

Change of Hours and Fees



& Childcare Clubs

As you are aware the government is introducing "Funded 15 hours of Childcare for 2 year olds" from Easter. A lot of childcare settings have decided not to accept it, however we have been looking at how we can afford to do so, allowing families to benefit, whilst remaining viable.

Currently we ask for a voluntary contribution to cover basic costs, however fewer parents are paying this and we are losing money consistently. Therefore we are restructuring the preschool day. We will also accept the "30 hour funding" for eligible 3 and 4 year olds (which we have not previously offered), along-side the funding for 15 hours for 2,3 and 4 year olds.

- From the term after Easter, our session times are changing, and we are charging for a half hour lunch time session. We are increasing our paid fees for extra sessions over the 15 universal offer (if you are not eligible for the 30 hours of funding) and the "Wrap care".
- On the end of "Full terms" we will stay open until 1.15 allowing children to stay until the school closes.
- We are also aiming to offer an additional day to cover Mid term inset days (at a charge). More information to come.

In many cases Parents will be better off, however for some, there will be a slight increase.

Preschool sessions will be: 8.45 am-11.45 am (Morning session, can be included in funding)

12.15pm-3.15 pm (afternoon session, can be included in funding)

These times are more in line with School drop off and collection times which will further support families. We are looking to be able to drop off at Preschool itself (subject to school agreement).

Lunch time session: 11.45 am-12.15 pm (This is a paid session @ £5 (3/4yr) or £6 2yr), if your child stays the full preschool day.

Wrap Care

Breakfast Club will still start at 8.am: - £7.50 (3/4yr) and £9 (2 yr.)

After Preschool Club will still run until 5pm: - £17.50 (3/4yr) and (£21 2yr)

There are so many variations, of combinations of sessions, I can't go into specific details of costs and savings in this letter but am happy to discuss individual children's invoices. So please ask me.

Funding Codes required.

If you are entitled to funding for either 2, 3 or 4 year olds, for either the "New 15 hours for working parents of 2 year olds", from Easter or the "30 hours for working parents", you will need to provide me

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with a code before 22nd March 2024 to enable me to process this and check with Oxfordshire County Council.

This is the link to get the code: - <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you are just going to be using the 15 hours of funding for 3 and 4 yr. olds, you DO NOT NEED TO GET A CODE.

I recognise this will give lots of you, food for thought, especially if you share your funding with another setting and as we are part way through the year we will not be able to offer lots of extra hours at present however you may want to claim funding for the sessions (not wrap care or lunch) that you currently do extra, to make up full days.

Next term we can work out what you want to do from September if your child is staying. In light of these changes, there will currently, no longer be a voluntary contribution requested.

I hope this all makes sense; There is a lot of information to digest, please take your time to consider it all! We are just trying to keep our setting sustainable, as so many around us close!

I am anticipating lots of queries so ask that you are patient with me, and if needed we can have a meeting to discuss further. This was agreed by committee on 04/05/24.

Ruth

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