



Welcome to Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

Starting Nursery at Hamstel



Our Nursery is a happy, thriving learning environment for 3 and 4 year olds. Housed in a purpose-designed building within the grounds of Hamstel Infant School, our Nursery features bright, vibrant indoor learning spaces and safe and secure outdoor play areas. This booklet will help to give you more information about our Nursery and how to prepare your child for joining us. We believe strongly in our children having the best possible start and aim to provide a smooth and happy transition. It is especially important for us to build strong working relationships with all our children's parents.

For any queries please call 01702 468461
Or e-mail the School Office: office@his.porticoacademytrust.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you,
The Nursery Team.

Meet Our Nursery Staff



Mrs Bryant
Assistant Principal
& EYFS Lead



Mrs Snashall
Nursery Teacher



Mrs Brooks
Nursery Key
Worker



Miss Bobin
Nursery Assistant



Mrs Garrett
Nursery Assistant



Mrs Kadir
Nursery Assistant



Mrs Taylor
Nursery Assistant



Miss Lewin
Nursery Assistant

Our Vision

Our vision is to provide a foundation for learning. We are committed to our whole school motto of 'We Care' as this is fundamental to all that we do. We value the importance of providing the children with learning spaces that are engaging and which allow for exploration and play.

We strongly believe in:

Relationships – our children are supported to develop strong relationships with adults and their peers.

Speech and Language Development – we want our children to be confident and clear communicators. Speech and vocabulary development play an essential role to future learning success.

Independence – we aim for all our children to become confident and independent learners.

Self-regulation – we want all our children to be able to self-regulate their own behaviour, knowing how to behave in different situations and being able to deal with conflicts appropriately. We teach children to make the 'right choice'.

Reading – is the key to future success and is paramount across all areas of the curriculum.

Physical development – developing both gross and fine motor skills, as the building blocks for future success in handwriting as well as writing attainment.

Enrichment - providing our children with a whole range of opportunities that they may not otherwise experience.

Parents/Carers – play a vital role in their child's education. We aim to work closely with all our parents/carers, sharing learning experiences and how we teach in nursery so that parents feel supported and confident in continuing learning at home.

At Hamstel Nursery, we want children to be engaged in their learning and form positive and lasting relationships with both their peers and adults. We want our children to feel safe, happy and excited about their learning.



Teaching and Learning in Hamstel Nursery

We strongly believe in ensuring that our children are surrounded by a rich, stimulating environment with a broad and balanced curriculum. All our children are valued as individuals and we encourage each and every child to reach their full potential. We work from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum 2021 alongside the Development Matters 2021 document. There are seven areas of learning and development:

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

We use fun and exciting topics to engage and hook the children into their learning, the year is split into six themes and each week begins with a high quality book chosen to match our topic.

During the Nursery session, your child will take part in several short adult-led carpet sessions to support their learning in maths, RWI phonics, story time and snack. Learning opportunities are further embedded through smaller individual and group teaching sessions. During each Nursery session the children are able to access a range of continuous provision whilst free-flowing between the inside and outside learning environments.



Every three weeks the children will enjoy an outdoor learning session in our Wildlife Area. The children also experience PE sessions, visit the main school library and join in with a variety of whole school events such as Remembrance, Christmas, Sports Day and Book Week.

Our School day for Nursery

15 hour morning/afternoon

Morning: 8.30am – 11.30am

Afternoon: 12.00pm – 3.00pm

30 hour all day

Day: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Lunch

If your child spends a full day with us, then they can either bring in a healthy packed lunch or order a hot school meal. All parents will be provided with a school menu. There are three different hot lunch options each day, including a vegetarian option along with two sandwich choices.

Water will be provided for all children during the lunch period.

Medical dietary requirements are catered for on our allergen awareness menu. A form will need to be completed before your child starts nursery with us.

As a Healthy School, we ask parents to provide their child with a healthy packed lunch which includes fruit and vegetables.

To ensure the safety of children in the school with nut allergies, please do not include any food that may contain nuts in packed lunches.



Snack

All children will be provided with a healthy snack daily, there is a contribution of £5.00 per term for this and payment will be requested via your ParentPay account. You will receive activation details for your ParentPay account when your child first starts Nursery with us.

Children receive a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable daily, which is supplied by the School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme. You can also sign your child up for a daily carton of fresh milk, supplied through CoolMilk, this is free to all children attending a registered nursery or school up to their 5th birthday. Drinking water is available throughout the day to top up water bottles.

Healthy Schools and Celebrations

At Hamstel Infants and Nursery School we are committed to helping improve the oral health of our children due to the rise in dental decay in children under 5 years old. Good oral care is important for overall health, prevention of pain, communication, appearance and quality of life. In order for us to provide our children with the best start for oral health we want to limit their intake of sugary foods to four times a day, breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner. Therefore, we would respectfully ask that you do not send in sweets or cakes to hand out to children when celebrating a birthday. Your child's birthday will be celebrated and they will be made to feel special in class. If you would like to buy something, we would like to suggest a book for the class to read at the end of the day as this will help build our bank of reading for pleasure books for the children.

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs

We offer Breakfast and Afterschool Club to Nursery children dependent on which sessions they attend. Please see our information leaflet for further details.

Parent responsibilities

All parents need to complete a collection form so that we know who will be collecting your child at the end of the nursery session. Please inform the School Office of any changes to who will be collecting your child.

Please help your child by not being late, the early morning routine helps the children to settle and become prepared for the day ahead.

If your child is ill, please telephone and leave a message with the School Office on the first morning of illness before 9.00am.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital; it ensures that your child is given every opportunity to develop both academically and socially. We are required to monitor your child's attendance and discuss this with you if the attendance falls below 90%. Please inform us of any reason your child is unable to attend.



Transition

Communicating with Pre-school and Nursery Settings

If your child already attends a pre-school or nursery we will be in contact with their current placement Keyworker before the Summer holidays.

Facebook Group and Website

A Facebook group will be set up for all new parents and carers to join. This is an invaluable way to share information and for parents to get to know each other.

Home Visits

A member of the Nursery Team will visit you and your child at your home before they begin Hamstel Nursery. Home Visits are invaluable in helping our staff get to know our new families and are integral to helping your child have a smooth and happy transition into Nursery. This year home visits will take place in July.

Stay and Play sessions

Stay and Play sessions are an important part of transition, they give the children an opportunity to get to know their new nursery environment, meet their teacher/keyworker and new classmates and explore their new classroom. Stay and Play sessions will take place in September.



Things your child will need

- A clearly named bag with spare clothes (all named)
- Wellington boots to be left in Nursery
- A coat, hat, scarf and gloves in cold weather
- A sun hat in warm weather
- A clear plastic water bottle filled with water only
- All items to be clearly named.

Nursery Uniform

Uniform is not compulsory in Nursery, however our parents' feedback has informed us that wearing uniform is a preference, therefore you may wish to choose the following:

- White polo shirt with or without school logo
- Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or pinafore
- Maroon jumpers/ sweatshirts or cardigan with school logo
- Pink and white check summer dress
- Grey, black or white socks (long or short) or tights

We strongly recommend your child wears sensible shoes with a Velcro fastening not laces.

Outdoor Learning

Every three weeks the Nursery children will enjoy an Outdoor Learning session. On the day that your child has Outdoor Learning we would ask that you do not send your child in school uniform. Instead please send them in wearing suitable clothing for such activities e.g. jogging bottoms, T-shirt, warm jumper, coat, waterproofs, sun hat. Clothes should be 'old' as the children will get messy and muddy throughout the day.

Where to buy

School uniform bearing the Hamstel logo can be purchased from either Crawlers in Hamstel Road (www.southendschoolwear.com) or from School Wear centre (<https://schoolwearcentres.com>).

Please ensure that all clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's full name to aid the return of lost property. Please remember to do this each time you replace an item of clothing.

Getting Ready for Nursery

At Hamstel Nursery we are committed to working with parents and carers to ensure your child is ready to start Nursery. Below is a list of things we would like your child to be able to do before they start. If your child is able to do most of the activities below we feel they will be independent and confident as they start in their Nursery class.

- Use the toilet myself, including wiping my bottom.
- Wash and dry my hands.
- Put on and take off my coat.
- Wipe my own nose.
- Be happy when I am away from my parents or carers.
- Use a spoon, knife and fork.
- Open my own lunchbox as well as wrappers and packaging.
- Drink from an open cup.
- Follow simple instructions e.g. come and sit on the carpet.
- Join in games and activities with other people.
- Share and take turns.
- Listen to stories.
- Have a short conversation with grown-ups and other children, listening and responding to what they say
- Join in with familiar nursery rhymes
- Hold a pencil to draw.
- Talk about my drawings.



Getting to Hamstel Nursery



Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

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Essex, SS2 4PQ
Tel: 01702 468461

Email: office@his.porticoacademytrust.co.uk



PORTICO
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

Hamstel Infant School and Nursery is a member of the Portico Academy Trust

The Trust consists of Friars Primary School and Nursery, Hamstel Infant School and Nursery, Hamstel Junior School, Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery (a sponsored academy) and West Leigh Junior School. For more details of the Portico Academy Trust visit:

www.porticoacademytrust.co.uk

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