

Welcome to The Orchard Nursery 2025-26



A
curiosity-based
approach
to learning



Our offer:

- ✓ Spacious, light and calm environment
- ✓ Safe and secure play areas
- ✓ Loose parts play
- ✓ Open-ended intelligent resources that spark curiosity



01803 613556



www.shiphay.com



shiphayadmin@rivieraet.co.uk



[The Orchard Nursery at Shiphay Learning Academy](#)



Welcome to The Orchard Nursery

Our approach is built upon the understanding that every child is a unique individual with unlimited potential.

All children are born learners with an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a natural curiosity to figure out how the world works. Placing children at the centre of everything we do, our intent at The Orchard Nursery is to provide a wonderful, rich, holistic environment bursting with exciting opportunities for learning. With a belief that knowledge is not something to be delivered but explored, we aim to teach children 'how' to think and not 'what' to think and have the confidence to develop their own theories about the world.

An extension of the family home, The Orchard Nursery is a calm environment filled with neutral tones, soft furnishings, plants and tranquil play spaces. Children feel safe and secure to snuggle down or explore with confidence.

Our learning environments are filled with loose parts, natural resources, authentic objects that reflect cultural diversity, and real resources that allow children to use their imagination and explore endlessly. We have moved away from brightly coloured traditional manufactured plastic toys that have a set purpose and can limit play and have replaced them with open-ended intelligent resources that spark curiosity, awe, and wonder and allow children the freedom and creativity to problem-solve, use their imaginations, and extend their play in any way they choose.

We recognise that language and communication are vital in all areas of a child's development. We support children's development by providing a rich language environment where conversations, Makaton, singing and sharing stories become a regular and celebrated part of the children's day.

The Orchard Nursery is a place to learn, a place to play, a place to grow, flourish and thrive and we hope to welcome your little one into our family very soon.





How we operate

The Orchard Nursery is open for 38 weeks of the year in the Nursery rooms and up to 50 weeks of the year using additional childcare facilities in The Hub. This offers parents the ability to use their 15 - 30 funded hours in the Nursery over 38 weeks or stretched for up to 50 weeks per year; this means less hours per week over a greater number of weeks, up to 1140 hours per year. Children can start in the nursery once they turn three, with funding starting the term after their third birthday.

Making an application

Parents or carers need to complete a Nursery application form to indicate their interest in a Nursery place. This can be found on the school website: <https://www.shiphay.com/admissions-nursery/> or hard copies are available from the school reception. All applicants will then be placed on a waiting list. Places will be allocated in May for an Autumn Term start and in October for a Spring/Summer start.

How do I book my sessions?

Parents will need to book their free entitlement with Chantal Bailey by emailing: cbailey@rivieraet.co.uk or by calling her on 01803 613556.


What are the admission arrangements if there are more applications than places?

The details of our Admissions Policy can be found on the school website [HERE](#)

What additional services are available outside the free sessions?

We offer additional nursery sessions if there are spaces and we also operate a Breakfast, After School and Holiday provision called 'The Hub'. This service is open for 50 weeks of the year - closed for the Christmas holidays - and is led by school staff so that we can ensure that the quality is as good as the rest of our provision. For nursery-aged children they follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, just like the Nursery, when in The Hub.

Fees (from September 2025)

	Additional Nursery sessions (3 hours)	£17.25
	Additional Nursery day (6 hours)	£34.50
	Breakfast Hub 7.30 - 9.00am	£4.40
	Breakfast Hub (Nursery only) 7.30 - 8.00am	£1.00*
	After School Hub until 4.00pm	£6.50
	After School Hub until 6.00pm	£8.75
	Holiday Hub 7.30am - 12.30pm (lunch included)	£15.50
	Holiday Hub 1.00 - 6.00pm (lunch included)	£15.50
	Holiday Hub 7.30am - 6.00pm (lunch included)	£24.00

**cost if using funding from 8.00am*



When your child can start Nursery and funding arrangements

The Orchard Nursery is open to children from the age of 3 years with up to 15 or 30 funded hours available per week from the term after their third birthday. Additional sessions can also be paid for in addition to funded ones.



We can also consider applications from families that are in receipt of 2-year-old funding so their child can start nursery with funded sessions, once they turn three. For families not in receipt of 2-year-old funding, we can also consider applications for a child as soon as they turn three (according to availability), but these sessions will be charged until the term after their 3rd birthday when funding will commence.

All children are eligible for 15 hours a week of free nursery education starting from the term after their 3rd birthday.

You may be entitled to up to 30 hours of free childcare if your child is 3 to 4 years old. For more information regarding eligibility, or to apply, visit the [Childcare Choices](#) website.

What our current parents say ...



Fantastic team in the nursery. I feel my son is so well looked after and I trust the team entirely. He's happy, settled and well supported! He adores his days at nursery.



All staff are fantastic ... They are organised, approachable and caring. My child speaks highly of the nursery staff and will tell me how they helped them. They feel safe and happy and are eager to be in nursery.



When attending open afternoons, it is clear that the setting is purposeful and engaging for the children. I was struck by how calm it felt, particularly considering the age of the children.



It's a fantastic nursery, I would confidently recommend it to friends.



My boy loves the environment at the nursery. We've viewed a few nurseries over the years and Orchard is wonderful. The space inside and out. And the opportunities to join all the celebrations and events.



See for yourself the exciting adventures that await your child by following our Facebook page: [The Orchard Nursery at Shiphay Learning Academy](#).

