A Guide for Pupils and Parents
Nursery



2026 – 2027

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Welcome to Homer First School & Nursery

We would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Homer First School & Nursery.

Homer First School & Nursery is a community school based on the Laing estate, to the West of Windsor. We admit children from the age of three until they move on to Middle School at the age of nine.

We are very proud of the confident and caring children at Homer who enjoy learning and facing new exciting challenges.

Our aim is to ensure each child receives the highest quality of teaching to enable them to learn and develop and for each child to be the very best that they can be.

We believe children learn best when they are happy and comfortable and therefore we feel our nurturing approach and emphasis on children's emotional care is a priority.

You are the expert on your child and we value strong partnerships with parents and this is the key to a positive and successful time for your child at Homer First School & Nursery.

Our staff are a friendly and highly motivated team of professionals who are committed to providing a safe, fun and happy environment in which children can learn and grow.

Gemma Sharma
Headteacher

Contact Details

Address:	Homer First School & Nursery Testwood Road, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 5RL
Telephone:	01753 867436
Email:	office@homerfirstschool.co.uk
Website:	www.homerfirstschool.co.uk

Homer First School & Nursery

Vision

When we work hard and we are kind amazing things happen!

Values	Homer Rules
Ready	**We respect others and listen to people**
Respect	**We are honest** **We are kind and helpful**
Safe	**We work hard** **We look after property**

Section One – Getting Started

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

TERM DATES 2026/2027

School term and holiday dates for community and voluntary controlled schools. Academy, free and voluntary aided schools can set their own term dates, so please check with your school.

Autumn 2026

Term 1 (39 days)

Term starts on: Tuesday 1st September 2026* **Term ends on:** Friday 23rd October 2026*

October holiday: Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term 2 (35 days)

Term starts on: Monday 2nd November 2026* **Term ends on:** Friday 18th December 2026

Christmas holiday: Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Spring 2027

Term 3 (30 days)

Term starts on: Monday 4th January 2027* **Term ends on:** Friday 12th February 2027

February holiday: Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term 4 (24 days)

Term starts on: Monday 22nd February 2027 **Term ends on:** Thursday 25th March 2027

Spring holiday: Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027
(Good Friday – 26th March 2027; Easter Monday – 29th March 2027)

Summer 2027

Term 5 (34 days)

Term starts on: Monday 12th April 2027 **Term ends on:** Friday 28th May 2027*

May holiday: Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term 6 (33 days)

Term starts on: Monday 7th June 2027 Term ends on: Wednesday 21st July 2027

***Inset days.**
There are five Inset (Teacher Training) Days to be taken during the 2026/2027 academic year. One of these, set by the LA, will be the first day of Term 1 (Tuesday 1st September 2026). The remaining four days are Wednesday 2nd September 2026, Friday 23rd October 2026, Monday 2nd November 2026, Monday 4th January 2027 and Friday 28th May 2027.

Bank holidays in 2026/27 academic year

Christmas Day	- Friday 25th December 2026	Easter Monday	- Monday 29th March 2027
Boxing Day (substitute)	- Saturday 26th December 2026	May Day Holiday	- Monday 3rd May 2027
New Year's Day	- Friday 1st January 2027	Spring Bank Holiday	- Monday 31st May 2027
Good Friday	- Friday 26th March 2027	August Bank Holiday	- Monday 30th August 2027

Timings of the Day

Time	Activity
8.40am – 11.40am	Morning session:- Drop off at 8.35am and pick up at 11.40am
12.10pm – 3.10pm	Afternoon session:- Drop off at 12.10pm and pick up at 3.10pm

Lunch club is available free of charge to children staying all day. Please provide a packed lunch for your child.

Funding & Costs

If your child is aged 9 months to 4 years old you may be eligible for 30 hours per week of free government funded childcare for 38 weeks of the year.

We admit children the term after their 3rd birthday. All 3 to 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free childcare and this can be claimed the term after your child's third birthday.

Child's birthday	**When you can claim**
1 January to 31 March	the beginning of term on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	the beginning of term on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	the beginning of term on or after 1 January

Some 3 to 4 year olds are eligible to receive 30 hours free childcare. You must meet certain criteria around employment, income, and immigration status.

Employment Status

You (and your partner, if applicable) must be:

- In work (including self-employment or zero-hours contracts)
- On sick leave or annual leave
- On maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave

If you're not currently working, you may still be eligible if your partner is working and you receive certain benefits (e.g., Carer's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit).

Income Thresholds

Over the next 3 months, each parent must expect to earn at least:

- £2,539 if aged 21 or over
- £2,080 if aged 18 to 20
- £1,570 if under 18 or an apprentice

This is roughly equivalent to 16 hours a week at minimum wage. Your income must not exceed £100,000 each per year.

If you're self-employed or newly employed, you can average income over the tax year. Some types of income (e.g. dividends or pension payments) do not count.

Immigration Status

You (and your partner, if applicable) must:

- Have a National Insurance number
- Have British or Irish citizenship, settled/pre-settled status, or valid leave with access to public funds

You will be required to prove your eligibility and obtain an authorisation code. For more information, please see https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/15-and-30-hours-support/working-families/eligibility/

Once you have your eligibility code, you will need to complete a 30 hours free funding form for the school (available from the school office or website) the term prior to your child's start date. If you are not eligible for the additional 15 hours funding, sessions will be charged at £27 per session.

As a school, we are in a position to offer up to 30 hours a week for 38 weeks a year. (NB:- You are able to split your child's entitlement between two different providers should you so wish).

Invoicing & Payment

For those parents who will be paying for sessions, we shall be invoicing at the beginning of term in September for sessions through to the end of December. Payment should be made within 14 days.

Subsequently, an invoice will be issued at the end of each of the long terms (i.e. December/April) and fees will be payable before the first day of each of the following terms.

Any changes to booked sessions must be put in writing and we require a term's notice. Sessions booked but not attended will still need to be paid for and only in exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Headteacher, will payment be refunded.

HOMER FIRST SCHOOL UNIFORM LIST

UNIFORM ORDERING

Our school uniform provider is PMG Schoolwear. They supply the sweatshirts and bookbag with the logo. **Please place your order with PMG Schoolwear before Friday 7th August latest** at www.pmgschoolwear.co.uk. A size guide is available on their website. If you have any difficulties with on-line ordering, please contact their customer services on 01895 809321.

Uniform

At Homer, our colours are red and grey:

- Red or white plain polo shirts
- Red sweatshirt bearing the school logo. We ask that you purchase one sweatshirt with our logo from the stockist above. Additional plain red sweatshirts can be purchased from high street store.
- Trousers, tracksuit bottoms or leggings (any colour)
- Children are expected to wear sensible shoes

All clothing must be named. We have a fundraising account with Stikins name labels. The labels stick in and stay in – no sewing or ironing needed. For information or to order, please visit www.stikins.co.uk. Please quote our fundraising number 36057 to help raise funds for our school.

What your child needs – at a glance

- School uniform
- Bookbag (Reading Folder)
- Lunchbox
- Breaktime snack (fruit only)
- Bottle of water (spill proof bottle)

Communicating with parents

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and things that really matter is something we care about.

We use SCOPAY for:-

- Email and text message communications
- Dinner money payments and booking meals
- Breakfast club club payments and bookings
- School trip and event payments, bookings and forms
- Booking parents' evening appointments

SCOPAY brings a lot of benefits for you:

- Download the free SCOPAY app - it's easy to use.
- One parent/guardian account can be used for multiple children – even siblings in different schools which also use SCOPAY.
- Many payment options - including debit or credit cards, GooglePay, ApplePay and PayPoint.
- All payments are secure - the system is FCA Approved.
- Easily view your balances and payment history, including payments made in school.
- Set up alerts for a number of different things – e.g. when an account balance drops below a certain amount.

Packed lunches

To provide a healthy and nutritious meal we recommend a selection of the following items in your child's lunch box:

- Sandwiches or a roll - filled with meat, fish, cheese or egg – not jam or chocolate spread
- Salad – pasta, green or mixed
- Cheese – not processed or the 'stringy' kind
- Chopped raw vegetables – eg carrots, cucumber or tomatoes
- Yogurt – not the squeezy kind! And a spoon
- Fruit – fresh or dried
- Fruit squash/juice or water - not fizzy

Occasional treats – not every day please:

- Small packet of crisps or savoury biscuits
- Small cake / mini roll / biscuit – preferably fruit or plain
- Cocktail sausages / sausage roll

It is helpful to provide your child with sufficient so they are not hungry although beware of overloading the lunch box!

Items not allowed at <u>any</u> time:

- Sweets
- Fizzy drinks
- Squeezy yoghurts
- Nuts of any kind (including peanut butter & chocolate/hazelnut spread)

We encourage the children to eat the savoury food first and not to swap or try food from anyone else's lunch box. Any food not eaten will not be thrown away at school but will be brought home to show you.

Breakfast Club

The Club runs in the school hall every morning for children in Nursery through to Year 4.

Timing:- 7.30am – 8.30am (Breakfast is served between 7.30am and 8am only).

Cost:- £7.00 per child and £6.50 for each additional sibling

All sessions must be pre-booked and paid for in advance using via your SCOPAY account. Please click on the link below for a parents' guide to booking breakfast club.

scopay-parent-guide-booking-sessions.pdf

After-school Club

Junior Adventure Group run after-school provision on our site for Homer children in Reception through to Year 4 up to 6pm each weekday. You can find out more here: https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-us/homer-primary-school/

Introducing the new Early Years Speech and Language Enquiries line!

Let's talk! If a family has a Berkshire GP, they can call us and speak to a Speech and Language Therapist to discuss any concerns about their preschooler's communication.



Section Two – Helping Your Child Do Their Best

Home-School Agreement

The School Will…..

- Respect and value each child as an individual within the school community
- Provide a safe, secure and happy environment
- Supply parents with information on topics being taught and how they can help
- Provide a balanced and challenging curriculum, giving parents feedback on their child's progress
- Foster good behaviour

Parents Will….

- Support home learning and attend parental interviews to discuss pupil progress
- Promptly notify the school of any changes in circumstances that may affect the child's well-being
- Support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour and attendance
- Take as active a role in the school as possible

Children Will……

- Be honest
- Take care not to hurt anyone by what they say or do
- Respect school equipment and care for their own and other people's belongings
- Work their hardest and do their best
- Work as a team, respecting the difference of others

Together We Will…..

- Build each child's confidence and self-esteem
- Celebrate the achievement of every child
- Take pride in our school
- Listen to each other's concerns and act on them

Section Three – Staff

Staff List

Mrs G Sharma	Headteacher
Mrs E Young	Deputy Headteacher & SEN Co-ordinator
Mr M Harrold	Site Controller
Mrs L Mirfin	Office Manager
Mrs R Rafiq	School Business Manager
Mrs E Bleach	Teacher
Mrs P Clark	Teacher
Mr S Finney	Teacher
Miss L Henderson	Teacher
Mrs S Lawrence	Teacher
Miss E Noon	Teacher and Deputy SEN
Miss H Thomas	Teacher
Mrs D Allaway	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant/ELSA
Mrs R Bond	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs J Buckley	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Miss J Carlton	Teaching Assistant
Ms J Cooper	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs T George	Teaching Assistant
Miss V Hatton	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Miss T Langley	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs J McBride	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant/ELSA
Mrs S Salmon	Teaching/Breakfast Club Assistant/ELSA
Mrs S Barnes	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs E Drummie	Breakfast Club/Lunchtime Assistant

List of Governors

Mrs Sharma, Headteacher

Mrs Young, Deputy Headteacher

Mr Cox-Higgins, Chair (Co-opted Governor)

Mr Clive Haines, Local Authority Governor

Mrs Clark, Staff Governor

Miss Brand, Co-opted Governor

Mr Foxwell, Parent Governor

Miss Glass, Parent Governor

Mr Padam, Parent Governor

Mr Sheehan, Associate Governor

Mrs Taylor, Clerk to the Governors

Section Four – Important Information

General Information

Arriving/Leaving the Premises
The road and lay-by within the school grounds are part of the staff parking area, **so please do not drive your car onto the school site unless it is an emergency or you have a blue badge and have obtained permission to do so.**

No bikes or scooters should be brought into the school playground. Please either leave any bikes/scooters in the bike shed whilst you drop off and collect your child or they can be carried by an adult, if preferred.

Children should not use the playground equipment before or after school. We cannot accept responsibility for any incidents that may occur during these times.

At the end of the school day, please leave the school grounds promptly to allow the after school clubs to start on time – the gates will be closed at 3.15pm.

Dogs, with the exception of guide dogs and hearing dogs, should not be brought into the school or playground under any circumstances. We would ask that any dogs brought onto the area at the front of the school are supervised by an adult at all times and are not left alone, tied up to the school gates or railings.

Dental/Medical Appointments
Parents are asked to book appointment whenever possible outside of nursery session times. If this is not possible, parents must sign their child out from the front office when they collect their child for their appointment and in again on their return.

School Absence
Just to get you into a good habit ready for starting school, please complete an absence request form which is available from the school office or on our website under Parents, Late/Absence procedures. **Should I keep my child off school checklist poster (publishing.service.gov.uk)**

Medication
The school must be informed on any medication being taken by pupils and medical problems. In the event of illness or accident in school, parents will be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity.

Lost Property
All property should be clearly named. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost property.

GDPR Privacy Notice
Please use the link below to access our
privacy-notice-for-parents-and-carers-use-of-your-childs-personal-data.pdf

Responsible Use of the Internet

Mindful of the possibility of children gaining access to undesirable materials, we have taken steps, along with the Local Authority, to deal with this.

Our Internet access is supplied by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and it has a built in filtering system that restricts access to sites containing inappropriate content. As an additional measure of protection, we have ensured that all our computers are in public view and an adult is present to supervise.

No system is perfect, however, and you should be aware that it is not possible to entirely remove the risk of finding unsuitable material.

The following rules will help protect pupils, staff and the school by clearly stating what is acceptable and what is not.

- Access must only be made via the user's authorised account and password, which must not be given to any other person.
- School computer and internet use must be appropriate to the pupil's education or to staff professional activity.
- Copyright and intellectual property rights must be respected.
- The use of public chat rooms is not allowed.
- Irresponsible use may result in the loss of internet access.

Milk

Providing free milk is a great way to support the health and development of children in our care. It is one of the few drinks recommenced in the new voluntary food and drink guidelines for Early Years settings in England.

Every child under the age of 5 is entitled to a **free** 189ml serving of milk. Children aged 5 and over can register to receive subsidised school milk at www.coolmilk.com.

Welcome to Friends of Homer

Now that your child has joined Homer, you have automatically become a Friend of Homer!

What is Friends of Homer?

•FOH is a fundraising body to enhance the experience of your child at Homer. You can get involved as little or as much you want to – though the more the merrier!
•Through the school year, we run a variety of events and activities to both raise money and have fun.

What have FOH funded at the School lately?

Between 2012 and early 2025, FOH have spent over £27,000 from fundraising.
Highlights from the 2024/25 school year included:
1. £2000 spent on new reading scheme books.
2. Providing microscopes for science lessons.
3. £1275 spent on additional staging.

Who are the committee?

There are a number parents and carers serving on the committee who meet monthly, either via an online meeting or in person. Our task is to define the fundraising schedule of events, make them all happen, and agree with the Headteachers how the money raised will be spent. We approach this with 2 main aims:
1. Raise some money
2. Have some fun!

How do I find out what is going on?

We regularly provide updates in several ways including letters in book bags, the school's parent communication system, posters, class WhatsApp groups, our Facebook page and via the free app Classlist, which we encourage all parents and carers of new starters to sign up to. The link to join is: https://classlist.page.link/4qFhE7YDfKExwYi59

How do I get involved?

You can become involved as much as you like! From being a committee member, to helping out at events; there is always help needed and the more people we have, the easier it is managing events and also to make more money! For events where you are working with children and the parents/carers are not present, you will need to be DBS checked. This is a very straightforward, simple procedure, and forms are available from reception. Contact friendsofhomerschool@gmail.com for more information about how you can get involved.

We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!