**2.50pm – 3.10pm:** Children help to tidy up and join the carpet for singing/rhyme time/tapestry show and tell time.

**3.15:** Children go home.



## Transition from EYFS to Key Stage One

We carefully support children's transition through EYFS and into Key Stage 1 by providing a gradual, nurturing approach that builds confidence and independence.

In EYFS, children learn within a play-based environment that reflects the EYFS curriculum. Towards the end of Year 1, this approach is thoughtfully phased out, with a balance of play and more structured learning to prepare them for the expectations of Year 2.

Transitions are also supported socially; children begin playtimes in their own Reception outdoor area and, during the spring term, gradually join the main playground alongside the rest of the school. Strong relationships between Nursery, Reception and Year 1 staff underpin this process, with regular opportunities to work together, share assessments and discuss individual children to ensure continuity in learning and support. Where needed, tailored transition plans are put in place for children with SEND or those who may find change more challenging, ensuring every child feels secure and supported.

At Airy Hill, developing language is a priority in the EYFS curriculum. Strong communication skills help children express their needs, build relationships, and understand new routines. Through rich talk, storytelling, songs/rhymes, and play-based interactions, children develop vocabulary, listening, and turn-taking skills that boost both confidence and independence. A language-rich environment ensures children feel secure and understood, enabling them to engage positively with new adults, peers, and learning experiences as they move into their next stage of school.





### How children learn in the Early Years:

Throughout Nursery and Reception, we work to the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** which is the curriculum framework for children from birth to the end of reception. It has the following principles:

- Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual need and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.
- Children develop and learn in different ways.

We teach your children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the following areas of learning:

The prime areas are:

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

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas:

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

Weaving throughout the EYFS curriculum are the three Characteristics of Effective Learning.

<b>Playing and exploring</b> - engagement	Finding out and exploring. Playing with what they know. Being willing to 'have a go'
<b>Active learning</b> – motivation	Being involved and concentrating, Keeping trying and being resilient. Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
<b>Creating and thinking critically</b> – thinking	Having their own ideas. Making links between ideas. Choosing ways to do things

### The EYFS also stresses the importance of how children learn as well as what they learn.

Supporting children in their individual learning behaviour and observing the context of children's play is essential. So, through the activities we plan and the way staff interact with your children, we aim to foster the characteristics of effective early learning.

*'What children learn is important, but how children learn is even more important if they are to become learners in today's society.'*

*Helen Moylett*

*How Children Learn, Nancy Stewart (2011)*

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## **A – Z of Useful Information about Early Years**

### **ACCIDENTS**

Minor First Aid is given by the staff, many of whom are trained paediatric First Aiders. You will be contacted immediately should any more serious accidents occur. We record accidents including head injuries on CPOMS. A letter will also accompany any head injury.

### **ALLERGIES**

It is important to let us know if your child suffers from any allergies or if you have any religious, dietary or medical requirements.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Parents are asked to email, telephone or inform us verbally if a child is absent, either beforehand (in the case of medical appointments, holidays, school visits etc.) or by 9.15am or 1pm for afternoon children on the day of absence. Reasons of absence will be recorded in the register using the relevant code, this will be reviewed by the Headteacher regularly. If parents have failed to contact us by 9.15am or 1pm on the first day of their child's absence, the office staff will telephone parents.

If there is cause for concern, or a child is persistently absent, the Headteacher will discuss this with the parents in order to agree a plan of action which may include contacting Health or other appropriate professionals.

If, after the Headteacher has made considerable efforts to encourage the parents to bring the child to school, in consultation with the Governing Body, the place will be withdrawn. In all instances, the welfare and needs of the child are given the highest consideration.

### **BEHAVIOUR**

Our aim is to create an environment in which each child feels confident, secure and happy and is able to reach his/her maximum learning potential.

To achieve this, we have a behaviour policy which is outlined in detail in our policies folder.

In brief, we endeavour to:

- develop good trusting relationships with the children, and use praise, encouragement and positive reinforcement.
- actively teach our expectations and routines, setting an appropriate code of behaviour for the children.
- react appropriately to all situations according to individual stages of development and circumstances.
- help the children to show consideration for others and for property and teach children how to deal with conflict.

We have three school rules 'Be Kind. Be Safe. Be Ready.' Which link to The UN Convention of Children's Rights.

Once the children are taught our rules, we expect them to follow them with our support. We ensure that the child understands exactly what unacceptable behaviour has taken place and we are consistent in giving consequences. We aim for consequences to be meaningful and we encourage the child to think about what he/she has done. Actions taken may include:

1. Discussing with the child the behaviour that is unacceptable and why.
2. Asking the child to rectify the situation.
3. Withdrawal from an activity or situation.

If further steps are required, then an agreed behaviour plan will be discussed with parents.

**As children respond best to praise our aim at all times is to give attention for good behaviour.**

We also teach children the phrase 'Stop, I don't like it!' to use if another child is presenting unwanted behaviour towards them.

## **CAR PARKING**

Please walk to school if you can.

Unfortunately, because we have so few parking spaces, during arrival and collection times **there is no parking for parents on site.**

## **CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

The prime concern of the school is to ensure we safeguard all children at all times and as such we have a duty to share child protection issues with other agencies and professionals. The designated senior lead for Child Protection is the Headteacher, Sam Butters. A copy of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is on our website.

## **CLOTHING**

The children need to be able to be active in Early Years i.e. climb, run, play, paint, glue, dig in the garden etc. Please choose sensible clothes for your child to wear to nursery i.e. not long dresses or clothes that are difficult for them to remove by themselves in the toilet. We do have nursery sweatshirts available for sale in the office. Please do not send your child to nursery in dressing up clothes. We have clothes for dressing up at school which any of the children can use.

Children in Reception wear school uniform. Sweatshirt can be ordered via MCAS. Jewellery including earrings and necklaces, must not be worn as it is considered a safety hazard. Please make sure children are wearing sensible shoes/trainers in which they can run around, climb and have fun (please note no clogs, jelly shoes, open toed or any poorly fitting or unsuitable footwear). Children are encouraged to take their own shoes on/off, Velcro shoes are best for this. Children should bring a coat every day. Please name all clothes (especially outdoor ones, this can be done with a laundry marker) as it is impossible for us to keep track of them if you don't! If your child is likely to have an "accident" it is helpful if you could leave spare clothes in a named bag on their peg.

## **COLLECTION OF CHILDREN**

Before your child starts nursery or school we need to know who will normally collect them. If there is a change of arrangements and you have asked someone else to do this, you must tell us beforehand, telephone or let us know on arrival.

If a child is not collected we will endeavour to contact the parents or other people on the child's emergency contact list and the child will be looked after by nursery staff until he/she is collected. In the event that a child has not been collected and no one on the emergency list is available the police and social services will be contacted.

Please ensure whoever is collecting your child arrives on time at the end of their session as late collections can be very distressing for some children and staff have commitments elsewhere.

## **COMPLAINTS**

If you have any concerns or worries, we have an open door policy, please do come speak to a member of staff listed above. We are always happy to meet with you and will try to do our best to resolve any concerns. If you feel these concerns are not being properly addressed or you wish to make a complaint, then we have a complaints procedure which can be found on the school website.

## **FACEBOOK**

We have social media pages on Facebook: Airy Hill Primary School and Airy Hill Nursery Please 'like' us to receive information and updates.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

All nursery children are provided with toast and a piece of fruit in each morning and afternoon session.

Nursery children who stay may bring a packed lunch or have a school lunch. This can either be paid for or free if eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) – please see the office for more details on FSM and the EYFS Policy for meal prices.

In Reception children are provided with fruit each morning. Free milk is also available to all children in the classroom every day until they reach the age of 5. After their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, milk can be ordered for a small weekly charge.

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## **FRIENDS OF AIRY HILL**

The Friends of Airy Hill has been formed to raise money through a variety of events, for special projects within the school and nursery and to raise the profile of the school within the local community. Friends of Airy Hill are all parents of children at the school. They plan events through-out the year to raise funds for the school so the children can enjoy lots of wonderful experiences. FOAH understand how tough it can be to juggle busy lives but please know any help you can give would make a huge difference and we would be so thankful.

If anyone would like a role, would like to enquire about a role, would like to be on the committee or volunteer please feel free to message the Friends of Airy Hill Facebook page, email [friendsofairyhill1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofairyhill1@gmail.com) or you can speak to The Chair of the committee Jo Cook.

## **GOVERNORS**

Although the Headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors have a specific part to play in leadership and management. They provide a strategic overview including:

- planning for improvement
- defining parameters within which the Headteacher and staff run the school.

Governors have a responsibility to all the parents and children and meet approximately six times a year.

## **HOT WEATHER**

Please would you dress your children in clothes that cover their shoulders and midriff and ensure that they do not wear flip-flops or “jelly” shoes. We have sun hats for the children to wear at nursery, or they can bring their own named sun hat to school during the summer months. Please apply sun cream on hot days before bringing your child. Parents of full-time and extended day children can bring a named bottle of sun cream to school so that we can reapply it after lunch – please give this to a member of staff - do not leave it in a bag on your child’s peg.

## **INVOICES**

Invoices are issued around the middle of the month (in advance) and sent out by email. Payments are due on or before the first of the month and need to be made online via our MCAS App or appropriate schemes – enquire in the office to see if it is a scheme we can offer.

## **KEY PERSONS**

Every child in Early Years has a special key person who will settle your child in and will be responsible for their ongoing records of development. You will meet your child’s key person before they start and please do feel free to speak to them if you have any questions or concerns. In Reception, children’s key person is their class teacher.

## **LETTERS**

We have a weekly newsletter which we send out by email and our My Child at School (MCAS) app to update you on what is happening in school and tell you about future events. Please make sure the office has the names and addresses of parents who do not live with their child who might like to receive this information. This newsletter is also available on the school website.

## **MEDICINES**

We would normally expect all medicines to be given to children by their parents at home before or after the sessions. We can however administer asthma inhalers, and may administer other medicines prescribed by a doctor in exceptional circumstances. If this is agreed, you will need to sign a form, available from the office and from the MCAS app, to give us permission to do so. It is vital that parents/carers inform nursery staff if they have administered Calpol or other medicines prior to sending their child into nursery. This could affect how we treat your child if they become ill during the session.

## **MOBILE PHONES**

Please do not use mobile phones or other electronic devices when in the nursery and please note mobile phones and cameras must not be used to take photographs of children, except at special events, such as family Christmas celebrations, when these are for personal use only and not to be put

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on any social or other websites. Parents/carers will not be allowed to enter the building if using their mobile phones.

### **NAPPIES**

Parents **must** provide their own nappies, wipes and nappy sacks. Please put these in a named bag to be kept on the children's pegs.

### **NURSERY TERMS**

The nursery is open for approximately 195 days a year divided into three school terms following other North Yorkshire schools. Over the year the nursery will be closed for 5 days for Staff Development/INSET. On these days staff have to attend training activities. A diary of term dates is displayed on our website.

### **ONLINE PAYMENTS**

We are now a cash-free. All payments are made online, using the 'My Child at School' App, Tax-Free Childcare funding or Childcare grant. Please see the school office for more details.

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Key policies are available on the school website. All policies are reviewed regularly and some annually. Please do feel free to read them and if you have any questions, comments or concerns please speak to a member of staff or the Headteacher.

### **REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE**

Nursery and Reception classes are between 8:45am and 3:15pm each day. Parents/carers and children are not permitted to be on site outside of these hours. Good attendance is a really important factor in the progress your child makes at school, and so please make every effort to ensure your child attends each session.

If your child is unable to attend due to sickness, medical appointments etc. please telephone the school at the beginning of the session on the first day of absence or let us know beforehand when possible. It is very important we know the reasons for your child's absence as we are obliged to record them in the register and it also helps us to notify parents of any contagious or infectious illnesses. If we do not hear from you when your child is absent, the office will endeavor to contact you.

### **SECURITY**

We have good security within school and nursery but it is still vital that everyone is safety conscious at all times. Please make sure that you shut all doors and gates so that we can keep all your children safe. If people are following you through please make sure that you have given the door for them to hold before you let go - otherwise please shut it. If a door is left open for only a few seconds a child could escape through it.

All visitors are required to sign in at the school office including parents when attending meetings.

### **SICKNESS**

Our policy requires you to keep your child at home for at least 48 hours after vomiting and/or diarrhoea to cut down on the spread of infection.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

We accept a number of children with Special Educational Needs into Early Years and our Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is responsible for special needs throughout the school. These children join in with all the activities that are appropriate for them.

*Any children may need a little extra help for a short time while they are at nursery or school. This can be for all sorts of reasons e.g. if the child is very shy and finds mixing with other children difficult, or if they find it hard to concentrate and settle to an activity. If you or we have a concern we will discuss this with you and agree a plan to help your child. If you are interested in knowing more about this please talk to one of the staff or have a look at our Special Educational Needs policy.*

### **TAPESTRY**

We use an online learning journal called Tapestry. This allows us to securely share observations and photographs of your child during their day at Nursery or in Reception Class. It also gives you the

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opportunity to do the same at home and share special events, outings or moments with us. We will ask for your email address to activate your account. Once you have done this you can also access your Tapestry via an app or a tablet or smart phone.

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development through our 'focus child' programme. There are two focus children in Reception and two in nursery, each week. When a child is a focus child, we will let the parent/ carer know that we are observing the child while they play to find out more about their interests and how they are progressing. We ask parents to upload some pictures to Tapestry of any recent family activities they have done out of school.

### **Funded Nursery Places**

We offer funded nursery places up to 30 hours. If you feel that you may be eligible, please complete this link to apply. <https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

### **VIDEOING AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

We take photographs which we on display and in albums in the school and for talks/workshops to parents and staff, but for other purposes we ask your permission. You can give/withhold your permission for the publication of photos when you complete your child's registration forms. If parents wish to photograph or video special nursery events the following rules apply:-

Parents must

- ask the Headteacher for permission
- ensure videos and photos are for personal use only
- not put video and photos on the web/internet/social networking

### **WEBSITE**

Our website is <https://airyhill.n-yorks.sch.uk/>

