

Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families

Report from: Suzanne Taylor (Headteacher)

Latest news and steps we have taken for campaign:

- 1) Successful event locally to recognise and celebrate the 76 years of the Nursery school – thank you to all those who supported including the mayor and other local people
- 2) Local people have told us the impact of the Nursery School (see quotes attached)
- 3) Briefing paper for MP on the impact of the Nursery school (see attached information) and met Richard Benyon MP in the houses of parliament
- 4) Case studies written up on local families (see example case study attached)
- 5) Monday December 17th The West Berkshire Council unanimously supported a motion:

“That this Council adds its voice to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Nursery Schools, Nursery and Reception Classes and our own MP Richard Benyon to call on the Government to take action to ensure nursery schools are financially sustainable for the future when the current supplementary funding ends in England in March 2020.”

- 6) The APPG is planning to coordinate public petitions to Parliament calling on the House of Commons to urge the government to take action to ensure maintained nursery schools are financially sustainable for the future.
- 7) All West Berkshire Councillors have signed the petition
- 8) All parents have signed the petition
- 9) Petition to be submitted by January 11th 2019

ACTION: Asking Town Councillors to sign the petition

From Hungerford Nursery School website:

'My Granddaughter had attended other nursery schools. little more than child minding establishments, before obtaining a place at The Croft.

Although vocal within her home environment she would not speak outside it. The nurseries were aware of the problem but were completely unable to do anything to help the situation. GP's were consulted and appointments were made with speech therapists. My granddaughter was diagnosed as having Selective Mutism. The speech therapists did their best but there was little or no improvement. Within a couple of weeks of taking up her place at The Croft her speech and confidence had improved remarkably and that is all down to the expertise and dedication of the staff at The Croft. As a result of their help with my granddaughter she has just seamlessly moved into her primary school.

The country needs centres of educational excellence such as The Croft and the staff should be allowed to get on with what they excel at without having to divert their attention to where the funding is going to come from. To deprive this most excellent of educational establishments of government funding would be extraordinarily short sighted as without them children **such as my granddaughter would be clogging up the already overstretched NHS system.**

My grandson has, just this term, obtained a place at The Croft and in the brief time since leaving his previous nursery the change in him has been remarkable.'

(Posted on Nursery Website by Mr Colin Lake 19 September 2018)

How has Hungerford Nursery School helped your child and family?

We are not born parents we are taught how to be parents. Sometimes I felt lost and didn't know how to deal with my child's behaviour. Teachers from Hungerford Nursery School have been there to support and teach not only my child but also me as parent. The highly trained warm and supportive teachers of Hungerford Nursery School have been ~~the~~ supportive and helped me and my children the very first day I stepped in the nursery and they still do. They are doing a brilliant job and I feel so grateful that they are part of our lives.

Sign:

Imoh

UK
Date: 13 09 2018

Q1 How has Hungerford Nursery School helped your child and family?

7/1/2018

My twins Tom and Darby attended the pre school for a year. Due to being born in August they were due to start school having only just turned 4. Their year at the pre school prepared them to start primary school beyond all expectation. They bloomed at pre school which gave them the confidence and life skills to start primary school easily and happily. Whilst at pre school they were still in nappies due to health reasons, the pre school dealt with this brilliantly it was never a problem. They gave us an enormous amount of advice and support when it came to deciding if we wanted to send them to school or try to delay for a year. The staff also helped me when sometimes the stress of bringing up a young family caused a few tears on my part! They made a hugely positive impact on the beginning of my children's learning journey - too valuable to really quantify in a brief paragraph. My children are happy, confident and thriving in their school and I feel this is due to the fantastic start that was given to them by Hungerford Nursery School and the brilliant staff that work there.

9/18/2018 8:03 PM

My granddaughter had attended other nursery schools, little more than childminding establishments, before obtaining a place at The Croft. Although vocal within her home environment she would not speak outside it. The nurseries were aware of the problem but were completely unable to do anything to help the situation. GPs were consulted and appointments were made with speech therapists. My granddaughter was diagnosed as having Selective Mutism. The healthcare specialists did their best but there was little or now improvement. Within a couple of weeks of taking up her place at The Croft her speech and confidence had improved remarkably and that is all down to the expertise and dedication of the staff at The Croft. As a result of their help with my granddaughter she has just seamlessly moved into her Primary School.

9/19/2018 5:20 PM

Without the help of the excellent team at Hungerford Nursery School my little boy would not be as happy and settled in the world around him as he is right now and my family would still be under a huge amount of strain. The team at a Hungerford Nursery school were able to identify that Evan had some fairly significant sensory learning difficulties that were impacting his ability to enjoy school and to learn. They were also leading to an angry little boy at home who could swing from one mood to the next. The team at Hungerford nursery school identified that Evan needed help in these areas and together we established a plan to support him. It was such a relief to have a team that I could speak to and were actually able to help my little boy. He is really thriving now with the right support. If it wasn't for Hungerford Nursery School this never would have happened or it would have happened too late. I will always be grateful for everything Mrs Taylor and her team did. It did and has I can sincerely say changes Evan's and our lives for the better.

10/10/2018 1:36 PM

HNS was the place that helped both myself and my son overcome the effects of domestic abuse. When I left my husband, I moved back to my parent's house in Hungerford and was so lucky to be able to arrange for my son attended HNS for his last year before Primary school. The staff provided calm encouragement and great comfort to him. They arranged extra help for him to manage his emotions and by the end of the year he was thriving. But that is not all. They also gave me a huge amount of emotional support and sign-posted me to other DV support which has enabled me to pull through a very dark time. I can't thank them enough for all their wonderful kindness, help and encouragement which I know has made a huge difference in both our lives. My son still comments on how much he loved going to HNS every time we walk past.

9/26/2018 5:32 PM

Hungerford Nursery School is a truly amazing nursery that has played a major part in helping transform my son from a shy infant who was behind with his speech and language, to a confident, outgoing little boy who's speech and language has come on leaps and bounds during his time there. His quick transition is all thanks to the patient, caring, supportive, knowledgeable team of staff that make the nursery what it is. Not only that, but my son enjoys his nursery sessions so much that he would attend on weekends if it were possible. They have helped educate myself, my partner and our families on the many areas of child development that are linked to speech, language and social and emotional development, that we wouldn't otherwise have been aware of, and this in turn has helped us tremendously at home. You must understand that from a parent's perspective, to educate families on supporting their children, is just as important as educating the children themselves, and to emphasise this further - the many workshops and information sessions that Hungerford Nursery School has made available to parents and carers during my son's time there, has been personally invaluable to me. I have learnt so much from them that it has made my job as a parent much easier. I could not have wished for a better Nursery School for my son to attend, and I only hope that any future children he has will benefit from the same wonderful experience that he so enjoys there.

9/27/2018 11:59 AM

Their lovely help and welfare for my 2 young children when they got separated after my separation from my first husband. I was offered support and they helped me with the diagnosis of my young son with Autism and ADHD. Without this support and help I would not have been able carry on with life generally. I was encouraged to become a volunteer, to start a support group for parents who have children with special needs. I then went on to be employed by the nursery and children centre. They have been a continued support in my second marriage and in the birth of my 2 youngest children who undoubtedly went through both the pre-nursery and nursery school. Since having a second child diagnosed with Autism, and having that said child suffer with anxiety and depression I have once again been supported and encouraged to just keep carrying on. I probably wouldn't be here without their continued support and friendship.

11/03/2013 11:56 AM

RESPONSES

DATE

I have had 3 children attend Hungerford Nursery and have all reaching or above average in most aspects at school. When I moved to Hungerford I did not go out apart from journey's I had to. I have suffered with depression for years but with the help from the nursery and group's and support they provide families with I am a changed person. I have attended a parenting group, Boost twice, Return to work, Building resilient parents, Restorative Practice training and Mentoring, Incredible Years. I've studied and finished level 2 Awareness of Mental Health Course, attended My Monday also been able to volunteer, I also have become a Champion for people suffering from domestic abuse. I have my own part-time cleaning business. The nursery don't just build our children's confidence and aspirations but families and the community as a whole. They have given support to myself with my twins, loss of my baby, my youngest and separation from their father. I really have no idea how life would have been without them.

10/11/2013 12:48 AM

My eldest child was born with a serious condition which affected her ability to feed as a new born baby. I also come home from hospital with a serious infection. I don't know how I would have coped were it not for the care and support that Hungerford Nursery and Hungerford Children's Centre gave to me and our family. My eldest daughter went on to thrive at Hungerford Nursery and my youngest is due to go in January. I know that both my children will grow into confident adults because of the excellent start given to them by Hungerford Nursery School. The Headteacher and her team are amazing, professional, caring and above all - experts in their field. Young children need experts like this to give them the very best start in life. We have also become better parents as a direct result of the advice, support and training we received. I can't think of a better way to spend tax payers money!

9/13/2013 1:43 PM

My eldest child started at the nursery and shortly afterwards was diagnosed with Leukaemia. They offered wonderful support to our family allowing her to come and go whenever she wanted, accommodate last minute requests for care and provided play packs for her hospital stays. When her younger sister started they offered the same flexibility as we were still in treatment, offering flexible arrangements and extra hours care at short notice. Their support for our family during a challenging time was invaluable.

9/23/2013 1:54 AM

I went to Hungerford Nursery School and now my son Charlie goes to the nursery. He has developed and become a wonderful little boy since he started at the nursery as a 2 year old. The staff at the nursery have been wonderful and given Charlie a great sense of confidence and the perfect grounding to start his learning journey for life. He initially started with a slowness to speak but the nursery staff gave great attention to this and helped us as parents to bring Charlie's speech development forward. This is something we couldn't do on our own and we're immensely grateful to the staff at Hungerford nursery.

9/13/2013 2:10 PM

We are not born parents we are taught how to be parents. Sometimes I felt lost and didn't know how to deal with my child's behaviour. Teachers from Hungerford Nursery School have been there to support and teach not only my child but also me as a parent. The highly trained, warm and supportive teachers of Hungerford Nursery school have been supportive and helped me and my children in every first day I stepped in the Nursery and they still do. They are doing a brilliant job and I feel so grateful that they are part of our life.

9/13/2013 1:34 PM

This school is amazing! It has literally changed my life and my child's. When she first started she was very shy and lacked confidence. Her key worker Mrs Kenchington and Mrs Eggbeer worked so hard to help her develop her confidence, through beautiful learning stories, consultations with me (parent), welcome circles and celebrating learning. My child developed new skills and learnt so much in her very short time at Nursery. She loved going to Boxford Woods and made some great friendships for life. I am forever indebted to Hungerford they supported me through some tough times and taught me so much about Early Years in general. This nursery school is the best of the best and I am forever thankful that my daughter got to experience this wonderful place!!

9/13/2013 4:45 PM

Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families

Headteacher Suzanne Taylor

Information on your Maintained Nursery School in Hungerford

Maintained Nursery Schools (such as Hungerford Nursery School) need a guarantee that they will have viable funding after 2020, otherwise they could close

Ministers have acknowledged that Nursery Schools need funding at a higher rate than other parts of the Early Years sector and have provided interim funding of £60m a year until 2019-2020.

A long-term solution must include a commitment to fund Maintained Nursery Schools on the same basis as all other schools, including a lump sum to cover the statutory requirements which private and voluntary sector nurseries are not required to meet. Nadhim Zahawi, Minister for Children, Young People and Families, recognises the value that Maintained Nursery Schools play in social mobility, stating "I would urge councils not to make premature decisions on the future of these nurseries as this work continues". We ask that resources should be committed to ensure the sustainability of the Maintained Nursery Schools, enabling immediate and long term social cost savings alongside laying strong foundations for lifelong learning.

Maintained Nursery Schools (such as Hungerford Nursery School) are schools and therefore are held to higher standards than private and voluntary sector but do not have the same funding entitlements as a school

- Number of Qualified Teachers = 4 (Including Headteacher)
- SENCO (Qualified Teacher) = 1
- Number of Level 3 Early Years trained staff = 6
- Headteacher leading School, Family Centre and Early Years Teaching Centre
- Undergo more stringent Ofsted inspection, identical to maintained schools
- Headteacher holds National Professional Qualification for Headship
- Headteacher is trained in Adult Mental Health First Aid
- School has a Board of Governors that hold it to account
- School has a delegated budget just like all other maintained schools and academies
- 'Outstanding' since the introduction of Ofsted (5 times)
- Teaching is continually reviewed and developed, meeting the needs of individual children through continuous reflective practice - driving improvement forward. Ofsted verify this "You set high expectations for children's achievement and continually strive to exceed these" (Ofsted 2016/17)

Our Hungerford Maintained Nursery School Transforms Lives:

- Hungerford Nursery School have consistently high outcomes for children - Progress of children consistently above expected levels and continuing to improve - 89% leave with a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) (2018)
- As part of the Building Communities project, the Headteacher from Hungerford Nursery School set up and facilitate the Local Multi-Professional Community Lens Partnership group within the West of West Berkshire. This has enabled early

intervention, creative approaches, pooled resources and professional supervision. Regular attendees include all the local headteachers, Charities, Sovereign, Police, Family Support workers, Domestic Abuse support, SAFE supporting child victims of crime. As a result of this partnership – Schools have been able to access charities and get support for families, training in primary school for children has been set up by SAFE, and a support group for vulnerable women (Mental Health or Domestic Abuse) has been started, providing continuous support for vulnerable children.

- Hungerford Nursery School holds the Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority, we have involvement with families from birth – throughout our 160 square mile area, which helps to strengthen our ability to work with families over a longer time-frame. Ofsted commented, “The Family Support team in the Children’s Centre is an excellent source of help for parents and children. You use this well to provide trusted support when and where families most need it. Some parents spoke about the positive impact that this has had on both their own and their children’s lives.” (Ofsted 2016/17)
- Parent surveys indicate consistently that parents hold Hungerford Nursery School in excellent regard. (July 2018)
- 100% of parents feel that their children make good progress, are well taught and benefit from the additional experiences that children are given, such as Boxford Woods. (Questionnaire July 2018)
- Parents make comments like “Amazed how much our child has learnt”, “It has been lovely and rewarding to read how my daughter’s progress has been at Nursery”, “My child has thrived and made fantastic progress in phonics”, “Teaching is outstanding and very imaginative, always finding ways to learn through play”, “My child has come on so amazingly since the beginning of the school year”, “He is set up perfectly for school, which he is very much looking forward to. Thank you for supporting him and stretching him”. (Parents’ feedback 2018)
- Hungerford Nursery School have many examples of where we have transformed lives through working closely with vulnerable families, growing parents’ confidence and self-esteem, supporting families in domestic abuse situations, engaging parents in education and adult learning, and enabling parents to find employment (see case studies and individual comments attached).
- Through Hungerford Nursery Schools work with the Emotional Health Academy, we have written 2 courses: one on ‘Growing Resilient Parents’, another on ‘Peer Volunteers’. ‘Peer Volunteers’ courses have resulted in parents finding work as either a volunteer or employee. The ‘Growing Resilient Parents’ training has supported parents to understand their own and their child’s emotional well-being. The Nursery

also has a very strong track record of providing emotional support to parents and children: e.g., supporting parents through workshops and one-to-one on managing feelings and behaviour.

Hungerford Nursery School Admissions Policies Prioritise the Children in Greatest Need (Data 2018)

- Currently Hungerford Nursery School has 105 children on role with a new intake from January to bring us up to 120.
- So far we have 1 child who is a Looked After Child and 3 children who are CP/CIN
- On entry, 12% are EYPP or Free Entitlement 2 year olds (Disadvantaged)
- 43% of all Hungerford Nursery School children on entry are at risk in Language Development; on exit, this has reduced to 9% (2018 data)
- Hungerford Nursery School provide extra for the children in Greatest Need. Currently 16% are either identified as EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium)/FSM (Free School Meals) or JAMs (“just about managing” – families with very low income - children). For example, at no cost to the parents, we provide Additional Hours above 15 hours entitlement, Holiday Club time and daily term-time hot lunches to children who fall into the ‘disadvantaged’ or ‘vulnerable’ category, to match the opportunity with their peers who are able to obtain 30 hours ‘free’. (2018–2019 this will be at a cost to the Hungerford Nursery School of £41,103)
- On entry, Early Years Pupil Premium (Disadvantaged) (EYPP) 51% are below their age expectations. On Exit, this gap has disappeared, i.e. 0% EYPP are below, 100% are in line with or above expectations, of which 100% are above expectations (100% of EYPP leave with a GLD)
- On entry, EAL (English as an Additional Language) children 64% are below. On Exit, only 6% EAL are below, 94% are in line with or above expectations, of which 88% are above expectations (75% of EAL leave with a GLD). Currently, Hungerford Nursery School have 9% of our children with EAL.
- For all children who are CIN/CP (3), Hungerford Nursery School provided the extra 15 hours on top of their 15 hour entitlement(making a total of 30 hours).

Hungerford Nursery School has a Unique Pool of Expertise in Supporting Children with SEND

- 13% of children have SEND (In our current group of Hungerford Pre-School children this is higher, at 20%)
- Hungerford Nursery School supports parents to obtain an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for their children (We have 1 parent whom we have supported already, and there are 2 more who will need this support during 2019)
- 5 Hungerford Nursery School parents have received support to access Disability Living Allowance for their children
- SEND children are very successful in Hungerford Nursery School, due to the unique pool of expertise that we have. On entry, 84% of SEND children are below expectations. On Exit: 13% SEND are below, 87% SEND are in line with or above

expectations, of which 76% are above expectations (44% of SEND children leave with a GLD (PSE, CSL, P, M and L))

- All Hungerford Nursery School staff are well-qualified in SEND, for example, areas such as Makaton (Sign language), Language Development, Autism, Sensory Behaviours, Attachment and Emotional Wellbeing. All staff gained ELKLAN Level 3 in 2017: this training has had an impact on improvements in language development of children. We can see the difference: 46% are at risk (Language Development) at age 2; by the time these children are age 3, this figure has reduced to 27% and, by the time they leave Nursery, it is down to 9%.
- The Basic Skills Quality Mark inspector (November 2018) said, “Teams monitor the children’s progress on a daily and weekly basis to ensure that they are meeting needs. This is very apparent in the work on Communication, Language and Literacy where many children enter with lower than average skills”
- We organise support for parents with children with SEND, for example, running courses for professionals on sensory awareness, challenging behaviour and emotional support.

The whole of the Early Years Sector Benefits from the Expertise of our Maintained Nursery School

- Hungerford Nursery School has been an Early Years Teaching Centre since 2011 – training practitioners, for example, in 2017-2018 (Academic year) alone:
 - 119 Practitioners attended courses
 - 41 settings benefited from the courses
 - 3 different counties benefited from the courses – Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire
- Hungerford Nursery School is a National Support School (since 2017) providing system leadership for a wide range of schools
- The Headteacher is a National Leader of Education (NLE) - 2 schools have benefited this year from our Headteacher’s expertise – for example: Outdoor learning introduced and established throughout school; Literacy for boys improved throughout school.
- The Deputy is a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) - 2 schools have benefited this year from our Deputy’s expertise – impact in improvements in practice for observation and tracking of children
- Our Senior Family Support Worker is an SLE and is knowledgeable in behaviour management and working with parents
- Headteacher currently hosting an NPQH Trainee headteacher on placement

The Hidden Work of Hungerford Nursery School

- Saves costs, easing the pressure on other public services
- Has impact on system leadership for training staff in other settings

- Diminishes/eliminates the difference early in life between progress outcomes for vulnerable groups and all children, as well as narrowing the attainment gap

If funding is reduced, it is feared that opportunities:

- For early interventions to protect children from harm will be missed. Children who do not meet Local Authority Children Service thresholds for statutory support do not get their needs met. Hungerford Nursery School is not missing these children.
- Increased cost to public sector services, for example: Social Care Safeguarding, Health and Well-being, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Supplementing extending entitlement for vulnerable children.

The Maintained Nursery Schools like Hungerford Nursery School are increasing life chances by ensuring children on SEN EHCPs, SEN support and with complex life affecting conditions, are fully included in our provision. The Private sector cannot meet these types of needs. Specialist settings with specialist resources cost far more than Maintained Nursery School places: Supporting these children in 2017/18 costs us £38,304

(Teaching Assistant hours £34,340; SENCO time and support £2964; Staff Training £1000). Without our Maintained Nursery School, there would be a need to relocate children with the following: SEN, Child in Need plans, Looked After Children, Two year olds funded children, EYPP and FSM children , Extended Entitlement 30 hours childcare.

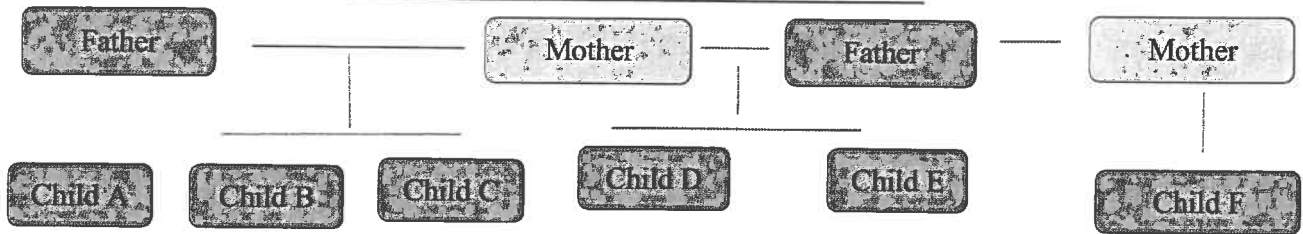
- High quality graduate qualified teachers will be lost – unable to support other settings and produce the outcomes that currently make the difference for vulnerable children.
- Children would be less successful in communication skills, leading to many more challenges in the school and later life.



Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families Child/Family Case Study (2)



Meet Family B and Children D and E



The context

- Child A - low speech / Child B - unable to keep still lack of attention Child C - low language levels and play skills / Child D and E (twins) no language on entry to Nursery School, low play skills, low development plus very weak physical skills delayed social skills
- Parent in need of early help due to Domestic Abuse in previous relationship
- Parent had lack of confidence, low self-esteem, low income, isolation

Highlights from their journey at Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families

- Relationship built with staff
- Headteacher engaged mum in conversation and referred to Family Centre
- Increased number of hours children in Nursery beyond free entitlement (no charge to parent)
- Supported parent to access Speech and Language
- Children identified with SEN and provided with support plans
- Children attended Holiday Club at no charge to parent
- Mum attended 10 week parent course in our Family Centre
- Mum attended resilient parent course in our Family Centre
- Mum attended self-esteem course in our Family Centre
- Resources sent home to engage parent in supporting children's learning and development – story sacks, rhyme sacks, phonics packs, non-fiction bags and number bags
- Children provided with 1:1 daily supported play with an adult to gain confidence and increase play and language skills and extra small supported story group to increase vocabulary, language skills and physical skills
- Children targeted with extra experiences – visits to the market, experimental cookery, extra woods visits, visiting the allotment
- Engaged with Emotional Health Academy

What have this family and children gone on to achieve and sustain?

- Self Confidence and resilience in parent grown
- Child A - SATS above in reading/Child B - medication due to ADAH/Child C engaged with Emotional Health Academy/Child D No longer SEN achieved GLD at end of Reception /Child E SEN but only for Speech and Language
- Children no longer SEN support - Children now talking
- Mum achieved functional maths, now working on English Literacy qualification
- Mum now with different partner supporting and providing home for older step daughter (Child F)(offering protection due to maternal abuse)
- Mum achieved Makaton training seeking knowledge to support her own development
- Mum achieved Paediatric first aid qualification
- Mum has taken an on line Early Years Qualification
- Mum now working as a Teaching Assistant in school