

High expectations for all, by all!



Hensall Community Primary School

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Executive Headteacher – Ms S Keeler

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Dear Parents

In October, we consulted with our community regarding the potential for a school-based nursery. The response was incredibly high, with 83% of responding families expressing a clear need for local nursery provision.

Following this, the school wrote and submitted a formal bid to the Department for Education (DfE) for capital funding to develop our premises. We are delighted to share that our application was successful and we have been awarded the funding to bring this vision to life.

What does this mean for our school?

This allows us to offer seamless EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) education from nursery through to the end of Reception. By welcoming children into our school family earlier, we can ensure a smoother transition into primary education and provide a consistent, high-quality learning environment from the very start.

Where will the nursery be located?

To accommodate this, Willow class will undergo a **significant refurbishment**. This is an exciting development for everyone in the setting:

- **Year 1 Pupils in Willow:** Will benefit from a brand-new, dedicated teaching area.
- **Nursery & Reception:** Will share the main classroom area, which will be expanded to increase the overall floor space.
- **Result:** All children will actually have **more** room to learn and play than they do currently.

How will it be staffed and managed? We are committed to maintaining our high standards of care and education:

- **September Start:** We will begin by offering up to 9 full-time nursery places for 3-year-olds, bringing the total class size to 30. This remains within the legal infant class size limit and will be led by our current class teacher and two teaching assistants.
- **Future Growth:** As we gradually move toward our full capacity of 15 flexible places and introduce 2-year-old provision, we will recruit a **specialist EYFS practitioner** to join the team.



New School Nursery: Frequently Asked Questions

How will this affect my child in Year 1 in Willow class?

The introduction of the nursery is actually a significant investment in the Year 1 learning environment. As part of the DfE funding, Willow class will be refurbished to create a **dedicated, quiet teaching zone** specifically for Year 1. This means they will have a bespoke space for their core subjects, away from the more play-based activities of the EYFS children, while still being part of our school family.

Will the classroom be overcrowded?

No. A key part of our successful bid was a plan to **increase the overall floor area**. By refurbishing the current space, we are creating more square footage per child than we currently have. Additionally, because nursery places are often part-time or flexible, all 15 nursery children will rarely be in the building at the same time.

Will my child's teacher be distracted by the younger children?

Our staffing structure is designed to prevent this. To begin with, we are maintaining our current high ratio of one teacher and two teaching assistants for a group that does not exceed 30 children. As the nursery grows, we will be hiring an **EYFS Specialist Practitioner** whose sole focus will be the nursery children, allowing the class teacher to remain focused on the Reception and Year 1 curriculum.

How will the transition work for the 2 and 3-year-olds?

We believe in a 'phased approach'. We will start with 3-year-olds in September to ensure the new classroom flow is working perfectly. Only once the setting is fully established and our new specialist staff member is in place will we begin to welcome 2-year-olds.

What about toilets and outdoor play?

The refurbishment includes ensuring all facilities are age-appropriate. This includes tailored toileting facilities and a zoned outdoor area that allows for safe, age-specific play while encouraging the 'big' children to model good behaviour for the 'little' ones—a key benefit of a whole-school approach.

When will the building work happen?

We aim to complete the most disruptive 'heavy' work during the summer break to ensure there is zero impact on the children's learning. Any minor finishing touches will be cordoned off safely and managed by our site team.



How can I apply for a nursery place?

If you or someone you know is interested in a place for September, please email the school office. Currently the hours of the Nursery will be 9:00am-3:30pm but we aim to extend this over time to offer wraparound care.

And one final point of note...

Whilst we have successfully been awarded the funding, we must now attain quotes and consider logistics. This includes digesting the terms and conditions of the grant. We will write to you again with an update in the summer term.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Keeler
Executive Headteacher



Rachel Lindley
Head of School

