Welcome to Northfields Nursery

A place to learn, play, explore and belong.

Northfields
Infants & Nursery School

2026–27 New Parent Information Evening

Meet Your Nursery Team

The people who will help your child learn, play, grow and belong.

At Northfields Nursery, we believe that children thrive when they feel safe, valued and understood. We work closely with families to build strong relationships and ensure every child has a happy and successful start to school.

Taylor French
Nursery Teacher

Sally Brown
Teaching Assistant

Trina Macaulay
Teaching Assistant

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO US

- Feeling safe and secure
- Building positive relationships
- Learning through play
- Growing in confidence and independence
- Developing curiosity and creativity
- Preparing for the future
- Having fun every day

We believe that strong relationships with children and families are the foundation of a successful start to school.

Meet the Wider Team

Working together to support every child and family

Rob Dell

Headteacher &
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Susanne Hall-Bailey

Deputy Headteacher &
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Lorraine Yates

SENCo, Family Support Worker
& Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Jo Parr

Early Years Lead

From Nursery to Year 2,
our team works closely together to help every child thrive.

Respect | Expression | Achievement | Creative and Curious | Hearts Full of Fun

Northfields Infants' & Nursery

Part of the Northfields Family

At Northfields, our Nursery children are part of the wider school community from their very first day.

Children learn through play, exploration and meaningful relationships in a safe, nurturing environment where they are encouraged to develop confidence, independence and curiosity.

As part of our developing Early Years Unit, Nursery and Reception work closely together, helping children become familiar with the people, routines and environment around them. This creates a smooth and positive transition into Reception when the time comes.

- Safe and nurturing
- Learning through play
- Developing independence
- Exploring indoors and outdoors
- Building friendships
- Preparing for Reception

Northfields INFANTS & NURSERY

A Day at Northfields

Every day is filled with opportunities to play, learn, explore and grow.

Welcome & Settle In

Learning Through Play

Lunch & Afternoon Learning

We provide a safe, nurturing environment where children feel happy, confident and ready to learn.

Session Options

A flexible approach to suit your family.

Northfields Infants & Nursery

Morning Session

9:00am – 12:00pm

- A busy morning of play and learning
- Outdoor exploration
- Stories, songs and phonics
- Snack time
- Making friends and building confidence

Full Day Session

9:00am – 3:00pm

- Everything included in the morning session
- Healthy packed lunch in the school hall
- Afternoon learning and play
- More opportunities to develop independence and friendships

Places are subject to availability.

Lunch Information

Children attending all day should bring a healthy packed lunch.

- Grapes should always be cut lengthways.
- No chocolate or sweets.
- A named water bottle should be brought every day.
- No nuts please.

Children enjoy eating together in the hall before returning to Nursery for the afternoon session.

We are here to support your family and make Nursery a happy, confidence-building start.

Let Us Know If Your Child Is Absent

Keeping Children Safe

At Northfields, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority.

Although Nursery children are not yet of compulsory school age, once your child is enrolled with us, we need to know if they will not be attending.

If your child is absent, please contact the school before the start of the session using:

- Arbor — The Arbor App
- Telephone
- Email

Please tell us:

- Your child's name
- The reason for their absence
- When you expect them to return

Arriving on Time

Nursery sessions begin promptly at 9:00am.

Arriving on time helps children:

- Settle confidently
- Join activities from the start
- Build friendships
- Establish positive routines

If We Don't Hear From You

If your child is absent and we have not received a message, we will contact you to make sure they are safe and well.

This is an important part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

Safety | Communication | Partnership | Wellbeing | Ready to Learn

Ready for Nursery

Comfortable, practical and ready for adventure.

Our Recommended Uniform

- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with the Northfields logo
- White polo shirt
- Black or grey joggers, leggings, trousers, shorts or skirt
- Black shoes or trainers
- Waterproof coat

What to Bring Each Day

A named bag

A named water bottle

A complete set of named spare clothes

Spare underwear and socks

A coat suitable for the weather

A healthy packed lunch (if staying all day)

- Please label everything clearly.
- We encourage clothing that children can manage independently.
- Nursery can be messy, active and creative, so practical clothing is always best.
- Children attending all day will need a healthy packed lunch.

Be comfortable | Be independent | Be ready to learn | Be ready to play | Be ready for adventure

We encourage practical clothing that allows children to learn, explore and play both indoors and outdoors every day.

Northfields Infants & Nursery

Helping Your Child Be Ready for Nursery

Starting Nursery is an exciting milestone and there are lots of simple things families can do at home to help children feel confident and ready for the adventure ahead.

Independence Matters

- Use the toilet independently
- Dress themselves – shoes, socks and coats
- Tidy away toys and look after their things

Learning Together

- Read with or to your child every day
- Encourage drawing, mark making and early writing
- Play games and explore numbers, songs and the world around you

Building Social Skills

- Introduce themselves and make friends
- Take turns and share
- Learn that sometimes we win and sometimes we lose

Partnership & Community

- Attend regularly and arrive on time
- Read school communications
- Join in with school life and events

The Most Important Thing

Children do not need to start Nursery already knowing everything.
A happy, confident child who is curious, resilient and ready to have a go is already well on the way to success.

Safety | Communication | Partnership | Wellbeing | Ready to Learn

A Top Tip for Parents

Helping Children When Emotions Feel Big

Children sometimes become overwhelmed by big feelings such as frustration, worry, disappointment or anger. When this happens, they often need help to feel calm and safe before they are ready to talk about what has happened.

One simple strategy that many families find helpful is the **3-3-3 Rule.**

1 SEE 3 THINGS

Look around and name: 3 things you can see

Examples: a chair, a book, a picture on the wall, a plant, a toy.

2 HEAR 3 THINGS

Listen carefully and name: 3 things you can hear

Examples: birds singing, the clock ticking, people talking, cars outside, the fridge humming, music playing.

3 MOVE 3 THINGS

Move: 3 different parts of your body

Examples: wiggle your toes, shrug your shoulders, stretch your arms, touch your knees, do 3 star jumps.

A Note for Parents

The best time to practise is when your child is calm.
Try using the 3-3-3 Rule as a game at home.

Do it together.
Take turns and have fun with it.
It feels supportive, not like a chore.

Follow up.
Once their breathing and body have regulated, sit down and calmly talk about what made them upset.

Big feelings are normal. Helping children manage them is a skill we can learn together.

Safety | Communication | Partnership | Wellbeing | Ready to Learn

Little Things Make a Big Difference

Helping your child's language, reading and early writing skills grow

Read Together

- Read every day if you can
- Talk about stories and pictures
- Enjoy books together

Talk, Sing and Play

- Sing nursery rhymes
- Play simple games
- Have conversations
- Ask questions and listen

Mark Making and Early Writing

- Draw pictures
- Practise holding pencils and crayons
- Write names, labels and messages
- Celebrate every attempt

Supporting Learning at Home

At Northfields we use **Twinkl Phonics** to teach early reading and phonics skills.

The strongest foundations for reading are built through talking, listening, sharing books and playing together every day.

Top Tip

Whenever possible, try to balance screen time with opportunities to talk, play, read, explore and be active together.

Safety | Communication | Partnership | Wellbeing | Ready to Learn

Growing in Confidence

At Northfields, we know that every child develops at their own pace. We work closely with families to help children become increasingly independent and confident in their daily routines.

Children learn to:

- Use the toilet independently
- Wash and dry their hands
- Put on coats and shoes
- Look after their belongings
- Ask for help when needed
- Build confidence in new situations

Preparing for Nursery

We strongly encourage families to begin toilet training before their child starts Nursery wherever possible.
Being toilet trained helps children feel more confident, independent and ready to take part fully in Nursery life.

If your child has a diagnosed medical condition, identified SEND need or other significant circumstance that affects toileting, please speak to us so that we can work together to plan the right support.

For children without an identified additional need, we expect families to continue supporting toilet training at home. If a child requires frequent nappy or pull-up changes, we may need to contact parents or carers to come into school to assist.

Please talk to us if you have any concerns **before your child starts.**
We are always happy to help and advise.

Every child is different. Our aim is to work together with families to help children become increasingly independent and confident.

Confidence | Independence | Resilience | Responsibility

Northfields Infants & Nursery

What Will My Child Learn?

A broad and exciting curriculum built around play, exploration and discovery

Northfields Infants' & Nursery

At Northfields, we follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** curriculum.

Children learn best when they feel safe, happy and engaged, so much of our learning takes place through play, exploration, stories, conversations and hands-on experiences.

The EYFS helps children develop in 7 key areas of learning and development.

Communication and Language

- Listening
- Speaking
- Understanding

Literacy

- Stories
- Rhymes
- Phonics
- Early reading and writing

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Friendships
- Confidence
- Managing feelings

Mathematics

- Counting
- Number sense
- Shape and pattern
- Problem solving

Physical Development

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills
- Independence and self-care

Understanding the World

- Nature
- Communities
- Technology
- Exploring and questioning

Expressive Arts and Design

- Art
- Music
- Role play
- Creativity and imagination

We want children to be curious, confident, resilient and excited about learning.

Safety | Communication | Partnership | Wellbeing | Ready to Learn

How Children Learn in Nursery

Learning through play, exploration and meaningful experiences

At Northfields, children learn through a carefully planned balance of adult-led teaching, child-initiated play and purposeful experiences. We know that young children learn best when they are actively engaged, curious and having fun.

Playing and Exploring

Children learn by exploring, investigating and having a go.

Active Learning

Children learn by concentrating, persevering and taking pride in their achievements.

Creating and Thinking Critically

Children learn by thinking, questioning, making connections and solving problems.

We want children to be confident | curious | independent | resilient | ready for their next adventure

More Than a Curriculum

The values that guide everything we do at Northfields

Respect

We learn to be kind, considerate and respectful towards others and ourselves.

Expression

We encourage children to express their thoughts, feelings, ideas and creativity with confidence.

REACH

Achievement

We celebrate effort, perseverance and personal success in all its forms.

Creative & Curious

We inspire children to wonder, explore, imagine and discover.

Hearts Full of Fun

We believe that happy children learn best and that school should be a joyful place to be.

Every day at Northfields is shaped by our REACH values.

Helping Us Go Beyond the Basics

Additional support and enrichment opportunities at Northfields

Pupil Premium Funding

Some families may be eligible for additional funding called Pupil Premium.

This funding can help the school provide extra support, resources and opportunities for children throughout their time at Northfields.

You may be eligible if you receive certain benefits.

Please speak to the school office or visit the Hertfordshire County Council website to check your eligibility.

Even if your child receives Universal Infant Free School Meals later on, checking eligibility can still provide valuable additional funding for the school.

Northfields Enrichment Fund

We ask families to contribute £20 per year towards our Northfields Enrichment Fund.

This contribution helps us provide the extra experiences that bring learning to life.

It supports:

- Cooking activities
- Creative projects
- Performance costumes
- Special curriculum events
- Visitors and workshops
- Enrichment opportunities throughout the year

Last year, Northfields children enjoyed visitors, performances, enrichment events and practical learning experiences supported by family contributions.

How You Can Help

At Northfields, we are fortunate to have a wonderfully supportive community.

Alongside the Northfields Enrichment Fund, we are always grateful for donations of everyday resources that help bring learning to life.

We particularly welcome:

Clean junk modelling materials, such as:

- Cardboard boxes
- Cartons
- Kitchen roll tubes
- Packaging materials
- Egg boxes

Why does it matter?

These simple resources quickly become:

Through imaginative play, designing, building and problem solving, children develop creativity, communication and confidence.

Together, contributions of funding, resources and support help us create memorable experiences for every child.

Looking Ahead to Reception

A smooth and familiar transition

As part of our Early Years Unit, Nursery and Reception work closely together. Throughout the year, children become familiar with new routines, learning environments and staff so that the move into Reception feels exciting and natural.

- Get to know Reception staff
- Visit Reception learning spaces
- Build confidence and independence
- Develop friendships
- Feel ready for the next stage of learning

Northfields INFANTS' & NURSERY

Confidence | Curiosity | Independence | Friendships | Ready for Reception

Important Information for Families

Helping us keep children safe, healthy and happy

Health and Medical Information

- Please ensure that all emergency contact details remain up to date.
- Written parental consent is required before we can administer medicine in school.
- Children with asthma should have a named inhaler available in school.
- Where appropriate, children may also have emergency medication such as EpiPens, diabetes medication or other agreed medical support plans.
- Spare inhalers should be provided in a clearly named plastic container.
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they should remain at home until they have been symptom-free for **48 hours.**

Safety on Site

- Please teach and model good road safety habits.
- Keep your child close to you at all times when arriving and leaving.
- Please use the designated school walkways and do not walk through the staff car park.
- Northfields is a smoke-free and vape-free site.
- Please do not park in ways that obstruct pedestrian gates, crossings or neighbouring properties.
- Dogs should not be brought onto the school site or near school entrances and gates.
- Jewellery should not be worn in school. Small stud earrings are permitted.
- Any safeguarding or child protection concerns will be managed by our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

Thank you for helping us keep Northfields a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for everyone.

Thank You!

We can't wait to welcome you to Northfields

Starting Nursery is an exciting milestone for both children and families.

We know that beginning a new chapter can bring a mixture of excitement, anticipation and a few nerves too.

Please remember that we are here to help every step of the way.

Together, we will help your child feel safe, happy, confident and ready to learn.

Ready to learn. · Ready to belong. · Ready to shine. ·

Questions?
We are always happy to help.

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