Horsham Nursery School

Headteacher: Mrs L Mellor, BEd Hons
Harwood Road, Horsham
West Sussex, RH13 5UT
Tel: 01403 224430
Email: office@horshamnursery.co.uk

July 2026

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I'd like to thank you for all your support this term, for coming to Open morning and Stay and Plays, donating for our Sponsored Bounce, attending Parent Consultation meetings and Parent workshops. I am grateful to my senior leaders and the whole team for the hard work and passion they put in every day for our children. I would also like to say thank you for your understanding during the recent weather warnings. It was not an easy decision to close but we always have the children's wellbeing and safety at the forefront of these decisions.

We are saying goodbye to an unprecedented 95 of our children this summer, many of them who have been with us since Explorers! For those leaving us this term, you will be receiving Leavers Reports by the end of next week. Please do send us 'First day at School' photos, we love to see them in their uniform in September! It has been a very busy term for transitions and we very much hope your child settles well in their new rooms or new schools as they move up age groups or on to new schools.

Smiles Photography

Our new Photo Day is Wednesday 8th July. All children will have their photograph taken and those with siblings in the nursery will have joint photographs too. If your child does not usually attend nursery on a Wednesday, you are invited to bring them along at 1.30pm.

Open morning

We had a wonderful Open Morning with many families old and new visiting to see our Nursery provision. We raised an amazing £150.00 in total which we are spending directly on the children's summer parties.

Sponsored Bounce

The children had an energetic day, bouncing to raise money for refurbishing our front play park. We are so grateful for your donations towards this- thank you for raising £ 1529.00 which will be put towards developing the front play park.

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Over 3's Summer Parties

Our Summer Parties for each room will be held on Wednesday 15th July. If your child does not usually attend that day, your child is welcome to come and join in the fun in the Overs between 1.15pm and 2.15pm on the day. Please let your child's Key Carer know that your child will be attending.

Nursery Library

There is no expectation for staff gifts at the end of term, a card is always appreciated! If you would like to make a gesture it is always lovely to see a book in our library that has been donated so that other families can enjoy them too. We know how valued this is from the number of stories being read at the drop off and pick up times! There are book plates available in the foyer if you would like to write one with your child.

If you have library books at home, please return them by Friday 17th July. If you would like to donate your purple book bag back to Nursery for another child to use, please pop them in the blue returns box.

Meals at Nursery

Chartwells and Zebedees lunches: From July 23rd onwards Zebedees will be our new meal provider for the Explorers, Discoverers and Overs lunches. We made this decision following our parent surveys over the last two years to improve the standard of healthy foods we can offer. Chartwells has ended their contract with West Sussex and will no longer provide lunches for us. I'd like to reassure you that Wendy will still be cooking tea every day for all children all year round. When she is on annual leave we will order in a Zebedees tea. Please see the website for sample menus. https://zebedees.co.uk/our-food

Tapestry

The staff and senior leaders have worked hard to set up Learning Journals for your children to reflect the steps they are making in our bespoke curriculum. Thank you for contributing to these, we really place importance on sharing your child's journey together and hope that you find this informative. If your child is leaving this summer, please see the separate email coming out to you to show you how you can download your child's journal either into a bound book or a PDF copy.

30 hours Working Families funded sessions

We accept 30 hour codes for children aged 9 months and over. For Explorers and Discoverers this is a stretched offer of 22 hours per week all year round. The Over 3's funding is for 15 hours per week term time only. Please apply for your codes now and inform the office by **22nd July**.

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Forest School

Our Forest School Lead, Sally, has worked incredibly hard over the year to uphold our accreditation as a recognised provider- she has passed for the second year running and I'd like to thank her for all her passion and care in making the sessions fun, enjoyable and challenging. The weather this year has been extreme, but Sally has worked around it to give your children rich experiences in Forest School. **Thank you Sally!**

Our studious staff

The staff at Horsham Nursery are dedicated to studying, sometimes in their own time to improve their practice. Congratulations go to Leah Orme & Lucy Gatford for passing their Level 3 Childcare this year. We have several other staff about to take their final Level 3 assessments soon. We wish all our bank staff who are waiting for exam results good luck as they continue to support us over the summer!

Some last reminders:

Lost property

There is a basket of lost property in our foyer. Please check through it by Friday 17th July as after this date it will be sorted into spares for Nursery or for charity.

Hats and Suncream

If you haven't yet donated to the suncream funds, please pop £5 onto your invoice or in an envelope to the office. We have used a lot of suncream already this summer! Please also send in a named hat every day over the summer period so that we can keep your child safe in the sun.

Last dates:

End of term for Over 3's: Wednesday 22nd July

Holiday club for Over 3's: Thursday 23rd July – Friday 28th August

Whole Nursery closed: Tuesday 1st September for staff training INSET

INSET days next year:

Tuesday 1st September 2026 Monday 2nd November 2026

Wednesday 24th March 2027 Thursday 25th March 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

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We look forward to seeing all our current children back from Wednesday 2nd September!

Best wishes,

Liz Mellor

Headteacher