Welcome to

Hadleigh Community Primary School

Hadleigh Hedgehogs

The Nursery that nurtures in partnership with nature

Hadleigh Hedgehogs - Our Indoor and Forest Schools Nursery Settings

We are very excited to be able to offer a different setting for our Nursery children to experience. Children will have daily access to our Woodland environment and will be able to spend several sessions a week playing, learning and exploring in the woods, in addition to sessions in our existing nursery. We have our own woodland building 'The Hedgehog Hideout,' which allows us to meet in the woods and is a useful shelter. The children alternate their mornings between our woodland setting and our Nursery setting. We will provide you with a timetable to explain things further in September.

Your Timetable might look like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A.M.	Nursery	Woods	Nursery	Woods	P.E & music sessions
P.M	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery	Nursery

Nursery Session Timings

Our Morning Session starts at **8.30 a.m.** Please wait by the big blue school gates and a member of staff will let you in. Please aim to be in Nursery by **8.45 a.m.**

The session ends at **11.30 a.m.** We will escort the children to the big blue gates, where they will wait on the blue line to be collected. Children staying for lunch club will be taken over for lunch in the main school hall and then have a time to play in the Nursery garden. Lunch club ends at 12.30p.m.

Our Afternoon sessions starts straight after lunch club at **12.30 p.m**.

The session ends at **3.20-3.30 p.m.** Please wait on the main playground and we will send your child out to you in an orderly manner.

Please inform a member of staff if someone else will be collecting your child.

Lunch Club and Wraparound Care

We offer a Nursery Lunch Club session from 11.30am to 12.30pm and this may be chargeable depending on the number of hours from your 15/30 hour entitlement your child is attending the nursery. Please note the funding does not cover the cost of a school lunch and this must be paid for separately.

For example, if you are entitled to 30 hours funding and your child attends Nursery for 4 full days (24 hours) you can then use a further 4 hours of funding to pay for the Nursery Lunch Club. Again, if you are entitled to 15 hours funding and your child attends 3 morning sessions (9 hours) you can then use a further 3 hours to pay for Nursery Lunch Club.

The children eat their lunch in the main hall and can play afterwards.

As part of Hadleigh Hedgehogs we also offer wraparound care before and after our Nursery sessions. This starts from 7.40am and ends at 5.45pm and again is booked and paid for through Arbor.

Our 'Indoor' Nursery Setting - Organisation of the day

At the beginning of each session the children will be able to organise their belongings onto their peg before self-registering and settling in. This is our normal routine each day:

- Self-register and free play
- Formal register and a direct teaching input on the carpet
- Free play session: children can access both the inside and outside environments
  *adult directed activities may take place
  *snack time runs as a 'rolling snack table'
  *staff will be playing with and observing the children
- Tidy up time
- Direct teaching input on the carpet
- Story and songs
- Home time or Lunch time

Direct teaching times are opportunities for us to develop your child's learning and skills in our Prime and Specific areas. We will include a direct phonics and maths teaching session each day. These are quick and fun and involve lots of practical resources and hands on experiences.

Although the activities in Nursery vary from day to day the routine is as consistent as possible to ensure that the children feel secure.

Outdoor Play

The 'Indoor' Nursery has its own enclosed garden with a hard surface for wheeled vehicles and a grass area where the children can play on the see saws and kick a ball. We also have a large sand-pit where the children can dig and a mud pit to go with our mud kitchen. We also have a small wood to climb trees and a few play houses, where they can play imaginatively.

The outdoor area is used every day in all kinds of weathers!

Our Forest Schools Nursery Setting - Organisation of the day

At the beginning of each session the children will be able to organise their belongings in our shelter before self-registering and settling in. This is our normal routine each day:

- Self-register and free play in the Hedgehog Hideout during our settling in time
- Formal register and a direct teaching session (either at Base Camp or in the Hideout)
- Free play session: children can access the woodland setting
  *adult directed activities may take place
  *snack time runs midway through the morning (either at Base Camp or Hideout)
  *staff will be playing with and observing the children
- Tidy up time
- Direct teaching session (either at Base Camp or in the Hideout)
- Story and songs
- Home time or Lunch time

What will we be doing at Forest Schools?

Mrs. Lee is a Level 3 Forest School Leader and has been fully trained and is experienced in delivering all activities. Forest Schools is an inspirational process which offers children regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem in a woodland environment. The children will be learning in a natural environment and will be taking part in activities that will develop their physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive skills. There is a big focus on developing the children's gross motor skills when in the woods. We play a lot of games that awaken the senses and encourage team work. The session is very much child led and the adults will play with the children, offering support and making observations.

The children will be involved in 'risky' play through climbing trees, ropes and rope ladders, using tools and having fires. These activities have been risk assessed appropriately and the children are involved in understanding risks and how to keep themselves safe. Other activities may include bug hunting, scavenger hunts, digging, preparing firewood and kindling, maintaining the woodland, campfire cooking, building dens, creating art work, mud painting and mud creations.

Our Forest School sessions take place throughout the year, so please come prepared and appropriately dressed. We have a set of waterproofs, snow suits and snow boots, but you are welcome to bring your own, if you prefer. The children are able to take shelter in the cold or wet if they choose to. The only time we will be unable to use the woodland is during storms or high winds.

P.E. and Music Sessions

The children in Nursery are fortunate to have a music session each week with Mr. Betts, who is our music teacher. The children experience a range of songs, action songs and experiment with different instruments. We also have a weekly P.E. session with Mr. Peters, who is our P.E. teacher. The children use a range of apparatus and develop their skills in moving, kicking, throwing, rolling and catching.

Clothing for PE

The children will need to be dressed in comfortable clothes such as tracksuit trousers or shorts, and trainers or sensible shoes. Please do not send your child in sandals, crocs or wellies.

Nursery Clothing

Please send your child to Nursery in comfortable, play clothes, which you do not and they will not mind, if they get messy. The children will often take part in wet or messy activities and inevitably some children get rather enthusiastic! It is always a good idea to provide a spare set of clothes and pants or knickers each day your child attends Nursery. We will happily help children to wrap up warm for outside or take off layers in the heat depending on which environment they are playing in.

If your child is taking part in Forest Schools sessions then please check the weather forecast and send them suitably dressed. Lots of layers and hats, gloves and extra socks are necessary for cold days. Even in the summer months the woods are significantly cooler and full of nettles and brambles, so long trousers are advisable. Old trainers are suitable except on wet or muddy days when we will change into wellies.

Children do have access to the outdoor area every day. We would like to make as much use of this space as possible so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and environment. Even in our 'indoor' nursery setting there are trees to climb so long trousers/leggings are advisable. **Each child will need a pair of wellies to be kept in Nursery please.**

It is helpful if clothes which will be taken off, such as coats, jumpers or cardigans could be clearly named. **In accordance with school policy NO JEWELLERY should be worn, including earrings.**

If your child borrows clothes from the Nursery, please wash and return them as soon as possible as others may need them. Thank you.

Snack time

This time is invaluable in developing vital social skills – turn-taking, sharing and discussing our preferences. We also use it as an opportunity to count and talk about shapes, colours and sizes.

For the majority of the week, we run our snack time as a 'rolling snack' table, where the children can choose when to come and have their snack during the main play session. The children will sit at a table or at Base Camp and enjoy fruit or try foods from other cultures linked to our work across the curriculum. We also offer a savory item such as toast, pasta, bagels, cheese or cereal. They will have a choice of milk or water to drink. Children will also be able to access their water bottle throughout the session if needed. Please send your child with a named water bottle each day containing water only and not juice.

We ask for a contribution of £21.00 (children taking up to 15 hours) or £42.00 (children taking 15-30 hours) per half term towards the cost of snack items and the different types of foods for the children to cook and/or taste. Children are regularly involved in cooking activities. We will also send home an item of fruit for the children on most days.

Bowel and Bladder Control

Please try and ensure your child starts Nursery clean and dry. Your child will be expected to have control of both bowel and bladder before starting Nursery. Obviously 'accidents' happen and are dealt with as necessary. There is small changing area in the Nursery and outside in the woods. There will also be trainer seats and a potty available.

Outings

Although we offer the children the opportunity to work outside each day, we also like to take the children out on local visits as well as termly outings further afield. We make trips to a large local woodland and a local farm during the year. We also visit the library and shops during the year. Prior to any visit you will receive a letter and a contribution towards the costs of outings is usually requested.

The EYFS Framework

The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) is how the Government describes the time in your child's life from birth to 5 years of age. Your child will have had the 2 -Year Old Check, which will have indicated how they are progressing. We will continue to observe and assess the children's development whilst in Nursery. Their time with us in Nursery is a very important stage as it helps your child to get ready for school, as well as preparing them for future learning and success. Their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

We follow the EYFS Framework which describes how a child should be playing and learning and how we keep them safe. Your child will be learning new skills, acquiring knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

The **Prime areas are:**

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development - both gross and fine motor skills

These Prime areas are considered essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. We encourage children to express themselves as clearly as possible and use sentences to talk. As children progress, the prime areas will support their development in the **specific areas** of learning which are:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities both inside and outside. We aim to follow your child's unique needs and interests and the vast majority of your child's learning happens through play. The EYFS staff will also be observing your child's characteristics of learning, looking at their engagement, creativity, problem solving and thinking skills.

Within Hadleigh Hedgehogs we aim to create a happy and safe environment, and we encourage the children to:

- **Have kind hands and kind feet**
- **Use quiet voices**
- **Have walking feet inside**
- **To share and take turns**

Parents as Partners- How we keep each other informed

As a school we use an online learning journey called Tapestry. This allows you to see any observations and photos of your child, which staff have carried out. We use Tapestry as an assessment tool which allows us to identify your child's characteristics of learning and their progress in all areas of learning. We also use Tapestry to send any messages so please check it regularly. You are also able to 'like', or comment on observations and upload your own photos and videos from home. You will be asked to sign an 'Acceptable Usage Policy' before you can be issued with a username and password.

Talking to the staff is very important - please let us know if there is anything, that you feel is important and that may affect your child during the day. These kinds of things are really useful to help us treat your child with consideration and care. A good time to share this kind of information is during dropping off and picking up times. If you have something more in depth or personal you wish to discuss, we can make an appointment for a time that is convenient for both parties.

You will also be invited in for 'Stay and Play' sessions throughout the year, where you can take part in a woods session and discuss your child's learning, interests and development. This is instead of a more formal parents evening.

We send a Nursery newsletter home each term, informing you of the exciting things we will be learning about and any forthcoming events, such as outings etc. You will also receive a copy of the school newsletter, which will keep you informed of all the activities and news happening in the school as a whole. The majority of school communications will be sent via Arbor– an online communication system which uses email and text messaging.