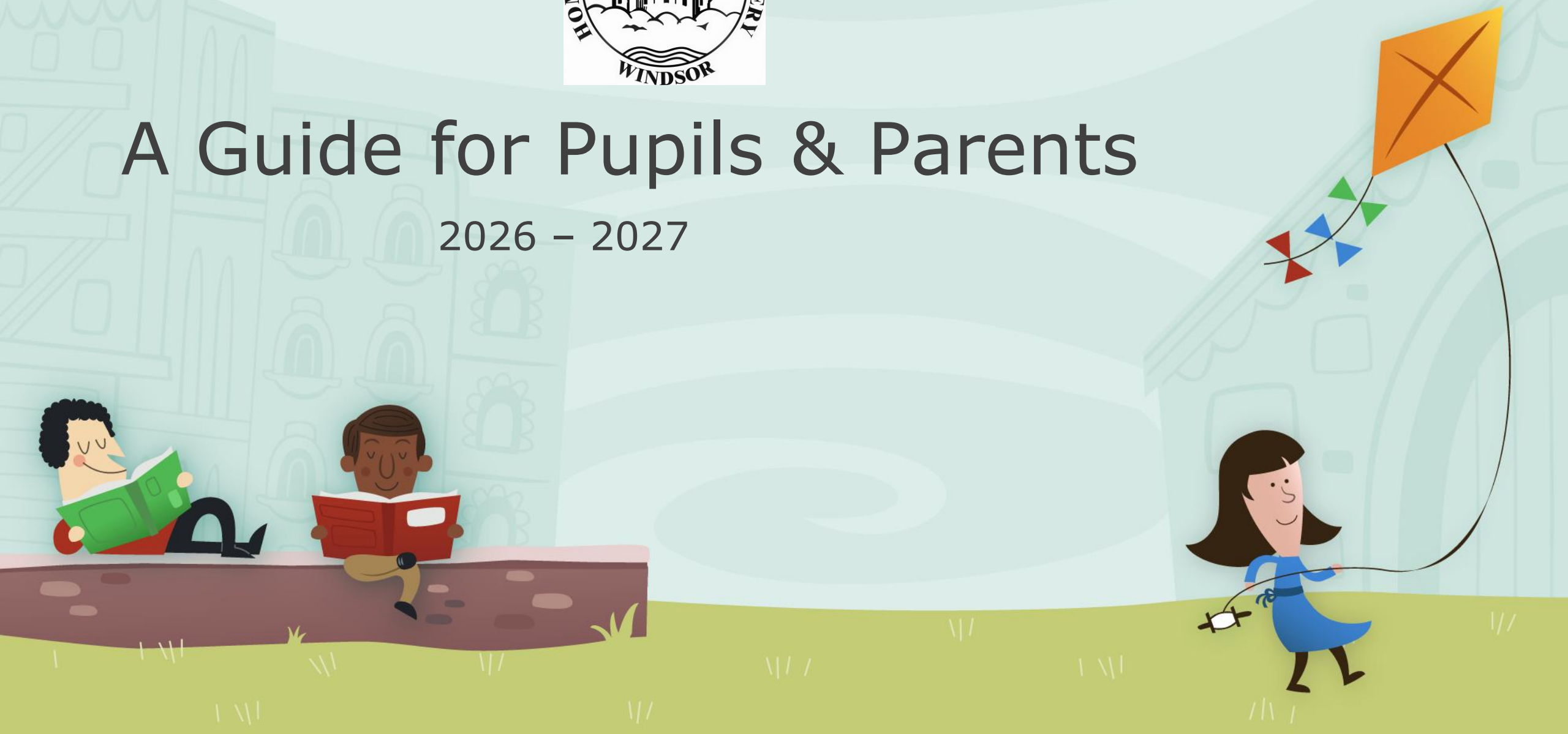
A Guide for Pupils & Parents

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 3 years 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.

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

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





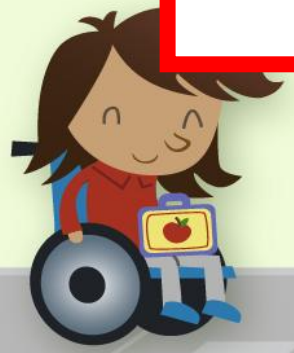


Homer First School & Nursery

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
	We work hard
Safe	**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 2026

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

Summer 2025

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

Christmas Day	- Friday 25th December 2026	Easter Monday	- Monday 29th March 2027
Boxing Day	- 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 School Day

Time	Activity
8.30am	School gates open
8.35am	Doors open for start of day and registration
10.40 – 10.55am	Breaktime
11.50am – 1pm	Staggered Lunchtime
3.05pm	School gate opens
3.10pm	School day ends. Doors open and children dismissed.





Uniform

UNIFORM ORDERING

Our school uniform provider is PMG Schoolwear. 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. We ask that all children have at least one set of uniform with our logo to wear for school trips/photos. Additional plain red polo shirts/sweatshirts/cardigans available from any high street chain are also acceptable.

Uniform

At Homer, our colours are red and grey:

- **Grey trousers (with grey socks), skirts or pinafores (with white socks/red or grey tights)**
- **Red or white polo shirts and red sweatshirts or cardigans (bearing the school logo)**
- **In the summer girls may wear red and white checked or striped dresses with white socks and boys may wear grey shorts with grey socks**
- **Children are expected to wear sensible black shoes (not trainers)**

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. Our full uniform policy can be found on our website or by clicking here - HOMER FIRST SCHOOL

PE Kit

- **Black shorts**
- **Plain red round neck T-shirt**
- **Trainers**
- **Black jogging bottoms**
- **Plain red sweatshirt (no hoodies)**

In EYFS, the children wear their PE kit into school on a Friday.

In the interests of hygiene and safety, long hair must be tied back.

All PE kit must be named.

The wearing of jewellery, except watches and stud earrings is not permitted. ***(These must be removed for PE and games. Children must remove and replace their own earrings or apply tape over them).***



Quick checklist:-

School uniform
PE kit (including trainers)
Bookbag (Reading Folder)
Lunchbox (or order lunch on-line via SCOPAY – details will follow)
Breaktime snack (fruit only)
Bottle of water (spill proof bottle)
PE bag (optional)





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

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.





Breakfast Club

The Club runs in the school hall every morning for Homer children in Nursery through to Year 4 and is supervised by school staff.

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.

A booking guide is available on our website under Parents, Wrap-around care and School Clubs or by clicking here :- scopay-parent-guide-booking-sessions.pdf.

After-school Club

Junior Adventure Group (JAG) run Find out more here:
https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-us/homer-primary-school/

👉 **Get ready, register & book:**
https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/advice/welcome-to-jag-a-warm-welcome-to-the-...

Already registered and booked? You're all set! 👀 Login to book now at:
https://bookings.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login

Stay And Play
JAG's After School Clubs, called Stay And Play, offer children the chance to unwind, connect, and explore their interests after school. From active games and creative crafts to chill-out zones with toys and LEGO, there's something for everyone — all in a friendly, safe environment on-site.

👉 Find out more: **Stay And Play**





Staying for lunch at school

Hot School Dinners

We are very fortunate to have meals cooked on our premises and hope that you will encourage your child to try the hot school lunches.

We use an on-line system called SCOPAY which allows parents to view the menu and order lunches without the need to send cash or cheques into school. Children in EYFS, Year 1 & 2 are eligible for the Universal Free School Meal and the government covers the lunch cost.

Once you start at Homer, you will be sent a letter inviting you to register and we would encourage you to do so - even if you don't want to order a school lunch initially, you may wish to at some point in the future. You can order weekly, monthly or termly.

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.





SECTION 2

Helping your child achieve their best.





Preparing your child for school

Parents have a vital role in preparing their children for school in a whole range of areas. This can be in their social, emotional and personal skills as well as their manual and physical skills. Parents often ask "How can I help prepare my child for school?" Integrated focused skills and activities in your child's day-to-day play will help with their own learning journey and will just become a part of every-day life. One of the most important things your child needs is a voice. Listening, commenting and speaking to your child is paramount in their confidence and self-belief.

Please take a look at our Starting Reception | Homer First School & Nursery page on our website as well as the guidelines listed below to help with the transition from home or nursery to school, laying a firm foundation for the more specialised work that takes place within the school environment.

Personal and Social skills

Does your child routinely:-

- treat all possessions with care and respect?
- Know how to use a knife, fork and spoon?
- Sit around a table to eat with other members of the family talking about the day?
- Say please and thank you where appropriate?
- Make reasonable attempts to dress and undress themself?
- Understand the importance of taking turns and sharing?
- Recognise and find personal belongings?
- Carry out simple tasks independently?
- Use the toilet without prompting?
- Flush the toilet after use?
- Wash hands with soap without prompting after using the toilet?
- Wash hands before meals?
- Cover mouth when coughing or sneezing?





Manual skills

Can your child:-

- Hold a pencil using just a thumb and the first two fingers?
- Cut out a shape with reasonable accuracy with scissors?
- Do up and undo buttons, buckles, Velcro and zips?
- Trace over an outline?

Physical skills

Can your child:-

- Stand still for five seconds?
- Balance on one leg?
- Run and jump?
- Skip with or without a rope?
- Jog and gallop?
- Catch a ball?
- Throw a ball to someone else?
- Balance a bean bag or book on their head?

Listening, Speaking and Language concepts

Can your child:-

Listen and focus attentively without interrupting (e.g. 4 minutes for a 4 year old, 5 minutes for a 5 year old)?
Respond and request using full sentence structures?
Re-tell a simple story they have heard?
Tell you a simple story they have made up themselves?
Predict what will happen next in a story?
Answer questions about a story they have heard?
Recognise animals by sound?
Detect a rhyme in a story, poem or sentence?
Count reliably up to ten objects?
Know large and small body parts (e.g. leg, ankle)?
Understand colour words?
Tell what is soft, hard, smooth or rough?
Understand information-carrying words (e.g. Put, Point, Show me, Touch, After, Before)?
Understand categories (e.g. food, animal, clothing)?
Understand concepts such as hot/cold, long/short, wet/dry, full/empty?
Understand the concept of past, present and future?

Please remember to praise and encourage your child in their learning journeys, it should be fun and exciting. If your child shows a lack of readiness; do not force it, revisit it another day.





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 3

Staff & Governors





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 & Deputy SENCo
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/Lunchtime Assistant
Ms J Cooper	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs T George	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Miss T Langley	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Miss V Hatton	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs J McBride	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant/ELSA
Miss K O'Hara	Teaching/Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs S Salmon	Teaching/Breakfast/Lunchtime Assistant/ELSA
Mrs S Barnes	Lunchtime Assistant
Mrs E Drummie	Breakfast/Lunchtime Assistant





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

Governing Body

Mrs Sharma	Headteacher
Mrs Young	Deputy Headteacher
Mr Cox-Higgins	Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)
Mrs Clark	Staff Governor
Mr Haines	LA Governor
Mr Padam	Parent Governor
Miss Brand	Co-opted Governor
Mr Foxwell	Parent Governor
Miss Glass	Parent Governor
Mr Sheehan	Associate Governor
Mrs Taylor	Clerk to the Governors





SECTION 4

Important Admin Information





Attendance

The government are placing great importance on improving attendance and punctuality across all schools. Regular attendance at school provides opportunities for children to learn, grow and thrive.

School Absence

Please familiarize yourself with our school's policy - Attendance | Homer First School & Nursery for detailed information on Late arrivals, Absences and Fixed Penalty Notices and also refer to the Government's **Should I keep my child off school checklist poster (publishing.service.gov.uk)**

Reporting your child absent

If your child is off sick or will be absent from school, we need to be informed by 9.30am at the latest. Please use the pupil absence line or, if this isn't possible, email the school office. To use the absence line, please call the school and press 1 and leave your child's name, class and a brief message explaining why they are absent from school. If we do not hear from you by 9.30am then your child will be marked as having unauthorised absence.
Any absence requests should be made at least two weeks in advance, using the request form which is available from the school office or on our website Attendance | Homer First School & Nursery

Dental/Medical Appointments

Parents are asked to book appointments whenever possible outside of normal school hours. Parents must sign their child out at the front office when they collect their child for their appointment and in again on their return. If your child will miss morning or afternoon registration for an appointment, a term time absence request should be completed.

Medication

The school must be informed of 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

Please name all clothing and property. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost property.







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 obtained permission to do so.**

No bikes or scooters should be brought into the school playground. Please either leave any bikes/scooters at the bike racks 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.

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.

Fruit/Vegetables

Under the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, each child aged four to six in LEA-maintained schools will be entitled to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day. Scientists agree that everybody, including children, can reduce their risk of heart disease and cancer by eating at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. On average, children in the UK eat only two portions a day.

Homer has been part of this scheme since November 2004 and this all helps to reinforce our commitment to healthy eating. The scheme is voluntary, and although there is no obligation for your child to take part, we hope you will agree that is has many benefits. It is a great way to help us teach our children the benefits of healthy eating.

If you do not wish your child to participate in the scheme, please let us know as soon as possible. It is essential that you inform us of any allergies your child may have so that we can ensure they are not given anything that might harm them.

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.







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 for 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, 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!



