September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Welcome to a new academic year at Horsham Nursery School! For those of you who are new to us, it's wonderful to see your children settling happily into their new rooms and for us to get to know you as families!

We also welcome two new members of staff, Jessica Glauser and Olivia Roberts to the Explorers and Discoverers teams this term.

Our Senior Leadership Team

Liz Mellor Headteacher	Hayley Tucker, School Business Manager	Tina Fosberry Lead Practitioner of the Under 3's	Angie Stenning SENCo and SSC Teacher	Clare Burgess Assistant Headteacher

Our Senior leaders are available every day to talk to if you have any key messages to pass on or any concerns. Please chat with us at the door or email us via the office.

Staff training

All staff at Horsham Nursery have had Anaphylaxis training in line with Benedicts Law which came into force this month. We also have emergency adrenaline pens available in our Foyer in case of emergencies.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents who gave us feedback at the end of July. The responses once again showed a positive improvement in all questions we asked you. In response to common threads in the comments, I'd like to reassure you that the leadership team are following up these points: we are currently looking at air conditioning quotes to be ready for next summer, a library shelf is to be set up for Explorers to borrow books, the spread of Forest School sessions over the year has been considered for each group and we will be looking at how we can make handovers more consistent across the Nursery.

The overall results can be found here on our website Horsham Nursery School - Testimonials and feedback

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Forest school

At Horsham Nursery School we value outdoor learning and are lucky to have a qualified Forest School Lead, Sally Keene, and a dedicated Forest School area.

What is Forest School?

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a natural outdoor environment. Under supervision of a qualified Forest School Leader, children will participate in collaborative outdoor activities such as shelter building, exploring nature, and when appropriate, safely using structured hand tools or learning about campfire safety.

The timetable for this half term is as follows and starts from Tuesday 15th September:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning	Pink Group (Bronwen) and Blue Group (Becca)	Purple Group (Amy) followed by Discoverers	SSC followed by Discoverers
Afternoon	Yellow Group (Jo)	Red Group (Ceri) And Green Group (Ami)	

Please note the timetable changes every half term, to allow as many children as possible to experience forest school. There is no extra cost to you for these sessions.

Forest school runs in most weathers, to ensure the children enjoy forest school please may we request that if your child has forest school first thing after 9am arrival, can they please wear appropriate clothing ready for the session. If it is later in the day, they will need to bring named, full waterproofs, wellies and extra layers in a named bag, (no jeans). This helps eliminate extra changing time when getting a whole group ready for forest school. Whilst we do have a few spares, it's great if your child can bring their own waterproofs and wellies so we don't have to spend time searching for the right size to borrow. Your support is greatly appreciated.

A big part of forest school is exploring and creating play opportunities with loose parts, with this in mind we are always collecting items including: Pine cones, sticks, acorns, conkers and wooden curtain rings. If you have any donations, please pop them in the Forest School box in the foyer.

Health, Safety and Risk Management at Forest School

The safety of our participants is paramount. All environments, tools, and activities are thoroughly risk-assessed and high staff-to-pupil ratios are maintained. Children are actively taught to evaluate risks for themselves, helping them develop safety awareness. A fully qualified outdoor first aider will be present at every session.

If you have any questions or would like to view our full Forest School Handbook, please contact Sally through the school office.

Thank you for your support for the continual success and growth of our forest school. If there are any parents who would be interested in volunteering at Forest School to help Sally, please contact us through the office to enquire what it may entail.

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Holiday Club

This summer the children had a fabulous time with lots of arts and crafts, paddling pool days, pizza making sessions from Zebedees, our food provider and a balance bike session. We are currently reviewing our Holiday Club provision so please look for a questionnaire coming out to you soon about what you would ideally like us to provide. Unfortunately, if the uptake is low, we will consider closing holiday club on some days.

Reminders....

Passwords and emergency contacts

We ask all families to set up a confidential password to safeguard your child. If someone different is picking up your child, please tell us when you drop off and ensure that person knows the password. You may also be asked this password by the office staff when discussing your child over the phone. All children must have two emergency contacts on record with us as part of the agreement to offer a space at Nursery.

Parking

Our car park is only for staff parking unless there are special circumstances in which case a permit will be issued. Between the hours of 8.30am and 4.15pm we politely ask you **not** to park in our car park. This will enable our staff to park and be on time for their shifts to look after your children. The disabled spaces remain available only for Blue Badge holders.

Please use the pedestrian gate to enter Nursery. The double gates are for vehicle entry only and must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Fruit for Overs

We welcome your fruit and veg donations which we share at snack times. Please pop your donations in the baskets by the door any day of the week so that we have enough to share all week.

Pick up times for the Over 3's

Please see the separate letters attached for our routine pick up times. We have strong routines as a Nursery School that are disrupted if the doorbell is constantly ringing when staff are involved in tidy up time and group times at the end of the session. Guidance from the DFE also requires our staff to be seated with children whilst they are eating so we request that children are not picked up between 4.30 and 5pm at tea club.

Pick up time at the end of the day for **all children in all rooms** should be by **5.50pm** to allow us to give you a handover from the day. Nursery closes at 6pm allowing the staff to finish their shifts on time.

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DLA applications

If you have a child with Special Educational Needs you may be eligible for Disability Living Allowance for children (DLA). This is a weekly rate to support parents financially who are looking after children considered to have Special Educational Needs. The Disability Living Allowance is between around £30-£194 a week, depending on which rate you are eligible for.
It is parental choice whether to apply for Disability Living Allowance or not. If you do choose to claim Disability Living Allowance, please inform the office. If you are already in receipt of DLA please email the office to confirm this. If you are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, we can claim some extra funding to use at nursery to further support your child.
If you would like a paper copy of the form please ask the office and if you would like support in completing aspects of this form please contact your Key Carer or the SENCo, Angie, via the school office.

Overview of DLA: https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children

Eligibility: https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children/eligibility

DLA form: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-living-allowance-for-children-claim-form

Best Start in Life website

https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/ has some useful information about child development, transition to school and a whole range of information to support you, in addition to applying for your codes for funded hours.

On the following page there is a list of key dates for the term to help you plan your calendars. As you can see below, there is lots going on for the children and families this term at Nursery.

We always love to have parents, carers and grandparents in to help so you will see the key dates there when we will be asking for your involvement- all welcome! Please don't hesitate to ask us any questions for further detail, give us feedback or request any support by speaking to your Key Carer, the Senior Leadership Team or through the office.

Warm wishes,

Liz Mellor

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Key Dates Autumn 2026

Date:	Event:	Overs	Unders
Friday 2nd October	Deadline for Holiday Club bookings for Overs (booking link to be sent out on 21/9/26).	✓	
Wednesday 7th October	**New parents meeting for all children** who started in September 9.15am or 5.00pm	✓	✓
Wc 19th October	Big Draw week: a focus on mark making across the week. Join in the fun for the first half hour of one of your child's sessions.	✓	
26th -30th October	Half term closure for Overs (Holiday club available). Explorers and Discoverers stay open.	✓	
Monday 2nd November	INSET Day- whole Nursery closed for staff training	✓	✓
9th - 13th November	National Nursery Rhyme week will be celebrated	✓	✓
Friday 13th November	Children in Need: wear something spotty to Nursery!	✓	✓
Wc 9th and Wc 16th November	**Parent Consultation Meetings**- Discoverers and Explorers- time slots will be open for you to book from 27th October		✓
Tuesday 17th November and Thursday 19th November	**Parent Consultation Meetings** – Overs-time slots will be open for you to book from 21st October	✓	
Friday 27th November	Deadline for Christmas Holiday Club bookings for Overs (booking link to be issued 16/11/26).	✓	
30th November-4th December	Overs visit the Post box- **Parent helpers needed!**	✓	
Wednesday 2nd December	Reindeer Run- Charity event in Nursery to support St Catherine's Hospice	✓	✓
Wc 7th December	Christmas Singing -parents invited in to join their child's group, dates to be confirmed	✓	
Wc 14th December	Christmas Stay and Play sessions. Join in the fun for the first half hour of one of your child's sessions(except Wednesday)	✓	
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas parties for all children	✓	✓
Friday 18th December	End of term for Overs	✓	
Thursday 24th December	Last day for Discoverers and Explorers- closure by 6pm.		✓
21st -24th Dec	Holiday club for Over 3's	✓	
29th December- 1st January	Whole Nursery closed	✓	✓
Monday 4th January	First day back for all children	✓	✓

INSET days-the whole Nursery will be closed on the following dates for staff training

Wednesday 24th March 2027
Thursday 25th March 2027
Friday 28th May 2027