Oxley Park Academy
July 2026

The Honeycomb

OUR STORIES FROM THE HIVE

Opening September 2026

The HIVE

Belong • Grow • Thrive





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Sharing our stories from the HIVE where we belong, grow and thrive @ Oxley Park Academy.

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The Honeycomb NEWS

Welcome

It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you to the very first edition of The Hive Newsletter. We are incredibly excited to be opening our brand-new Specialist Base in September 2026, which we have warmly and affectionately named The Hive. The name reflects everything we want this provision to represent: a place of belonging, care, growth, teamwork and possibility. Just as every part of Oxley Park Academy has its own unique identity, The Hive will have its own special character, helping to create a strong sense of family, warmth and community for the children and families who become part of it.

Whilst The Hive will develop its own traditions, spaces and sense of belonging, it will very much remain an integral part of the wider Oxley Park family. Our children will continue to be part of a vibrant learning community that includes our mainstream school and The Nursery Village, benefiting from the very best of both specialist and inclusive provision. Our vision is for every child in The Hive to feel safe, valued and understood, whilst also feeling connected to the wider school community around them.

Over the summer, the builders will begin transforming the space, and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing our vision come to life. There is something truly special about creating a brand-new provision from the ground up, and we cannot wait to share the journey with you. In September, we will welcome the first eight children to The Hive—children who will forever hold the distinction of being the very first pupils to access this wonderful new resource. As The Hive grows, we will expand again during 2027, welcoming a further eight children to create a specialist base for up to 16 pupils. This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Oxley Park Academy, and we feel privileged to be embarking on this journey together. We cannot wait to see our children belong, grow and thrive in their new home.

Mr Springett-McHugh
Executive Principal





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Meet Miss Smith...

Having been a proud member of the Oxley Park Academy community for over eight years, it is a privilege to lead The Hive provision. I am passionate about ensuring that every child is able to flourish within their environment and is given meaningful opportunities to experience success, however big or small. I strongly believe that with the right support, encouragement and understanding, every child can achieve their potential. I look forward to continuing to develop a nurturing and inclusive culture within The Hive, where each child feels valued, supported and empowered to become the very best version of themselves.



Mrs Smith
Inclusion Lead



Mrs Stimpson
HIVE teacher

Meet the team

Mrs Stimpson and Miss Wainwright are excited to be teaching in Honey Bees. Together, they bring over 10 years of experience in mainstream education and are passionate about creating a happy, safe and nurturing classroom where every child can flourish.

They understand that every child is unique and know how important it is for children to feel secure, valued and confident before they can do their very best. Mrs Stimpson and Miss Wainwright will help children develop not only their academic skills but also their confidence, independence and important life skills. Working closely with support staff, they will ensure Honey Bees is a calm, caring and positive environment where every child feels they can reach their full potential.

They are looking forward to building strong partnerships with families and sharing each child's learning journey throughout the year.



Miss Wainwright
HIVE teacher

THE HIVE TEAM

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Our Vision for the HIVE

At The Hive, we believe that every child deserves more than an education; they deserve a place where they feel safe, valued, understood and celebrated for exactly who they are. Rooted in warmth, kindness and connection, The Hive has been thoughtfully designed to be a nurturing environment where children can truly belong, develop confidence and discover their strengths. We understand that every child's journey is unique, and we are committed to meeting each child where they are, providing the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to flourish.

The Hive is far more than a learning space. It is a community built on relationships, trust and a deep understanding of children's individual needs. It is a place where children are encouraged to be themselves without fear of judgement, where they know their voice matters and where every achievement—whether it is a first word, a new friendship, a moment of bravery or a step towards greater independence—is recognised and celebrated. We believe that the smallest moments often create the biggest changes, and our team is dedicated to helping every child experience success each and every day.

Through highly personalised support, meaningful experiences and a strong sense of belonging, we want every child to leave The Hive feeling confident, capable and proud of who they are becoming. Our vision is to create a place where children feel secure enough to take risks, resilient enough to overcome challenges and inspired enough to reach their full potential. Together, we will help every child to dream big, believe in themselves and achieve in ways that are meaningful to them, ensuring they truly Belong, Grow and Thrive.

WELCOME

Belong • Grow • Thrive

The Hive is a place of belonging, kindness and possibility — a place where every child can truly belong, grow and thrive.

A place where children feel safe to try, supported to succeed and proud of who they are becoming. With every new word, every new step, no matter how small, we celebrate together. The biggest smiles often come from the smallest moments; a first hello, a growing friendship, a tiny spark of confidence, a moment of bravery. At The Hive, children are wrapped in encouragement, understood for who they are and gently supported to shine in their own wonderful way. Every child matters, every success is treasured and every day is another chance to **belong, grow and thrive** — to laugh, to feel proud, and to Dream, Believe and Achieve.

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Belong

From the moment a child joins The Hive, they will receive their very own cuddly pet, which also doubles as a comforting weighted pillow. This special companion will belong to them throughout their journey in The Hive and will help create a sense of security, responsibility and connection. Every child will have their own personal space that they can proudly call their own, complete with a miniature hive where their pet can live. During the first few days of term, children will come together to choose and name their pets, creating a shared experience that helps friendships flourish and ensures every child feels that they truly belong.

Grow

Growth in The Hive is about far more than academic achievement. Through caring for their special pet, children will develop important life skills such as responsibility, empathy, communication and independence. Supported by a highly nurturing environment, children will be encouraged to take small but meaningful steps forward each day, building confidence as they learn, explore and develop their unique strengths. Every achievement, no matter how big or small, will be recognised and celebrated.

Thrive

When children feel safe, connected and confident, they are able to thrive. The Hive has been designed to provide a calm, purposeful and inspiring environment where children can flourish socially, emotionally and academically. Through strong relationships, personalised support and opportunities to succeed, children will develop the resilience, self-belief and skills they need for the future. Our ambition is for every child in The Hive to leave each day feeling proud of their achievements, excited about their learning and confident in who they are becoming.

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An environment to thrive!

If you already know Oxley Park Academy, you will know that we are far from an institutional-style environment, and The Hive will be no different. We believe that children thrive in spaces that feel welcoming, nurturing and purposeful, which is why every detail of The Hive has been carefully considered. A calming colour palette of soft pale lemon and gentle greys will create a peaceful atmosphere, helping children to feel relaxed, secure and ready to learn. The result will be a beautiful, highly resourced environment that feels more like a home than a classroom—a place where children can truly belong, grow and thrive.

Inside The Hive, children will have access to a range of thoughtfully designed spaces to meet their individual needs throughout the day. There will be dedicated areas for exploration, discovery and play, alongside structured learning spaces where children can focus, develop new skills and experience success. Comfortable soft-play areas, cosy retreat spaces and an extensive range of specialist resources will ensure that every child has access to the support they need, when they need it. We will also use carefully considered lighting and sound throughout the day to help create a calm and engaging atmosphere that supports wellbeing, communication and learning.



One of the most exciting features of The Hive will be its exceptional indoor and outdoor facilities. Outside, children will enjoy a brand-new purpose-built learning environment designed to promote physical development, sensory exploration and adventurous play. This will include a trampoline, swing, climbing opportunities and dedicated sensory spaces where children can explore and regulate in a safe and stimulating environment. Inside, we will have a state-of-the-art sensory room, offering opportunities for relaxation, sensory integration and personalised support. Children will also come together in a family-style dining area, sharing meals, conversations and experiences that help strengthen relationships and build a true sense of community.

And whilst The Hive will have its own unique identity and specialist facilities, our children will also enjoy full access to the wider Oxley Park Academy environment, benefiting from everything our school community has to offer. From specialist provision to mainstream opportunities, The Hive will provide the very best of both worlds. We genuinely believe it will be an incredible place for children to learn, develop friendships, build confidence and create lasting memories. Quite simply, The Hive is definitely the place to be!

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Our Uniform to help us belong,,,

Just like every aspect of The Hive, our uniform has been carefully chosen to balance comfort, practicality and a strong sense of belonging. Children will wear a bright yellow polo shirt, with or without the Hive logo, reflecting the warmth, optimism and positivity that sits at the heart of our provision. This will be paired with comfortable black tracksuit bottoms, also available with or without the logo, ensuring children can move freely, play confidently and engage fully in all aspects of their day.

To complete the uniform, children can wear our familiar Oxley Park claret cardigan or jumper, helping to maintain a strong connection with the wider school community whilst celebrating The Hive's own special identity. The overall look is smart, comfortable and child-friendly, enabling our children to feel relaxed, confident and ready to learn from the moment they arrive each day.

Most importantly, our uniform is about more than clothing; it is about creating a sense of pride, inclusion and community. Whether children are learning in The Hive, enjoying the outdoor provision, visiting other areas of the school or sharing lunch with friends, they will feel part of something special. Together, our uniform reflects exactly what The Hive stands for – a place where every child can Belong, Grow and Thrive.





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Welcome to Honey Bees

We are delighted to introduce Honey Bees, the very first class to open within The Hive and the home for our first eight children. Thoughtfully designed around the needs of our children, Honey Bees will provide a calm, nurturing and highly resourced environment where every child can feel safe, valued and ready to learn. With specialist resources, sensory opportunities and carefully planned learning spaces, the classroom has been created to help every child belong, grow and thrive.

Honey Bees will be led by Mrs Stimpson from Monday to Wednesday and Miss Wainwright on Thursday and Friday. They will be supported by three dedicated support staff who will work alongside the class at all times, ensuring children receive the personalised care, guidance and encouragement they need to flourish.

As the first class in The Hive, Honey Bees holds a special place in our story. We cannot wait to welcome our pioneer pupils and families as we begin this exciting journey together and create a happy, thriving community where every child is known, understood and celebrated.





Welcome to Bumble Bees

Our Hive family will continue to grow in 2027 with the opening of Bumble Bees, our second specialist class. This exciting expansion will increase our provision to 16 children, allowing even more pupils to experience all that The Hive has to offer. We look forward to welcoming new children and families as our vision continues to come to life.

OUR HIVE CLASSES

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A day at the HIVE

Every day in The Hive is carefully structured to provide a calm, supportive and engaging learning environment. We begin with arrival and regulation activities, helping children settle into their day, followed by our sensory circuit to prepare minds and bodies for learning. During our morning welcome session, we greet one another, sing our good morning song, discuss the day of the week, talk about the weather, and share how we are feeling. We then focus on communication and literacy through core word learning, phonics and reading activities. After enjoying a snack and outdoor play, children take part in Attention Autism sessions and motor skills activities to develop their attention, engagement and physical coordination. Following a period of relaxation, we enjoy a sensory story before exploring maths. Each afternoon, children take part in a different curriculum area, including Science, History, PSHE and Life Skills, Art/DT, or Computing, providing a rich variety of learning experiences throughout the week. We end each day with story time and our special goodbye song, celebrating a successful day in the Hive before heading home.



Drop off and collection

Drop off: 8:25 - 8:40

Collection: 3:00

Drop off and collection will be from the outdoor area of The Hive. When entering the playground, enter through the main gates which are to the right of the school building, The Hive will be in front of you.



Snacks and Lunch

During the day, children will have a dedicated snack time where they will sit together, enjoy their snack, and develop positive social skills in a calm and relaxed environment. Please provide your child with a healthy snack that is appropriate for their individual dietary needs and preferences.
During lunch time, children will eat together and build independence with routines such as opening containers and tidying away after eating. Please provide your child with a packed lunch or book a school lunch through Arbor.

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Curriculum

Our curriculum is personalised and differentiated to meet the individual needs of every learner. It provides an engaging and appropriately challenging learning experience while recognising and responding to each child's unique strengths and needs. We use both the Sensory Curriculum and the CATHS Curriculum to support childrens' holistic development. The Sensory Curriculum breaks learning into key developmental areas, enabling teaching to be tailored to individual abilities. A particular focus is placed on developing functional communication, supporting children to understand and use language for a range of purposes beyond simply making requests. Where appropriate access to the National Curriculum is maintained through thoughtful adaptation, interpretation and innovative teaching approaches, ensuring all children can engage in meaningful and purposeful learning. Our curriculum is closely aligned with each child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), with teaching and learning linked directly to EHCP outcomes to inform planning, monitor progress and support the achievement of personalised goals.



Wider Curriculum and Opportunities

At The Hive, we are passionate about providing a rich and varied wider curriculum that helps children develop the skills, confidence and experiences they need for life beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, children will take part in a range of meaningful activities that support their personal development, independence and understanding of the world around them. These may include walks within the local community, visits to local shops and The Portal at our Oxley campus, cooking and baking experiences, and visits from a petting zoo, all providing valuable opportunities for real-life learning.

Children will also participate in whole-school events such as Sports Day and House Days, promoting teamwork, resilience, healthy competition and a strong sense of belonging. Where appropriate, children will have opportunities to attend assemblies and engage with the wider school community. We are proud to celebrate every success through our Golden Tickets and Golden Threads, recognising effort, achievement and personal growth throughout each child's journey at The Hive.



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Home-School communication

At The Hive, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential in helping every child thrive. We value open, supportive communication and provide opportunities for daily conversations at drop-off and collection, allowing us to share important information, celebrate successes and work together to support each child's needs.

In addition, we will hold half-termly parent meetings to discuss progress, wellbeing and personal development. These collaborative discussions will help identify next steps and provide practical strategies that can be used at home to reinforce learning and nurture independence. By working closely together, we can provide consistent support, celebrate achievements and help every child reach their full potential.





Tapestry

We will be using Tapestry to record and share some of the learning and activities we are undertaking in school.
As well as this, Tapestry can be used to share what the children are doing at home by adding photos to your child's journal.

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Welcome to The Meadow @The Hive



Alongside The Hive, we are incredibly proud to introduce The Meadow @ The Hive, our dedicated support base for children with Special Educational Needs within our mainstream school. The Meadow has been created as an extension of the vision and ethos that sits at the heart of The Hive—providing specialist support, targeted interventions and nurturing opportunities for children who benefit from additional provision whilst remaining fully immersed in mainstream school life. In many ways, The Meadow acts as an outreach arm of The Hive, bringing our philosophy of Belong • Grow • Thrive to even more children across our school community.

Designed in the same warm and child-centred style as The Hive itself, The Meadow is far from a traditional intervention space. Instead, it is a welcoming environment where children feel safe, valued and ready to succeed. The carefully designed base includes soft-play areas, calming spaces and a wide range of high-quality resources tailored to support communication, sensory regulation, learning and emotional wellbeing. Children will also benefit from access to a state-of-the-art sensory room, providing opportunities to regulate, recharge and develop the skills they need to flourish both in and beyond the classroom.

At the heart of The Meadow is our highly experienced and skilled inclusion team, led by our Inclusion Lead, who are passionate about helping every child reach their full potential. Through personalised support, meaningful interventions and strong partnerships with families and class teachers, we aim to remove barriers, build confidence and celebrate every success. The Meadow is another exciting step in our commitment to inclusive education, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to belong, grow and thrive as part of the Oxley Park family.

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