

POLEHAMPTON CE INFANT SCHOOL

Summary Of Our Nursery Meeting

Held
Thursday 26 February 2026

THE AIMS OF THE MEETING:

- Explain our rationale for seeking to create a nursery provision
- Explain our vision
- Provide updates and a timeline
- Respond to FAQs
- Answer any questions



OUR RATIONALE

- Strengthening Polehampton's Ofsted-rated outstanding Early Years provision by offering rich, high-quality experiences to 2- and 3-year-olds.
- Blend expert Early Years pedagogy with warmth, care and a sense of fun.
- Being part of an established school ensures continuity, consistency and high-quality play from Nursery onwards.
- To build deeper, more seamless connections between Early Years and the wider school community.
- Widening our Polehampton offer.



OUR RATIONALE

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We are not doing this to rush children toward formal ‘school readiness’. We know that play builds stronger long-term outcomes than early formal instruction. We want to blend expert Early Years pedagogy within our incredible Early Years team but maintain the warm loving feel of a preschool setting.

This means our vision is for play to be:

- Purposeful: designed with clear developmental intent;
- Inspiring: to nurture the innate desire to learn as very young children do;
- Carefully sequenced: building the foundations needed for Reception but not using this as the ‘end goal’.

Children develop best when learning is meaningful, joyful and rooted in play; not when pushed prematurely into formal structures.

We want to broaden the offer of Polehampton, something we feel very proud of, especially with falling birth rates in Wokingham (and England). We want to offer more children the Polehampton offer for a longer period of time.

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OUR VISION

At Polehampton we believe every child's light is a gift, unique, precious and full of potential. Rooted in our Christian vision, we nurture each child's talents and sense of self worth so they grow to be kind, confident and reflective.

Polehampton Nursery will be a place where every child's unique light shines. For our two and three year olds, that "light" is their curiosity, joy and emerging personality; and we'll nurture it every day. Through exploration, play and a focus on celebrating effort over perfection, we will help children grow from the very start.

We believe the early years are the engine of a child's education and we want to make sure that the journey begins strong, joyfully and full of wonder. We want our youngest learners to know they are deeply loved, to feel proud of who they are, and to begin shining their light in our nursery, our school community and beyond.

AI MOCK-UP OF WHAT THE NURSERY INSIDE SPACE COULD LOOK LIKE



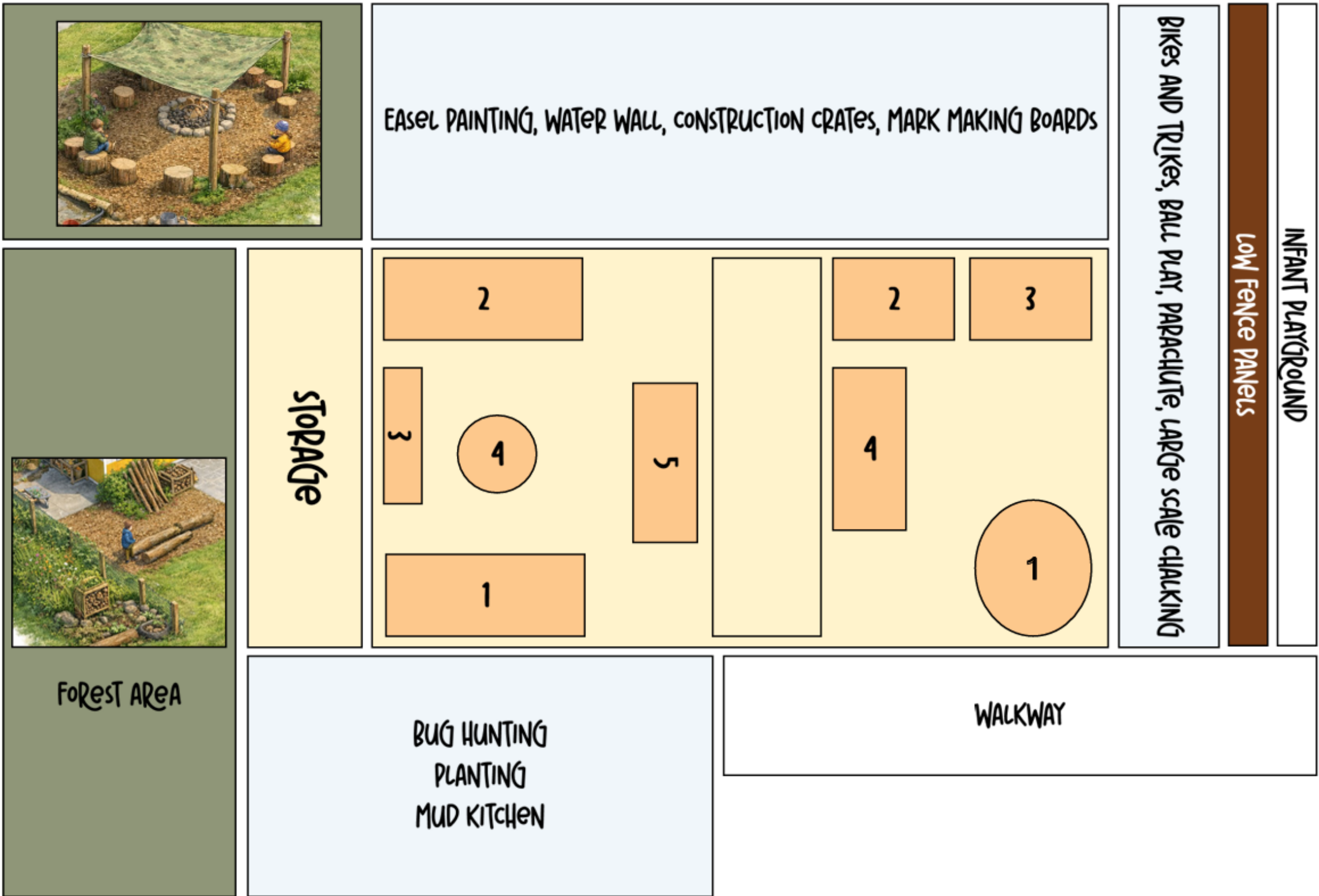
AI MOCK-UP OF WHAT THE AREA COULD LOOK LIKE

- The rooms will be organised into clearly defined zones that promote independence, rich play and subsequent cognitive development. This would be aligned with guidance from well respected organisations such as "Early Excellence".
- A calm, neutral aesthetic using natural materials reduce overstimulation, support regulation and create a welcoming, homely feel.
- Open-ended, accessible resources stored on low, open shelves enable self-direction (what young children need!) as well as many other important skills.
- Invitations to play with natural materials, open ended toys and a cosy reading-nook will spark curiosity, sustained inquiry and the balance of 'quiet time'.



- Soft furnishings and cosy spaces will allow for the 'home from home' sense we will be maintaining.
- A well-organised, clutter-free layout ensures everything has a clear place, reducing sensory overload and supporting focus.
- Purposeful displays celebrate exploration – our intention is not to have a 'mini school'!

AI MOCK-UP OF WHAT THE LAYOUT COULD LOOK LIKE



The numbers here are the "zones". The room on the right-hand side (current office space) will be used for quieter activities and the potential sleeping space.

AI MOCK-UP OF WHAT THE OUTSIDE AREA COULD LOOK LIKE



AI MOCK-UP OF WHAT THE AREA COULD LOOK LIKE

- We pride ourselves on our Forest School offer and believe it has a positive impact on children's development. We want to extend our nursery space to include this.
- Nature has a calming effect. Fresh air, natural light and open space can also help children regulate.
- The outdoors is full of real-world phenomena and we want all our children at Polehampton to be amazed by the natural world. Every toddler and pre-schooler in the world has an innate love of the real world and we want to build on that natural sense of wonder.
- Children often engage in more complex social interactions in outdoor spaces so it offers valuable practice!



PROPOSED TIMELINES

Consultation ends	Friday 27 February 2026
Consultation responses compiled and reviewed Agreement by Trustees and application to DfE	W/C 02 March 2026
Application decision from DfE Release admissions information and application details	W/C 16 March 2026
Begin taking applications and set up adverts for staffing	By 27 March 2026
Begin recruitment for staff	W/C 13 April 2026
Allocation of places to nursery pupils for September 2026	By 30 April 2026
Happy Hours Pre-School vacate the building	End of July 2026
Works commence over the summer on the new nursery environment	August 2026
Polehampton Nursery opens	01 September 2026

FAQs

What will the opening times be?

- We are aiming to fall in line with infant school opening hours. However, please see the next FAQ regarding wraparound care

Will there be a wraparound care offer?

- We are investigating this and it is our intention to offer wraparound care before school and after, very similar to the Polecats OSC hours (Polecats OSC is currently 0740 – 0840 and 1515 – 1800). A decision regarding this will be made before admissions processes and application processes are released, so families know exactly what we are offering and what they can sign up to.

What charges will there be?

- We will be offering 15 and 30 hours' government entitlement funding. Prices for any hours above that have not been confirmed yet, but we have conducted extensive local research into charges from other providers to ensure our prices are competitive and in line with other nurseries.

FAQs

How can we see your admissions criteria and application process?

- This will be released as soon as possible. There will be a published admissions policy, application process, terms and conditions document and a separate application form. All of this will be emailed out to anyone who has expressed an interest (and provided their email address) or emailed us, and will also be published on our website (www.polehampton.org.uk/nursery).

Will my child who is currently at HHPS be given priority?

- We recognise that there are current (and signed up for September) families who need spaces, and so we will be giving priority to current HHPS families as part of our admissions process for 03 September 2026.

How can we keep updated on any progress or next steps?

- The best way to keep up to date on the latest progress is to email us (nursery@polehampton.wokingham.sch.uk) or complete the [expression of interest form](#) so that we have your details.

FAQs

Will we have to re-register?

- Yes, you will. For those who apply and get a place, there will be a simple online electronic registration form. In addition, if families then apply to and join our Reception class, those details will already be on our system.

What are the staffing plans for the nursery?

- As the proposed timelines slide stated, we are aiming to start recruitment in April 2026 with a full recruitment process. Some current HHPS staff may wish to apply and are very welcome to apply to work at the Polehampton Nursery.

FAQs

Are you confident that you will have any works done on the building and be ready to open?

- Yes – we are confident that any cosmetic works and developments will be completed for 03 September 2026.
- Will there be opportunities for pupils to visit the Reception classes as part of a transition for those that will go to Polehampton Infant School's Reception classes?
- Yes – we are keen to ensure that there is a strong transition between the Nursery and Reception classes, so we will be creating planned opportunities for pupils to visit Reception and become familiar with the environment.

Will there be a limit to days and sessions a child can attend?

- We do not anticipate limits for days/sessions for maximum amount of days attended.

FAQs

Will different ages be separated?

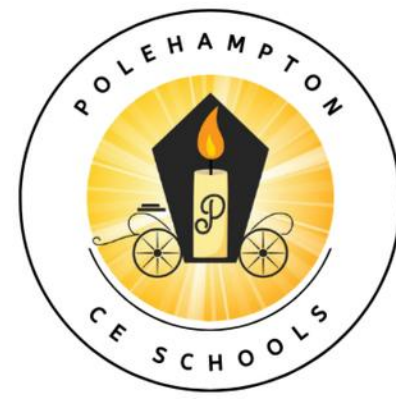
- For some activities where the children require different developmental support we may have separate activities, but for much of the sessions we want the children to play and interact with each other.

Will the nursery be included as part of the school and, therefore, part of the PTA too?

- Yes, absolutely! The nursery parents and children will be fully part of our community, attend shared events and be connected with the main school. This will also mean that families will be part of our PTA as well!

Will children be able to have a hot lunch or will it only be packed lunches?

- We are currently exploring this, but are keen to offer this for families. We feel this is likely to be possible.



If you have any further questions...

...Please get in touch via email:
nursery@polehampton.wokingham.sch.uk

