

Nursery Education Funding for 3 and 4 Year Olds.

As parents of a child who is approaching or recently reached their 3rd birthday I am delighted to inform you that you will soon become eligible to receive Nursery Education Funding (NEF) which can be claimed for up to 15 hours of your child's pre-school education. A child's eligibility commences the term AFTER their 3rd birthday.

You will be entitled to claim up to 15 hours of nursery education per week, term time only, which is 38 weeks per year and is a total of 570 hours. If your child attends other settings the funding is split between two settings, but no more. Parents are encouraged to take up their full entitlement of 15 hours per week and staff will support parents as they make the decision about the best attendance patterns for continuity and progression.

The NEF does not include any extras such as the cooked farmhouse lunch, high tea, snack times and extra curricular activities that we offer. Morning sessions and all day sessions cost considerably more than the NEF allocation and as such extra costs for the additional services and care must be appropriately charged for.

Parents who wish to access their free hours with no additional costs can request sessions between 1pm-4pm daily, subject to availability.

Parents who choose their NEF for **Morning** sessions, **All Day** sessions or for a weekly total that exceeds 15 hours **MUST** accept their responsibility to pay the additional fees.

Your monthly invoice will clearly state how many funded hours you have been allocated and these will appear as EYFE (Early Years free entitlement). Any hours purchased above this and additional services will be stated on the invoice to arrive at the total fees due for the month.

Please also note that the rate of funding is subject to change, according to County Council budgets, however the following information is current for Spring Term 2016.

Please find attached a Parent Claim form for you to complete and return to the nursery as soon as possible, confirming your child's details including any of the settings they may attend. A new form **must** be completed if your circumstances or any details change. **Please ensure you complete both sides of this form.**

All queries regarding funding matters should be directed to Jane Clive Director or a member of the management team in the office, rather than to nursery staff whose duty is more directly involved with the children's care and education.

Little Blossoms term dates for this academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term: Monday 5th Sept- Friday 16th Dec- **October Half term 24th-28th**

Christmas Holidays- 19th Dec- 6th Jan

Spring Term: Monday 9th January– Friday 7th April- **Feb half term 20th-24th**

Easter Holidays Fri 10th April- Fri 21st April

Summer Term: Monday 24th April- Friday 21st July- **May half term Mon 29th- Fri 2nd June**

Summer Holidays- Mon 24th July- Friday 1st Sept

ALL DATES IN RED NO FUNDING

We are pleased to confirm that Little Blossoms can also offer a more flexible approach; parents can access their entitlement over 51 weeks per year rather than 38 weeks (term time only). If you are interested to find out more, please contact Jane and she will explain how this works and how you will be invoiced.

Worcestershire County council have strict rules about the take up of NEF. We are **not** able to refund any part of education funding to parents should your child leave during a term and we are not usually able to make any changes to the amount of funding once the term is underway. Extra sessions can usually be accommodated and these can be paid for as 'extras' on your invoice.

As part of our partnership agreement with Worcestershire County Council, we require you to sign and return the slip below to indicate we have explained the details to you and you are in agreement with them. All documentation will be kept should Worcestershire County Council choose to audit us.

There is often a tendency to take for granted those benefits which are free, please take note of the very generous nature of government support towards early years' education. This funding confirms the paramount importance of giving children the very best start in life, and is a task which the staff at Little Blossoms take on with great dedication and commitment.

We thank you for entrusting us with your child's early education, we will do our very best to ensure that they receive the best learning experiences to enable them to reach out and fulfil their potential

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the management team in the office or myself directly.

Kind regards,

Jane Clive,

Director of Nursery.

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Nursery Education Funding

Childs name:

I have received and understood the information regarding Nursery Education Funding from Little Blossoms Nursery.

I would like to access the NEF over 51 weeks

Signed:

Date: