

Emneth Nursery School

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Dear Parent/Carers

As many of you already know, the government have introduced new supplementary funding for all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 15 hours per week of education and care for 38 weeks of the year. This will increase to 30 hours from September 2025.

Which families will be eligible?

Parents or carers will need to earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the minimum living wage but no more than £100,000. This applies to each parent in dual-parent households, though there are exceptions where one parent is in receipt of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Limited Capability for Work Benefit or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance and their partner is working.

When should you apply for free childcare?

You can make an application at any point in the year. However, to make sure you receive your code, leave plenty of time to apply as we need to have your code the term before you require the funding. You will be asked to reconfirm you're still eligible every 3 months. This means that if you apply at least 3 months before your child starts going to your childcare provider, you'll need to reconfirm you're still eligible before you take up a place. You can apply via Childcare Choices.

Will tax free childcare still be available?

You can still use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit for childcare whilst claiming your 15 or 30 hours of childcare funding.

How will we use the funding?

We will offer the funding entitlement between the hours of 8.30-11.30 and 12.30-3.30. This is the same across the whole Nursery. Parents will be able to have 6 hours for a full day and 3 hours for a half day, but this will be less if parents stretch their funding to all year round. Breakfast, tea and lunch times will be chargeable but parents will still be able to use tax free childcare to reduce this cost further.

All year round spaces will continue to be 8am-5pm, 8am-12.30pm or 12.30pm-5pm. We will continue to be flexible regarding the sessions you require, but will expect each child to do a

minimum of 3 sessions if they are available. We only offer all year round spaces from 9 months to 2 years old.

Term time only spaces will continue to be 8.30am-3.30pm, 8.30am-11.30am or 12.30pm-3.30pm. If breakfast and tea numbers are low then there may be a possibility of picking these up. From September families that are not eligible for the new funding but are using the universal 3 year old funding or are contacted with a 2 year funding code will be offered either 5 morning or 5 afternoons. Those that have the new eligibility code will be able to have a combination of full days and half days.

We strongly advise that parents take their full entitlement from the start as there will be little chance of increasing later.

If you have any questions regarding the funding then please speak to either Jill or Claire in the office.

Kind regards

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Claire Hooker

(Headteacher)