

20th January 2026

Dear Nursery Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform our nursery families of forthcoming changes to our funded hours arrangements, which will take effect from **1st April 2026**.

As you will be aware from our previous communications, the Department for Education (DfE) recently introduced changes regarding the application of charging additional fees over and above the funding hours offer for all childcare settings. Since April 2025, consumables fees are now an optional, voluntary charge and as you will be aware, we have been seeking support from families to continue with this arrangement, by asking you to continue with the payment of consumables fees on a termly basis, where possible.

We know that families understand that there is a gap between the funding we receive and the actual cost of delivery and we are extremely grateful for the support we have received so far. Back in summer term, we had huge levels of support with a large proportion of families agreeing to continue to pay the consumables fees however, with each term we are now seeing more and more families opting out, leaving us with an expected loss of approximately £12,000 in this financial year alone. As we know you can appreciate, this is unsustainable for the nursery in the longer-term and something we must now work to resolve for the future financial security of our setting.

This decision has not been made lightly and we are grateful to all parents who shared their views during our Autumn term consultation, and we want to assure you that your feedback has been carefully considered. We are also mindful that the current opt-in/opt-out arrangements are not equitable for all families and are difficult for us to administer, and it is therefore important that we advise parents of a new way of approaching our funding model moving forward, from **April 2026** (Summer term).

Our Governing Body has explored a range of options to secure sufficient income to meet our rising costs, and after careful review, the following changes will be implemented with effect from 1st April:

- Funded hours will be available between **10.00am and 3.00pm** only, up to a maximum of **25 hours per week**. If you wish to only use your funded hours, your child's start/finish times will need to be amended accordingly within these hours.
- Any hours attended outside of this period (e.g. 8.00am – 10.00am and 3.00pm – 5.00/5.30pm) will be charged at our standard hourly rate (currently £8 per hour)
- The Consumables Fee charging arrangement will be removed entirely from April 2026.
- All consumable items and additional services, previously provided under the Consumables Fee arrangement will be included in our new funding model

We fully appreciate that changes to funded hours may present challenges for some families and we want to reassure parents in more challenging financial circumstances that support will be available, in the form of payment plans and grant support, where available.

Please be assured that our priority remains the provision of high-quality care and education for all children. These adjustments are necessary to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the nursery and to ensure we can continue to deliver the high-quality nurturing environment and learning opportunities that your children deserve.

What happens next?

We would ask families to review their child's hours from April 2026 (Summer term) and advise us in writing by **Friday 13th February** if you wish to make any changes moving forward. The nursery team is available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Please email hen@hordleprimary.co.uk should you wish to discuss anything further.

We sincerely value your continued support and understanding as we move forward.

Kind regards,



Lou Trim
Headteacher

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'That they may have life; life in all its fullness' John 10:10



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