
NURSERY



Welcome to our ‘Outstanding’ Nursery

Welcome from the Headmaster

At Ballard, every child is unique, and from the very beginning of their educational journey, we celebrate their individuality. Our nurturing family environment helps children build confidence, develop independence, and discover a love of learning through play, exploration, and creativity.

As an all through school, our youngest pupils benefit from specialist lessons delivered by highly skilled professionals and are able to make use of our facilities and spaces across the campus.

From their second birthday, children enjoy a wide range of specialist opportunities, making the most of our stunning 34-acre campus and exceptional facilities. Every experience is carefully designed to inspire curiosity, encourage new discoveries, and help each child achieve their personal best.

At the same time, children learn the importance of friendship, kindness, and community, growing together as part of the Ballard family.

We invite you to explore all that Ballard Nursery has to offer and look forward to welcoming you and your child. To find out more, please contact Mrs Hunt and our Admissions Team.

Mr Turner







Welcome from our Head of Pre-Prep

At Ballard Nursery, we support our youngest children to grow and achieve by providing a nurturing environment where they feel safe and secure, allowing them to learn through curiosity. In our welcoming setting, your child will build the emotional confidence to explore both indoors and out.

Our Early Years indoor areas are bright, airy, and designed with open spaces that naturally invite exploration. These light-filled rooms give the children plenty of physical freedom to move, choose, and engage in play-based learning. Our caring staff remain close by, ready to follow each child's lead, support their choices, and celebrate their discoveries.

We continue to spark their natural imagination across two dedicated outdoor areas designed for continuous, high-quality provision. Whether scooping, pouring or mixing mud pies in our mud kitchen, planting in the garden area, or testing their physical limits on the climbing equipment, children learn by doing. From racing on scooters and rolling on giant tyres to enjoying quiet moments under our beautiful old oak tree, our aim is to support every child to develop confidence, resilience, and a lifelong love for learning.

Mrs Hunt

Useful Information

Term Times and Hours

Ballard's Nursery & Kindergarten are open 34 weeks a year during term-time. You may find our term dates here.

There is no minimum number of sessions required. However, we recommend attending between two and four sessions per week to start with, as this helps children settle into routines, build friendships and make the most of their Nursery or Kindergarten experience.

Our sessions are:

Day

08.30 – 16.00 – charge for lunch

Morning

08.30 – 12.00 – No lunch

08.30 – 13.00 – charge for lunch

Afternoon

12.30 – 16.00 – No lunch

13.00 – 16.00 – No lunch

Additional Sessions

08.00 – 08.30 – Early club

16.00 – 17.00 – Late club







Specialist Lessons







One of the many things that makes our nursery so special is access to an outstanding programme of specialist teaching. From PE and Dance to Music, Forest School, Library and Gymnastics, our youngest pupils benefit from expert-led lessons that inspire confidence, creativity and a lifelong love of learning. These experiences are so important in the Early Years, helping children to develop balance, strength, coordination and fine motor skills, while also nurturing essential life skills such as teamwork, listening, communication, resilience and independence. By learning from specialist teachers from across the school, children enjoy a rich and varied curriculum that is rarely available at nursery age.

Our specialist timetable for 2026/27 is as follows:

Monday – PE

Tuesday – PE

Wednesday – Dance & Forest School; as well as a Library session with the Ballard Librarians

Thursday – Music

Friday - Gymnastics

Specialist lessons take place in the morning, apart from Forest School, which takes place in the afternoon.

Rest & Quiet Time

All children are offered a rest and quiet time after lunch, usually from around 2:00pm. As every child is different, they may choose to nap or enjoy a quiet activity instead. Children who wish to sleep can rest on mats, with a cushion and blanket provided if required, either in the Nursery Room or the Middle Room. We also offer naps at other times throughout the day, depending on each child's individual needs and routine, which will be discussed with parents.



Fees

Our fees for the whole school may be viewed here. From September 2026, the charge for non-funded hours is £10.24 per hour and the consumable charge for funded hours is £2.12 per funded hour.

Our fees include all snacks and drinks during the day, with our delicious hot lunch costing £4.93. All fees are paid a term in advance.

Funded Hours

For children who are 2 years old, we will accept 30 hours per week offered by Hampshire County Council (HCC) for working parents. Please note that for all Local Authority funding, parents must provide an eligibility code to claim these hours.

For children who are aged 3 and 4 years old (term after 3rd birthday), we will accept the universal hours of 15 hours per week offered from HCC. We will also accept the extended 15 hours per week for working parents offered from HCC and again we will require an eligibility code for this.

Please note that it is the parents, rather than the school, that applies for the additional funding. We recommend that you allow plenty of time for the process so that you can provide the code in good time. Further criteria can be found on the Government website when you apply for the funding.

Please also note that Ballard School only offer 34 weeks entitlement out of the maximum 38 weeks. You may access the remainder of the free entitlement at another approved provider.



Staffing Ratios

Ballard follows government guidelines for Early Years staffing ratios, although ratios may be lower at individual session. There is a maximum of one adult to five (1:5) children for 2-year-olds. For 3- and 4-year-olds, the ratio changes to one adult to eight (1:8) children.

When a qualified teacher is working with the 3 and 4-year-old children, the ratio may increase to a maximum of one adult to thirteen (1:13) children.



The Admissions Process

Enquiry & Visit

We are always happy to show you and your family around our Nursery and Kindergarten during term-time. You will be able to view all our facilities, visit the classrooms, meet the Early Years Practitioners and find out more about why our parents call us 'Simply the best school every day.' Please contact our friendly Admissions team on 01425 626900 or email them – registrar@ballardschool.co.uk.

Registration and Settling in Session

We ask that all parents register their children in good time so that we can help you secure all the sessions that suit you best. The registration process is simple and there is a fee of £50 payable at this point. Once registered, we will invite you and your child to attend a settling-in session.

The aim of this session is to not only familiarise your child with their new environment but also to find out more about them. It is so important to discuss a number of topics with you at this point to ensure that we can help your child feel secure and happy when they start with us. Useful information includes what their favourite toys are, their sleep patterns, and their interests. After this conversation we will invite you to leave your child with us for half an hour, so that they can explore the learning environments independently.

We will arrange this session shortly before your child is due to start in our Nursery or Kindergarten. Please note that we can only offer settling in sessions on the day of the child's second birthday or when they are already two years old.




Music Area
BALLARD

Starting at Ballard

Our experienced staff know how to nurture our children and create positive learning environments for each and every child. We tailor their experience to extend and support their learning to ensure that they have the best possible start to life at Ballard.

Communication

We always work with you to ensure your children are thriving at Ballard.

We encourage two-way daily communication with our staff at drop off and pick up times.

In addition, we have termly Parent meetings to discuss your child's progress.

In the spring term, you will receive a written report of your child's progress.

We use the Evidence Me app to update you each week with photos and information about the fun activities the children have taken part in at School.

Useful Information

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is key to every child's success. That's why we offer a range of informative parent workshops, providing valuable tips, strategies and resources to help support children's development beyond the classroom. Please find below our guides to supporting early Maths and Communication skills at home.





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Supporting Your Child's Maths

Language and Communication Handout


BALLARD
BESPOKE EDUCATION