

Academic Year: 2025-2026 Newsletter : October 2025



Highfield Nursery School,
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Welcome and settling in

A warm welcome to our new and returning children and families. Children are settling in to nursery life. Every child has a named key person. Do connect with them on entry/exit as this is your first point of contact if you have any questions, queries or need any information.

Every child has the Right to an Education

At our school we offer free early education to children from aged 9 months to 4 years of age, term time only. All children aged 3-4 are able to access 15 free hours per week as well as some children aged 2 that meet certain criteria. We offer 30 hours of provision for qualifying working parents for children aged 9 months to 4 years. We offer morning, afternoon, (limited) blocked day and all-day provision term time only.

Our provision:

Nest, Nurture, Nature and Nursery units:

Nest Room for children from 9 Months - 2 years (Main site)

Nurture Room for children aged 2-4 who may need higher levels of adult support and a personalised environment in order to flourish and make progress. Children who attend may have more complex long- term learning needs or may require temporary, short-term support.

Nature Nursery for children aged 3-4 years at Dyson Gardens

Nursery Provision for children aged 2-3 years (Main site)

Every day is an open day at Highfield. Do contact us if you are looking for a place for your child.

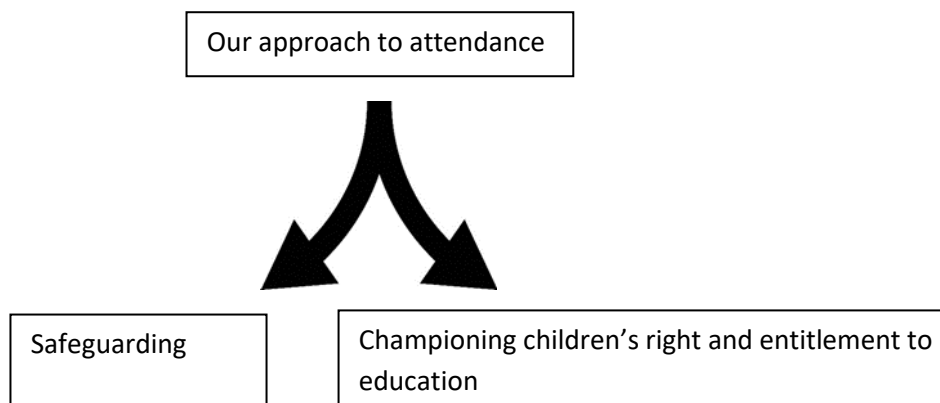
We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025), the statutory framework that sets the standards for Learning, Development and Care for children from birth up to 5. It outlines what we must do to help children learn and develop and be healthy and safe.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Attendance and punctuality at Nursery

Good attendance is everyone's responsibility. Let's work together to establish good habits from the start. Bring your child to nursery on time every day. Regular attendance helps children settle more quickly into simple routines & helps children's development. Children with high attendance in nursery start primary school with better learning outcomes and higher levels of school readiness. To protect group time learning, morning children should be collected from 11:20-11:30. Afternoon children need to be collected from 3pm – 3.15pm. Full time children attend 9am – 3pm.

Our attendance values are **belonging, connectedness and curiosity.**



If your child does not have attended nursery we will call you to find out why. We have a duty to ensure children are safe and well. You can help us by calling us on the first day of your child's absence on 0121 675 4617. It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off nursery when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. Nursery uses this guidance found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

It is important that you let nursery know if your child has an accident or injury at home, or if they have been unwell. Nursery will also share any accidents or injuries. An accident form will be given out at the end of the session and if your child has a head bump a telephone call home will be completed. Following an episode of sickness or diarrhoea do not bring your child to Nursery for 48 hours after the last episode. This is to ensure the health and safety of all the children.

Inform your key person if your child has a medical condition or an allergy so we can do a care plan to keep your child safe, or if there have been any recent changes to their medication.

Clothing

Ensure your child has a warm coat and hat to access outdoor learning. Nursery provides waterproof clothing and boots for children to access the nature garden at Dyson Gardens. Each child has a peg. Write your child's name on their coat. As children have access to many messy play activities on a daily basis, please bring your child in old clothes. Dress your child in clothes that support independence when toileting e.g. jogging bottoms rather than clothes with buttons. Please provide spare clothes and personal care items like nappies and wipes in your child's bag and store on your child's peg.

Parking

No parent parking is available on our main site or Dyson Gardens. Please do not park on the zig zag lines. Please do not walk through car parks, please use designated paths for safety.

Every Child has the Right to be Safe

At our school, safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone. Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all children and expects our staff, volunteers, students, visitors & parents to share this commitment. Our first priority is your child's welfare. Only named adults can collect children. If your child has a minor accident/injury at nursery we will provide first aid and provide you with a record slip on collection. School will telephone home to notify parents of any head bumps. Let us know if your child has an injury at home or in the wider community so we can monitor your child's health at nursery. We value our close working relationships with parents and are able to offer early help when a need emerges. Speak to your key person if you require any help.

Safeguarding Please report any safeguarding concerns to our designated safeguarding lead (DSL) Sharon Lewis – Executive Headteacher or a member of the Deputy DSL team; Sadia Carter—Mirza (School Business Manager), Nazmeen Shaffique (SEND/Teacher), Rebecca Martin (Teacher), Natalie Hammond (TA), Charlotte Grundy (TA), Kaukab Farooq (Inclusion Manager) or Alisha Rafiq (Office Manager) before leaving the site.

Every Child has the Right to the best possible Health

Our curriculum promotes active learning. Active children are healthy, happy, school ready & sleep better. Children and parents have regular opportunities to learn about healthy foods, oral health, cooking, gardening and forest school. We complete Development checks for 2 year olds and liaise closely with health visitors to support our children. If you have any concerns about your child's health or development speak to your child's key person. Our Special Educational Needs Teacher (SENCO) is Nazmeen Shaffique. Please visit the Birmingham local offer website for more information and webinars which offer support on all different areas of child development. <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>

We have a very limited amount of space for pushchairs. Please encourage children to walk to school.

We have to follow the EYFS Nutrition guidance. Providing healthy, balanced and nutritious food ensures that all children get the right amount of nutrients and energy they need while they are growing rapidly. We support children to develop positive eating habits early on. Children's early experiences with food can shape future eating habits. This can impact children's long-term health including maintaining a healthy weight, and good oral health.

We encourage all children to bring a piece of fruit to nursery each day to share at snack time. Children have daily access to water throughout the day and healthy snack time. We encourage children to try new fruits daily. Milk is given out at the end of each session for children to take home. Only water will be given at nursery.

For children that attend all day there are two options: Healthy hot school meal or healthy packed lunch from home:

- A healthy packed lunch prepared at home should include the following types of foods everyday:
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, potatoes, or couscous.
- At least 1 portion of fruit or vegetables, ideally 2.
- A calcium-rich food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, or fromage frais.
- A food such as meat, fish, eggs, or beans – these contain protein and iron.
- A drink of plain water.

Visit <https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/packed-lunches> or see packed lunch food ideas leaflet for more guidance.

All children who stay for lunch have an opportunity to try a healthy hot school meal. We also provide a vegetable finger food platter to complement school dinners and packed lunches.

We are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. To keep all children safe do not to bring any foods containing NUTs in to school.



Nursery have hot meals delivered to site daily. The catering provider ensures we have healthy, balanced and nutritious food.

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of any benefits. You will need to complete a form and produce the relevant documentation to check eligibility. These forms are available at our reception. Menus can be found using the link below.

[Highfield Nursery School - School Dinners](#)

School Applications

When can your child start primary school?

Children in Birmingham can start school (reception) in the September after their fourth birthday.

Example: If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, they will be able to start school in September 2026.

The responsibility for applying online for a child to start reception class remains solely with parents or carers. Our office manager, Alisha, will be holding drop-in sessions to support parents to make the application on Fridays. If you would like support please book-in to attend one of these sessions with Alisha.

When to apply

Parents can apply for a place in the Autumn of the year before their child turns 4. You must apply for a place before 15th January 2026.

Online applicants who submit their application with a valid email address will be sent an offer by email on 16 April 2026. Parents/carers who submitted an online application without a valid email address will be sent an offer letter by first class post, which should arrive from 16 April 2026 and should be delivered by the end of that week.

Curriculum

Please check the curriculum boards outside your child's classroom to find our core books, rhymes, home learning and Makaton signs. Our website provides more information on how to support children's learning at <https://www.hifieldn.bham.sch.uk/>

Austin Gannon is our artist in residence supporting children's experiences with clay.



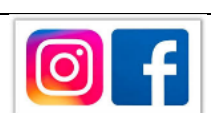
All children in nursery have their own tapestry online learning journal. All home learning activities can be found on your child's Tapestry account. If you do not have access to your child's account please ask a member of staff to support you to log in. You can download the Tapestry app to your phone or access it online. Staff will be uploading pictures of your child's experiences in nursery to share with you. At the end of your child's time at Highfield Nursery School you can download the images to keep as a memory of their nursery years.



50 Things To Do Before You're Five is a free app offering a menu of low or no cost exciting activities indoors & outdoors for families with young children in Birmingham, giving great suggestions for how to have fun and learn at the same time. You can find the app in the store on any Android or Apple Device or simply scan the barcode on the posters on display in school.



Do ensure that you sign up to receive emergency text messages through our School Life App. This includes regular updates, key dates & emergency closures.



Social media:
Please find and follow us on our social media platforms.
Instagram: highfieldnurseryschool
Facebook: Highfield Nursery School

Dates for your diary

27.10.2025 – 31.10.2025 – October Half Term

01.11.2025 – All children return

04.11.2025 – AM - 8.45–10– CAT Parent workshop

11.11.2025 – AM – 8.45-10 School transition Parent workshop
PM – 12.15-1.30 School transition Parent workshop

14.11.2025 - Children in Need – children can wear something bright

19.11.2025 - Sugar Awareness Day – Children can wear white

03.12.2025 – International Day of People with disabilities – children can wear purple

10.12.2025 – AM 8.45-10 – School applications Parent workshop

11.12.2025 - Christmas Jumper Day – children can wear their jumpers or Xmas colours red, green or gold (Children attending Dyson site can wear theirs 10.12.2025)

17.12.2025 - Christmas Parties – children can wear their party clothes

18.12.2025 – Twas the Night Before Xmas / Santa Visit – children can wear their Pyjamas

22.12.2025 – 02.01.2026 - Christmas Holidays

05.01.2026 – All children return

*December 2025. Parent Consultation will take place from 4pm – 6pm – Date to be confirmed.