



Heron Hill Primary School

**Information Booklet for the Parents/Carers
of**



Heron Hill Primary School

NURSERY
2026-27

Hello & Welcome!

Welcome to Nursery at Heron Hill Primary School! I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our Heron Hill families, for choosing our wonderful Nursery. We know that your children will play, learn and thrive in our setting.

Everyday in Nursery is an adventure. Children choose their own learning and are expertly supported by our talented EYFS staff team.

I hope that this booklet outlines what a treat learning in Nursery at Heron Hill is. I look forward to meeting you and your children soon!

***Miss Becca Storey
EYFS Team Leader
(Maternity Leave)***



***Mrs Sara Mertcalfe
Nursery Class Teacher***



At Heron Hill Nursery, we will...

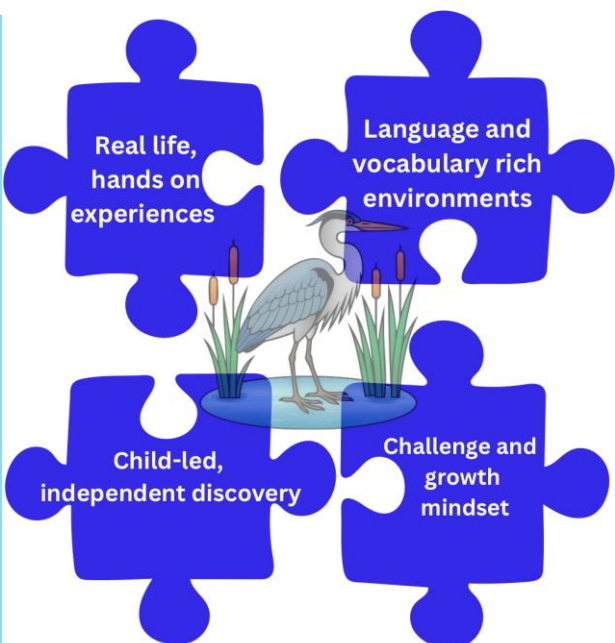
- Ensure your child's first experience of Nursery is a happy, fun and memorable one.
- Put children at the heart of our practice, making them leaders of their own learning.
- Ensure your child feels valued, respected and supportive by positive role models.
- Monitor progress and ensure timely support is offered to allow children to reach their full potential.
- Ensure that your child leaves us with a love for learning and discovery, giving them the very best preparation for Reception.



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and is shaped by our school's core values: *Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Resilience*. Children in Nursery lead their own play, inside and outside in all weathers! Their learning is supported by half-termly topics but will always be guided by their interests. Supported by our fantastic Nursery staff, your child will enjoy a rich, balanced start to school life.

We believe strong relationships with families are key. By working closely with you and our local community, we bring learning to life and help each child feel supported, understood, and inspired.



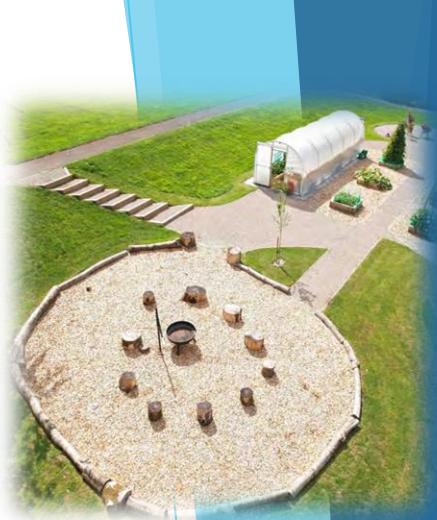
Across Nursery and Reception, our EYFS curriculum is centred around these 4 drivers.

We want children to be **active participants** in their own play, making their own decisions. We want children to experience **first hand, real life learning** through visits, trips and experiences. We want children to **take risks and learn from their mistakes**, becoming lifelong learners and we want them to absorb as much rich **vocabulary, language** and, of course, as many **stories** as possible!

Our Environment

Our extensive Nursery building is set in the grounds of Heron Hill Primary School. Children have access to the school's extensive grounds and facilities made up of 2 forests/woods, a polytunnel and gardening area, quiet garden, computer room, music room and school hall.

Our Nursery itself consists of large indoor and outdoor play areas in which children can independently move between throughout their session. Staff create inspiring and stimulating learning opportunities for children to access, enhanced by their individual interests and needs. Children will engage in adult led circle times alongside independent play.



Indoor Provision

Children learn using the...

- Sand and water play
- Art area
- Role play/home corner
- Block play
- Construction play
- Small world play
- Malleable play (play dough)
- Maths area
- Reading den
- Computing/ 'beebot' play



Outdoor Provision

Children learn using the...

- Mud pit
- Textile/mud kitchen
- Role play shed
- Bikes and scooters
- Stage/ music area
- Water play
- Large scale loose parts play (crates, pipes, tyres)
- Outdoor mark making stations (easels, whiteboards, chalk boards)
- Sports equipment (hoops, balls, rackets)



And much more...!

Adults Supporting Play

Whilst your child is playing, an adult will be there to either join in, support, encourage, question or challenge their learning to help them achieve their goal. Staffing in Nursery remains consistent across the year to ensure you child has trusted, familiar adults who know them really well.

These adults will be your child's key workers during their time at Nursery. Their role is to work specifically with your child, tailoring the curriculum to enhance their learning. Miss Storey, the nursery teacher, has overall responsibility of all the children.

"The teachers here are brilliant - you can tell they really care about the children. We are kept well informed as parents too."

Parent feedback survey, July 2024



Home-School Partnerships & Induction

We know that home-school relationships are essential to success at school, especially in the Early Years. We make a commitment to ensuring your child's first experience of Nursery is a positive one!

Nursery staff work with parents and carers from the very beginning. Staff will do a **home visit** prior to your child starting where children will spend some time playing together and getting to know their Nursery adults. Children are then invited to a **Stay and Play** session where they can come and see the Nursery for themselves!

We also use the online learning journal **Tapestry** to record observations, pictures and videos of learning taking place in school. This is a fantastic way for you to keep up to date with what is going on in your child's class. You are also able to share updates of anything that is happening at home for teachers to see. Children love sharing their Tapestry updates from home with their peers.



What You Will Need

Please provide:

- A small bag with 3 full changes of clothes in side (incl. underwear and socks)
- A pair of named wellies
- An all-in-one puddlesuit/ waterproof trousers and rain coat

These will remain *in* Nursery

Everyday, please bring:

- Appropriate outer layers for the weather that day (jumper/coats/sun hats/ gloves)
- A named water bottle with water inside (not squash/juice)
- Lunch (if needed. You do not need to provide snack. We are a nut free school. Please check ingredients of any lunch boxes.)

Toys or other comforting belongings from home should not be brought to Nursery or kept in bags (wherever possible). Staff are wonderful at comforting your child and have lots of tricks up their sleeves for any children who need extra support.

Please ensure all items are clearly named



Children do not wear uniform for Nursery. ***Please wear clothes that you do not mind getting muddy, painty, wet or dirty!*** Children are encouraged to be independent where possible with dressing, toileting and putting on shoes. Please ensure your child is wearing clothes that enable them to be successful with this.



Hours and Provision

Our Nursery sessions are as follows:

- Morning session: 8:45-11:45
- Morning session + lunch: 8:45-12:30
- Afternoon session: 12:30-15:30
- Afternoon session + lunch: 11:45-15:30
- Full day: 8:45-15:30 (6.75 hours)

If your child attends for 5 full days or 33.75 hours a week, you will be charged for the additional 3.75 hours a week at £5.00 per hour. So you will be charged £18.75 per week, and we will claim your 30 entitled hours from the government.

We offer nursery provision for up to 30 hours. All children are eligible for the 15 hours universal funded entitlement from the term after they turn 3 years old. This means children typically start with us in September, January or April. An additional 15 hours provision is available to parents who meet the eligibility criteria. Please contact the school office for further details.

Beyond your child's free entitlement of either 15 or 30 hours, we can offer additional nursery provision at a cost to parents/carers. Charges are £5.00 per hour (£15.00 per session). These additional sessions can be booked on a weekly, termly or annual basis. Please contact the school office by telephone or email for further details.

Absences and Notice

If you are going to take your child out of nursery for appointments, please let staff know. If your child is ill, please telephone the school office. It helps with our planning if you give us, in writing, at least 1 weeks' notice of term time holidays. You will be charged for any missed sessions if this notice is not given. A term's written notice must be given if you wish to move your child out of nursery.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they will need to be kept at home for at least 48 hours following the last bout of ill health to avoid infecting others.

No refund for sessions will be given if your child misses them through illness.



“There's a strong sense of community, within the school itself, and within the wider community, largely through extracurricular events.”

Parent feedback survey, July 2024

Drop Off & Collection

Nursery opens at **8:45am**. You can drop off any time before **9:00am** via the back entrance (through the Nursery garden).

If children are not staying for lunch, please collect by **11:45** from the front entrance (near the car park) by ringing the doorbell. This is also the case for collections at **12:30** after lunch ends.

Collection time at the end of the day is from **15:15-15:30**.



Lunch & School Meals

Children can bring a packed lunch or you can pre-order a hot school meal (we have a 3-week menu) at a cost of £2.30. School meals need to be ordered through Scopay and you will be given login details and instructions before you start.



Snack

We have snack during every session and a selection of fruit is provided. The school provides milk through the ‘Cool Milk’ company which is free for all under-5 year olds. You will be invited to register your child and they will receive a glass of semi-skimmed milk every day, which is delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. Children are encouraged to drink water from their bottles across the day.

Children do not need to bring their own snacks. Please ensure water bottles are filled with water and not juice or squash.



“[There] is an excellent provision of before/after school care and holiday club. This is such a benefit for working parents.”

Parent feedback survey, July 2024

Wraparound Care

We know that many parents work and require wraparound care for their children during the week. At Heron Hill, we provide school-led wraparound care before and after school and in the school holidays.

As wraparound care happens outside of core Nursery hours, you are not entitled to use your funded hours towards this provision.

Before school:

Nursery parents can choose to drop off at school at any time from 8:00 am, which will cost £3.50 per day.

Breakfast is available and will include a variety of cereals, toast with various toppings, fruit and drinks.

At 8.45 am your child will be walked directly to Nursery. All children will be registered in and out of Before School provision.

After School:

Nursery children will be taken from Nursery to the main school by Nursery staff. Children can bring a snack to enjoy at wraparound if you wish. Parents can choose to collect their children at any time up to the close of the session at 5:00 pm, at a cost of £6.00 per day.

Funded hours cannot be used towards wraparound care.

Please contact the school office for further information and details of our Scopy Booking System. Please note we only have 8 nursery places available per day due to required staff ratios for under 5s.

