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Thursday 16th March 2017

Dear Parents/carers,

3 and 4 year old entitlement in Nursery from September 2017

The current entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is 15 hours per week of free early education in our Nursery class. In reality this equates to 9am – 12 noon Monday to Friday during term time. If parents wish for their children to access a full school day in Nursery from 9am to 3:15 they currently pay an additional £65 per week which includes a school lunch.

There is now a new entitlement that the Government are rolling out, which provides an additional 15 hours of free childcare/early years education. We shall be offering this entitlement from September 2017 in our Nursery class for children that are eligible. Therefore eligible children will have access to the full school day without having to pay the weekly £65 fee.

The new entitlement to 15 additional hours free childcare/early years education (30 hours in total) is for working parents.

The definition of working parents is as follows:

- Both parents are working or
- A sole parent is working in a lone parent family
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW) and less than £100,000 per year.
- Working includes employed and self-employed parents
- Parents do not need to actually work 16 hours per week, but their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, which is £107 per week at the current NMW rate.
- Parents on zero hours contracts who meet the criteria are also eligible



Families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for these additional hours. However there are some exceptions. These are likely to be where:

- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily on maternity, paternity or adoption leave
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily on statutory sick pay
- One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits

To check eligibility, parents can use an online childcare calculator that can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Parents will be able to apply for the extended entitlement through the HMRC website or by phone. They will be given an eligibility code which they will then need to bring to the school. Without the code, the full 30 hours provision will not be made available as we will not be able to claim funding.

If parents are not eligible for the new entitlement they will still have access to 15 free hours with the option of paying £65 per week for 30 hours if they wish.

In addition, working parents will also be able to apply for breakfast club provision (7:45AM – 8:45am term time only and £12.50 per week) and / or after school club provision (3:25pm – 5:45pm term time only and £22.50 per week).

Offer letters will be sent out for our 2017/18 nursery class by the end of April.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Burtt', written in a cursive style.

J. Burtt