



Settling in at Holmleigh Primary
School in the
NURSERY CLASS 2025

A PLACE WHERE...

'Teamwork makes the Dream work'

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Welcome to Holmleigh!

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the Holmleigh Primary School Early Years family—and to our new school site! This booklet includes photographs of our amazing early year's team, however our team will expand due to Holmleigh becoming a two form entry school.

We are a vibrant, multicultural, and nurturing school, with a dedicated team of staff who work in close partnership with children, their families, and the wider community. Our aim is to ensure that every child feels happy, secure, healthy, and valued, while developing into a successful learner who experiences joy in learning every day.

At Holmleigh, we are committed to providing high-quality care and education in an inclusive, supportive, and stimulating environment. We encourage children's natural curiosity through play and exploration, support their personal, social, and emotional development, and promote critical thinking through creative and mathematical problem-solving experiences.

Our approach is firmly rooted in nurture and co-regulation, helping children build resilience and confidence. We equip them with the skills and mind set needed to become lifelong learners who make a positive contribution to society.

We look forward to an exciting journey ahead with you and your child.

Warm regards,
The Early Years Team
Holmleigh Primary School

Key Person Approach

Positive Relationships

'Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships'

Our Key Person Approach at Holmleigh

At Holmleigh, we follow the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and operate a flexible key person approach to ensure every child feels secure, supported, and valued.

Each child is assigned a key person who plays a vital role in helping them settle, feel safe, and build positive relationships. Your child's key person will also work closely with you to develop strong partnerships between home and school. They are part of a dedicated team that carefully plans experiences tailored to meet each child's unique learning and developmental needs.

As a small and nurturing school, we encourage parents and carers to speak with any member of the Early Years team if they have questions or need support and not just their child's designated key person. We're here to work together to ensure the very best for your child.



School Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

<i>Inset Day (School closed)</i>	<i>Monday 1st September</i>
<i>Inset Day School closed)</i>	<i>Tuesday 2nd September</i>
<i>Inset Day (School closed)</i>	<i>Wednesday 3rd September</i>
Starts (open for children)	Thursday 4th September (Years 1-6)
Last day	Friday 24 th October
Half term	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October
Open for children	Monday 3 rd November
Ends - Christmas Holiday	Friday 19 th December @1.35pm

Spring Term 2026

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Monday 5th January</i>
Starts (open for children)	Tuesday 6th January
Last day	Friday 13 th February
Half term	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February
Open for Children	Monday 23 rd February
Ends – Easter Holiday	Friday 27 th March @ 1.35pm- Friday 10 th April

Summer Term 2026

Starts (open for children)	Monday 13th April
Bank holiday (School closed)	Monday 4 th May
Last day	Friday 22nd May
Half term	Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May
Open for children	Monday 1 st June
Ends – Summer Holiday	Monday 20th July @1.35
<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 21st July</i>

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Nursery and Reception classes will have a staggered return in September 2025. Please refer to settling in booklet for more information.

Throughout the year, Nursery will open and close at different times to the rest of the school. Please check with the Nursery team for confirmation of the dates and times.

Nursery ends for Summer Term on: Tuesday 14th July 2026

From Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July 2026, we will be closed for home visits and admin tasks.

Home visits in the Nursery Class Home Visits

We are pleased that your child will be joining our Nursery class and we warmly welcome both you and your child to Holmleigh School.

We greatly value the importance of home visits in supporting a smooth transition into school and in helping to build strong, positive partnerships with parents and carers.

Please note: Home visits are only offered to all families who are new to Holmleigh School.

Why Home Visits Matter

Home visits allow your child to meet our team in a familiar and comfortable setting. It's a chance for us to get to know each other better, answer any questions you may have, and help your child feel more confident ahead of starting school.

We strongly encourage all families new to our school to take part in a home visit. However, participation is optional. If you are unavailable at the scheduled time or wish to opt out, please contact the school as soon as possible. You can reach Angie Manderson on 0208 802 7420, or email her at:

amanderson@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk

Preparing for Your Home Visit

To help make the visit as smooth and effective as possible, please ensure the following:

1. Your child is at home and present during the visit.
2. You have your child's **Red Book** and **full birth certificate** available.
3. You are ready to share **emergency contact numbers** (in addition to your own).
4. You talk to your child beforehand, so they know to expect a visit.
5. If your child is shy or reluctant to engage, please don't worry — we will be patient and sensitive to their needs.
6. Please complete and return any forms provided to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting you and your child and beginning this exciting new chapter together.

All about Settling into Holmleigh Nursery Class

Unique child- Settling in and starting Holmleigh Nursery class

Separates from main carer with confidence

Development Matters 30-50 months

Our aim is to ensure that the transition from home or another setting to our Nursery is as smooth as possible. We adhere to an agreed set of guidelines, which allow a flexible child-centred approach that is always successful, as the small steps we follow ultimately lead to a child's secure involvement and well-being.

We strongly value the importance of home visits, stay and play sessions and inviting our prospective parent/carers to our summer fair and open day so that relationships can start to form before settling in begins.

Settling in guidelines

Day 1-visit with parent/carer to the Nursery for 1 hour.

Day 2-separation begins. (The length of separation is dependent upon observations of your child from open day and day 1, if they are ready separation can be any time from 5-40 minutes.

Day 3-Separation of up to 1 hour without parent/carers.
(dependent upon the child)

Day 4- Two hours' separation without parent/carers.
(dependent upon the child)

Day 5-Separation for the whole session.
(dependent upon the child)

Day 6- onwards- the separation time will continue to increase.
We advise all parent/carers always to say goodbye and let their child know when they are leaving as disappearing or leaving when a child is distracted can ultimately result in increased anxiety and fear for your child which delays the process.

It is important that during this transition, parent/carers work in partnership with us, allowing at least 5-10 days to settle their child.

Extended settling in period

We believe that settling in is not a time to be rushed as we believe transition needs to be handled sensitively and carefully and is personalised to each child.

If a child needs more time to settle, we will implement a staggered approach after consultation with parent/carers.

Amended times during the settling in period

Please note ONLY during the settling in period morning sessions will start at 9.30 and afternoon sessions will start at 1.30pm. Once your child is settled morning sessions will start at 9am and afternoon sessions at 12.30pm.

Preparing your child and supporting their learning

Joining a Nursery or any settling in is a huge transition for both the child and their family. It can be a nervous time for parent/carers as it marks a new beginning and is the start to formal education.

Our settling in procedure allows for time to settle and relationships to form. We start this process in advance during home visits and a picnic.

Some parent/carers can feel extremely anxious to leave their child especially if their child is visibly upset.

In such cases parent/carers are supported and will be encouraged to leave and a practitioner will support your child. Parent/carers will only be contacted if their child has not settled once separated.

Extended Settling-In Period –Nursery Class

At Holmleigh, we believe that the settling-in process should never be rushed.

Transitioning into nursery is a significant step, and we aim to handle it with care, sensitivity, and a personalised approach for each child.

We recognise that some children may have previously attended a nursery full-time and some may have no experience of nursery at all. While we acknowledge this experience, our priority is to ensure a smooth and positive transition into our school environment.

If your child requires more time to settle, we will work closely with you to implement a **staggered approach** tailored to their individual needs. Our goal is to help every child feel secure, confident, and happy as they begin their journey in Reception.

Waiting to collect your child

Please be patient with us as the end of the day is a very busy time and many children from the Reception class are trying to collect their things and listen to new information. We need parent/carers to adhere to the following:

- Be on time.
- Stand back and wait for your child to come to you.
- Do not shout out to the practitioners, we will dismiss children as we see parent/carers.
- Do not push to the front always consider others who have been waiting before you.
- If you need to see the teacher, please wait until all the children have been safely dismissed before approaching them.
- If your child forgets something send your child in by themselves to collect whatever they have forgotten.

Preparing Your Child and Supporting Their Learning

Starting Reception is a significant milestone for both children and their families. It can be an emotional time, filled with excitement but also some understandable nerves especially as it marks the beginning of formal education.

At Holmleigh, we aim to make this transition as smooth and positive as possible. Our **settling-in process** is carefully planned to give children the time they need to adjust and to build trusting relationships with staff. This process begins well in advance through **home visits, Open day and Meet and Greet session**, all designed to help children and families feel welcome and comfortable.

We understand that some parents and carers may find it difficult to leave their child, particularly if the child is visibly upset. In these situations, we provide reassurance and support. We encourage parents to leave confidently, knowing that a member of our team will be there to comfort and support your child. You will only be contacted if your child continues to struggle to settle after the initial separation.

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare

Our experience shows that the following tips can help support a positive transition:

- **Stay positive.** Try not to show your own worries or anxieties to your child.
- **Talk together.** Discuss what school might be like and what they could learn.
- **Encourage independence.** Help your child practise managing their coat and belongings, feeding themselves, and using the toilet independently.
- **Model curiosity.** Show how to ask questions, so your child feels confident doing the same.
- **Get involved.** Attend school events like the Summer Fair to help familiarise both you and your child with the school environment.
- **Encourage creativity.** Provide materials at home for drawing or mark-making. These can be brought into school to help your child feel connected.
- **Have meaningful conversations.** Talk with your child regularly, listen to them, and offer a variety of experiences.
- **Visit the library.** Share and enjoy books together at home to develop early language and literacy skills.
- **Explore practical learning.** Activities like cooking can introduce important early maths concepts such as counting, measuring, and following steps.

With your support and our partnership, we can ensure that your child has a confident and happy start to their school journey.

Mental Health and Wellbeing at Holmleigh Primary School

At Holmleigh Primary School, we understand that **wellbeing** encompasses every aspect of a person's health including **physical, emotional, and mental** wellbeing. We are committed to promoting **positive mental health** and wellbeing across our entire school community, recognising that mental health is just as vital as physical health. When mental wellbeing is strong, we feel balanced, resilient, and capable of managing life's daily challenges. We are more engaged, motivated, and able to bounce back from setbacks. Our aim is to create an environment where all members of our school community, pupils, staff, and families feel supported, valued, and understood.

Our Wellbeing Goals for Pupils

- Through our wellbeing provision, we aim to support children to:
- Learn and explore the world around them
- Feel, express, and manage a range of emotions
- Form and maintain healthy relationships with others
- Cope with change and uncertainty
- Build resilience and self-esteem
- Grow and thrive both in and out of the classroom

Our Whole-School Approach

We are dedicated to promoting mental health through:

- **Universal, whole-school strategies** that support the wellbeing of all pupils and staff
- **Targeted approaches** for individuals or groups identified as vulnerable or in need of additional support
- A school culture that prioritises compassion, connection, and open communication

Working Together with Parents and Carers

We recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in supporting their children's mental health. We are committed to working in partnership with families to ensure every child receives the care and support they need.

To support parents and carers, we:

- Make our **Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy** available on the school website
- Share **reliable sources of information and support** through our website and school communications
- Ensure all parents know **who to talk to** and how to seek help if they have concerns about their child's mental health

- Host **information sessions** with tips on how to support children's emotional wellbeing at home
- Keep parents informed about the **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum** and suggest ways to continue conversations and learning at home
- Provide **parent workshops** based on feedback and topics suggested by families

At Holmleigh, we believe that promoting mental health and wellbeing is a shared responsibility and one that helps lay the foundation for a happy, healthy, and successful future for every child.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet.

We hope it is useful!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

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