



HORDLE EXPLORERS

The Nest: 2-3 years | The Wild: 3-4 years

Nursery



Parent Pack

HORDLE EXPLORERS NURSERY HORDLE CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL, HORDLE LANE, HORDLE, SO41 0FB

TEL: 01425 611657

EMAIL: HEN@HORDLEPRIMARY.CO.UK

WEBSITE: PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)

A warm welcome

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to warmly welcome you to Hordle Explorers Nursery. Thank you for choosing our nursery; we are extremely proud of our setting and of the high quality offer we provide for our families at the start of your child's learning adventure. Our highly experienced team are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your child and sharing their developments over the course of the year ahead.

In order to help you settle in, we hope this parent pack will enable you to get to know just a little bit more about life at Hordle Explorers Nursery. Here, you will find some of the essential information on all aspects of life in Team Nest and Team Wild.

Our school vision is 'That they may have life; life in all its fullness' and this starts right at the very beginning of your child's nursery experience. We want your child to flourish in every respect, to arrive at school happy and to develop socially, academically and spiritually. In partnership with you, we are confident we can offer the very best beginnings for your child's educational journey, providing a nurturing and stimulating environment of the highest standard.



We very much look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Headteacher

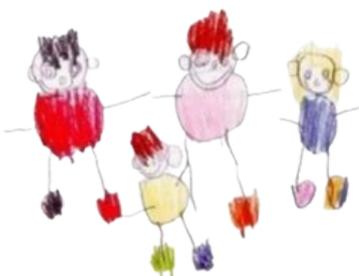
Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to our Early Years! We are delighted to have your child join us at the start of their learning journey.

The early years are a magical time when children's natural curiosity, imagination and love of learning truly shine. Every day is filled with opportunities to explore, play, build friendships and develop independence, and our team is dedicated to supporting each child as they take these exciting first steps.

We are delighted to have you with us and be a part of your child's learning adventure.

Early Years Lead (Leading Foundation Stage Practitioner)



Meet the Team

Please click [HERE](#) to meet the rest of our wonderful Hordle Explorers Team and find out more about them and their experience.

The Nest

The Nest is our beautiful bespoke facility for our youngest children, aged 2 - 3 years old, which opened in Autumn 2019. During summer 2024, after successfully securing a grant, we were able to completely transform our outdoor area to provide the children of Nest with a stimulating yet safe sensory space with specific areas to support our youngest team members with their strength, coordination, fine motor skills and gross motor skills whilst they play and learn. We are very proud of our Nest setting and of the outstanding start this provides for children in their first learning adventures.



Welcome from Mrs Ewing

Hello and welcome to Team Nest! My name is Gill Ewing, and I am the Deputy Nursery Manager working with our youngest children and their families. The Nest is a nurturing, warm, safe and stimulating environment, designed to support your child's emotional, physical, social and cognitive development. We encourage all our children to explore their independence, form relationships, and develop their language and motor skills. All within our beautiful bespoke classroom, and garden - specifically designed with two-and-three year-olds in mind.

Following the children's interests, we have a range of open ended toys, sensory activities, books and outdoor equipment within a safe, inviting and accessible space. We are a close knit team, and the children soon learn who their key person is and begin to engage with our daily routines. We will support your child to learn turn-taking and sharing, as well as identifying and expressing their feelings. We will also work closely with you as a family, with open communication, respect, and plenty of opportunities for you to get involved.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself, or a member of the team, our door is always open.



The Nest

NURTURING. Your child will receive care and attention whilst they are growing and developing in our setting. We focus on your child, creating a positive relationship to support their learning and wellbeing.

EXCITING. Your child will want to come to us to explore, learn and play. We spend time creating exciting learning opportunities for all children to experience and in which they can be successful.

SAFE & SECURE. Your child will feel emotionally, physically and socially secure within our setting, as well as being safe to learn new things and challenge themselves

TEAM. We might be small, but we are mighty! Our staff believe that working with the youngest members of Team Hordle is a blessing and a joy. We are part of a close-knit Early Years Team and we look forward to welcoming your child to join us. We can't wait to meet your child and to get to know them and your family.



A DAY IN TEAM NEST

9:00am When I arrive in the Nest I'm helped to find my peg and hang up my bag and coat. I go inside to listen to a story with some of my friends, and then I go off to play.

10:30am I'm invited to have a healthy snack - I get to choose what colour plate I have, and I'm even allowed to help myself using tongs!

11:30am At the end of the morning, I tidy up with my friends, join in with a game, and then come back to the carpet where we sing nursery rhymes, dance, listen to a story or even do some yoga.

12:00pm Next, it's time for lunch - my favourite part!

12:30pm It's time for more playing, either outside or in the classroom, or I have a sleep in the calming corner.

2:00pm Soon enough it's time for another healthy snack - this one is different from this morning's one. Then it's time for more playing before it's tidy up time.

3:30pm Next thing I know, my family is here to pick me up or I'm off to Den to keep playing with my friends. I've had a lovely day in the Nest, and I can't wait to come back again tomorrow!

TEAM NEST DROP OFF/PICK UP INFORMATION

The Nest can be accessed via the back gate at the southern end of the school grounds.

At the beginning and end of the school day parents may access the site via either the front or back entrance and make your way to the Nest. There is ample free parking down Longfield or on the streets by the front of school.

A member of staff will be on hand to greet you and your child at your specified start time.

We request that at 12noon pick up, all parents use the back gate and wait for a member of staff to let you in. There is a doorbell on the gate for the Nest but we request that this is used only for an emergency pick up.

The Wild

The Wild is our enchanting and exploration-filled outdoor setting for children aged 3 - 4 years old. This is where our children spend their final year in nursery, before starting school.

Our beautiful natural environment provides endless opportunities for discovery - from climbing the mound and crawling through the tunnel to watching wildlife and observing the change of each season. We believe that being outside nurtures curiosity, confidence, and wellbeing.



With cosy indoor spaces available for rest, reflection and small group activities, children enjoy the best of both worlds — the freedom of the outdoors and the comfort of a caring, nurturing environment. In Wild, every day is an adventure — whatever the weather!

Welcome from Mrs Aucott

Hello and welcome to Team Wild! I'm Jo Aucott, the Deputy Nursery Manager, and I am excited to welcome you and your child to our vibrant Wild setting, where we thrive on engaging and enjoyable learning experiences, no matter the weather!

Our two distinct classrooms, combined with our expansive outdoor space, provide children with a wealth of open-ended and child-led learning opportunities that we are incredibly proud of. There is truly something here for everyone to embrace and enjoy!



While developing the essential skills for school readiness is important, we are equally committed nurturing our children into fantastic gardeners. By the end of their year in Team Wild, children will not only be well-prepared for school, but they will also have grown into great friends, architects, risk-takers, den builders, explorers, nature detectives, earth protectors, responsible individuals, and skilled seed growers. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our dedicated team. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way!



The Wild

W **ONDER** - Your child will engage in a wide range of learning opportunities that spark and encourage curiosity through nature and play. Staff will play alongside children to guide them in their ongoing discoveries.

I **NDEPENDENCE** - Your child will be encouraged to develop a sense of independence, and our dedicated staff will support children in developing early independence skills, which will ensure children are 'school-ready'.

L **EARN**. Your child will be exploring the world hands-on, every day and through carefully planned experiences, they will learning new skills and develop a wider understanding of the world around them

D **EVELOPMENT** - Through outdoor learning, our wonderful staff support children's physical, emotional and social development.



TEAM WILD DROP OFF/PICK UP INFORMATION

The Wild is to be accessed via the black gates at the front of the school site, signposted 'Team Wild'. Access is via Hordle Lane where parking is available outside school).

At the beginning and end of the school day parents may access the site via either the front or back entrance and make your way to the Wild. A member of staff will be on hand to greet you and your child at your specified start time.

We request that at the 12noon pick up, all parents wait outside the Wild gate, where a member of staff will meet you. There is a doorbell on the gate for the Wild but we request that this is used only for an emergency pick up.

A DAY IN TEAM WILD

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|---------|--|
| 9:00am | When I arrive in the Wild, I find my peg in the coat hook and hang up my belongings and I am now ready to play in the Wild! I say good morning to my teachers and friends. |
| 10:00am | It's time for snack - we like to have these outside, especially when it's sunny. We take turns serving our own snack using the tongs and we all sit together to enjoy. |
| 10:30am | Once we've finished snack, it's back to more playing! We invent many games and obstacle courses and love to explore the outside. |
| 12:00pm | We help our teachers to set up the lunch tables and all help to carry over our lunchboxes and water bottles - team work! |
| 1:00pm | It's time for our listening group time. We play some fun phonics games and enjoy learning about our current topic. |
| 2:00pm | Time for another snack and before we know it, it's time to start helping tidy up. After tidying, we take part in some singing, dancing and listen to a story. |
| 3:30pm | Home time! We can't wait to come back to play again tomorrow. |

Useful Information

KEY PERSON

All children are allocated a named 'Key Person', who will build a warm, secure relationship with your child and be on hand to help them find their belongings and settle them at an activity. Your child's keyworker will also spend some time each session playing alongside your child to get to know them and their interests to ensure planned activities to target your child's next developmental steps. It is possible to book an appointment to speak with your child's keyworker should you have any concerns about their development. You can meet the Hordle Explorers team by clicking [HERE](#).



EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the curriculum and statutory guidance which every Early Years setting is required to deliver. It is designed to set high standards so even the youngest children learn and develop, acquiring the knowledge and skills for a secure foundation and a smooth transition to Year R. The EYFS identifies seven areas of learning and development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design, which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge. More information can be found at <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk>

Did you know ?

80% of the human brain's structure forms between the ages of 0-3, and 90% by age 5, highlighting the critical importance of early years development.

TAPESTRY

All children attending a Hordle Explorers Nursery setting will have a personal online Learning Journey. At Hordle Explorers we use Tapestry. It is hosted from within the UK and all information sent is encoded to make it as safe and secure as possible. Recorded on this journal will be photographs, observations, comments and assessments, building up a record of your child's experiences during their time within the Early Years. It is also an additional platform for us to share any general important communications to families including reminders, useful parent information, etc.



We also welcome families to contribute to the journal adding comments, photographs and videos of your child's experiences outside of school.

Once your child has started at Hordle you will be emailed a secure link to setup a login and password for your child's online learning journal. This means you can access their journal at your convenience at home or on mobile devices.



PARENT DROP INS

Both Team Nest and Team Wild welcome families to two 'drop in' sessions per academic year. This is a chance for families to have an informal catch up with the relevant setting to speak with the team regarding your child's progress, as well as a chance to see some of their recent work, learn more about the current curriculum the children are learning and for you to ask the team any questions you may have.

PUPIL REPORTS

As a further form of information sharing, Mrs Ewing and Mrs Aucott, our Deputy Nursery Managers, along with Mrs Riley, our Early Years Lead, will put together a pupil report at the end of your child's academic year in either the Nest or the Wild, you will receive a personalised report, featuring key worker comments to both your child and you, assessment data on the individual areas of learning, next steps, information about how ready your child is to move onto the next setting (be that Reception for Wild, or Wild for Nest), and a personalised message from our Early Years Leader. It's a chance for us to congratulate your child on their achievements throughout the year, and to see how much they have grown.



TWO YEAR CHECKS

If your child attends Nest and is aged between 2 years, 6 months and 2 years, 9 months, they will receive a Two Year Check. This is a statutory progress check to review your child's development in the three prime areas of learning; communication and language, physical development, and personal, social and emotional development. It celebrates successes, looking at your child's progress and recognising areas where they are developing well. It also identifies concerns and areas where your child's progress is not as expected, and it can be used to share with your child's health visitor, in order to get additional support. You, as parents, will be invited to contribute your knowledge about your child and share with us your unique insights. In turn, we will offer you information about your child's next steps and how you can help at home, as well as identify other professionals who may be able to offer support, if needed.

WHAT TO WEAR

We encourage children to spend time both inside and out and make use of our beautiful, stimulating spaces.

Whilst there is no formal uniform within our Nursery settings, it is possible to buy a Hordle School jumper from PMG Schoolwear, located in New Milton. Some parents choose to dress their child in a 'school' jumper as it can help prepare them for starting school.

**“Dress for a mess,
don't dress to impress”**

Please make sure your child is wearing clothes that you do not mind if they get mucky and that sensible shoes are worn to school at all times.

To aid with their independence, we suggest that children wear wellie boots for outside and if possible have a pair of slipper socks to wear when coming in. For further guidance, please click on the relevant links below:



[Team Nest - What to pack](#)



[Team Wild - What to pack](#)



[Seasonal 'What to wear' Guide](#)



PACKED LUNCHES

All Hordle Explorers children who are staying for a full day session are required to provide their own packed lunch and water bottle. Please can we ask parents to ensure all lunchboxes and waterbottles are clearly named, including any tupperware provided and that all tupperware and bottles provided for children are plastic only, not glass.

Nut Free School

We are a nut and sesame free nursery due to some severe allergies within both our nursery and school settings. This includes desserts such as Battenburg, Bakewell, hummus and many cereal bars - please check ingredients before adding to your child's packed lunch. This also includes sesame oil.



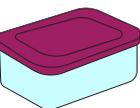
Heating/Reheating Food

Unfortunately, we are unable to heat/reheat food for our children at lunchtimes. If you wish for your child to have hot food, you are welcome to pack in a thermos to keep warm.



Chopping Small Foods

Please can all families ensure all fruit and/or small lunch box items are chopped appropriately. This is due to choking reasons. If this food is not chopped appropriately, we may be unable to serve to your child during mealtime.



More detail on how to safely prepare your child's food can be found [HERE](#).



Or our school and nursery's Safer Eating Policy can be found [HERE](#).

SICKNESS

As outlined in our Hordle Explorers Terms and Conditions, should your child be unwell and will not be attending their session(s), please let the nursery know as soon as possible. Due to safeguarding reasons, we kindly ask for all absence to be reported before **9:30am**. As per updated legislation from Hampshire's Services from Young Children, this is a child protection security measure and therefore it is compulsory that we monitor and record all absences for our nursery children.

To report an absence, please can we ask that you either email us (hen@hordleprimary.co.uk) or call us on 01425 611657 (there is a specific absence line, allowing you to leave a message for reporting absence so you can call at any time).

For guidance on how long to keep your child off school following illness, please click [HERE](#).



MEDICATION



If your child requires any form of medication, we require parents/guardians to complete a medical consent form (available from the school office and via the school website). Please note, we are only permitted to administer medication at 12noon. With the exception of Ventolin inhalers and exceptional circumstances, if medication is needed to be given at other times of the day, we would ask you to come into school to administer it yourself.

Please hand all medication to a member of the team at drop off. Please do not give your child their own medicine (including leaving medication in your child's school bag) - this includes Ventolin inhalers. The consequences of medication falling into the hands of other children is not a risk we are prepared to take.

With your consent, Paracetamol (Calpol) and Chlorphenamine (Piriton) can be administered in school, if needed. We will always inform you if this has been administered.

Should your child require regular medication please discuss this with the nursery staff, who will be able to give you specific advice and guidance.

As per our terms and conditions, it is the parent/guardians responsibility to keep the nursery team informed of any changes/updates to regular medication needed for your child.

PLANNED ABSENCES

For any type of planned absence e.g. medical appointments or holiday, we politely request for families to please email us to keep us informed of any planned absence(s) during the academic year. This will help us to monitor resources and plan activities and key worker time.

As per the Hordle Explorers Terms and Conditions, these missed sessions will still be payable, as normal.



TERM TIME AND INSET DAY DATES

Please be reminded that we are a term time only nursery setting. Please click [HERE](#) for confirmation of the academic year 2025/26 term dates.



The nursery will also be closed on the following **INSET DAYS**.

We will send reminders throughout the year of any upcoming school closures.

CHANGES TO YOUR CHILD'S NURSERY SESSIONS

After reviewing our procedures, we have decided to no longer send out session request forms two terms in advance, as per our previous policy. This is because we find that it is difficult for parents to keep track of the changes over the terms and wish to offer continuity without the additional administrative tasks.

Instead, you will be required to request your sessions at time of deposit payment is received. These sessions will then be allocated and confirmed to you.

You will then not need to reconfirm your

sessions. Instead, should you wish to make any amendments to your child's sessions, we kindly ask that you put these to us in writing to hen@hordleprimary.co.uk.

Notice Periods

If you wish to increase your child's hours, we will be able to apply these from the date requested (dependent on availability)
If you wish to decrease hours, we do require a 6 week notice period

Please be reminded that all HEN Breakfast Club and After School Club at The Den for all nursery children can be pre-booked as part of your standard sessions and as such, we are able to claim funding for these (dependent on eligibility).

Please note, any ad-hoc sessions during the term must be paid for at the invoiced hourly rate of £8 via your child's Scopay or TFC account as we are unable to claim additional funding during the term.

TEAM PATCH

PATCH is the name of our school and nursery PTA team. It stands for Parents And Teachers in the Community of Hordle.

PATCH organise many events for both the children and parents across the academic year, including the ever popular Secret Santa event and our Summer Fair! Through these wonderful schemes we have managed to purchase some incredible things for the school, including our all weather Daily Mile track and outdoor gym equipment. All relevant events will be shared with you accordingly.

PATCH are always looking for volunteers to support! If you would be interested in volunteering for the PATCH team, please let us know!

Keep 'in the know' regarding PATCH events via [Facebook](#)!



INVOICING

Invoices are sent on a termly basis. Each invoice will be sent with dates of expected payments. We will always provide two dates of payment, allowing you either to pay the full balance by the first date or 50% on the first payment deadline and the remaining balance by the second payment date.

Any late payments will incur a £20 late payment fee.

Paying via Scopay

Families can pay invoices via their Scopay accounts.

To make payment via Scopay, please follow these steps:

- + Open the Scopay App
- + For families with multiple children in the nursery/school, please ensure you have the correct child selected at the top
- + Click 'products' in the bottom right corner
- + Enter payment amount in the 'HEN Payment' option and click 'make payment'
- + Click on the basket icon at the top of the page
- + Double check you have entered the correct amount and for the correct child and if happy, please click 'checkout'
- + Click 'pay now'
- + This will redirect you to the Hampshire County Council website where you can checkout as you normally would when online shopping

Paying via Tax Free Childcare

We also welcome families to make payments via Tax Free Childcare (TFC). TFC families can receive a 20% 'top up' (up to £500 every 3 months) to help with the costs of childcare through the Government run Tax Free Childcare scheme. Your eligibility depends on whether you are working, your income (and that of your partner), your child's age and circumstances. For further information on this scheme, how to check your eligibility or set up an account, please click [HERE](#).

If you are eligible, you will be provided with a unique Tax Free Childcare reference number.

Please email your unique reference number to hen@hordleprimary.co.uk with the subject title "TFC reference". This must be provided to us before you make any payments to Hordle Explorers Nursery.

Please note, payments to us via the TFC scheme can take 5-10 working days to clear and to reach us so we kindly ask that payments are made in readiness for our nursery fees due dates.

Payment via Childcare Vouchers

Should you be in receipt of childcare vouchers, please confirm your Childcare voucher company to us in writing to hen@hordleprimary.co.uk and we will advise next steps.

Funding Shortfall

Due to Early Years Funding restrictions, nurseries and childcare settings who operate term time only can only claim funding for 38 weeks in each academic year and Hordle Explorers Nursery is open for 39 weeks per academic year.

This means that for least 1 week per academic year we are required to invoice for unfunded hours. This year the shortfall will be split across Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. Further charges may apply if your child uses their funding entitlement in full and runs out of claimable hours.

To make it fair for all families, invoices will therefore be sent for 2 days of Autumn term (one of your standard Monday & Tuesday sessions), 1 day of Spring term (one of your standard Wednesday sessions) and 2 days of Summer term (one of your standard Thursday & Friday sessions) as these fall outside the 38 weeks of available funding.

Parents will be expected to pay for these hours based on our hourly rate, £8.00 per hour, as of September 2025. We will not be able to adjust hours or accept non-attendance to reduce this cost so please plan ahead.

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

As partnership between home and nursery is so vitally important, we have drawn up the following so you are aware of what you and your child can expect from nursery and also what we expect from our families and children.



Nursery will:



- Demonstrate professional respect by communicating and sharing information about your child's unique learning development
- Have high expectations for each child and will provide challenge, promote resilience and raise aspirations
- Operate in the best interest of every child and adapt practice where necessary
- Establish positive relationships and effectively consult with parents, including sharing ideas on how to support children's learning
- Start embedding and teaching our school rules; '**Ready, Respectful, Safe**'.



Families will:



- Show an interest in their **child** and be encouraging
- Recognise that they are their child's most important role-model
- Use everyday experiences as learning opportunities and give their child opportunities to take the lead
- Have fun with their child: playing, talking and sharing together
- Encourage their child to try out new things and explore different ways of doing things
 - Celebrate their child's achievements in language development - singing songs, nursery and finger rhymes and making time for talk



Children will:



- Be excited, enthusiastic, curious and confident about learning
- Be resilient and ready to take on all that is on offer
- Feel safe, secure and cared for



By joining us at Hordle Explorers, we hope that all families are happy to commit to this agreement to ensure the best possible care for your child.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Please feel free to [FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#) to see updates from your child's time at Hordle Explorers, as well as any important updates and reminders - don't forget to share with your friends or leave us a review! ★

NURSERY NOTE

Nursery note's are sent bi-weekly and include all important communication to our nursery families from upcoming events/dates for the diary, e-safety/keeping safe online and invoicing.

We strongly encourage families to read these communications to ensure they are aware of what is happening within the nursery. It is also good practice for families who go on to attend Hordle Primary School as their weekly iComms is the method of communication for all families.

Copies of previous Nursery Notes can be found on the [PARENT AREA](#) on our website.

PERMISSIONS AND CONSENTS

If at any stage you wish to change any of the medical consents and/or media permissions and/or authorised adults to collect your child from those provided at registration, please email hen@hordleprimary.co.uk and we will be able to assist you further.

CONTACT US

If you should ever have any questions/ concerns or if there is anything else we are able to help with, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please either speak to a member of the nursery team or please email hen@hordleprimary.co.uk and a member of the office team can respond or can forward on your query to the relevant person - either way, we are always more than happy to help.

We're so happy to have you with us and can't wait to get to know you and your child.