



# Babraham Nursery

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## Fees and funding from September 24 for children aged up to two years

26<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Babraham Nursery has successfully been offering funding for many years. We very much hope that our funding offer that will commence from September 2024 for eligible 9 month to 2-year-olds meets the needs of all of our families who are eligible. Please note, **funding is only available to those who are in receipt of a valid code.**

We will be closely monitoring how funding is offered in nursery over the coming 6 months, as we move to a model which offers funding entitlement from the term after a child turns 9 months of age to school age. We will be reviewing our funding offer and fees for the new Tax Year (ready for April 2025) and plan to fully review our offer ready for September 2025, when the Government intends to increase the hours of funding from 570 to 1140 hours per year for those who are eligible. Please be aware the Duty to provide sufficiency of places lies with Councils; there is no requirement for settings across the country to offer funded childcare.

At Nursery, we have always endeavoured to offer funded hours as we appreciate that these are highly welcomed by our families. The Institute previously worked to develop a model where we would be able to offer this in an inclusive manner, whilst also maintaining our provision for our 3 & 4 year olds. From September 2024 we will be rolling out this model to our younger age groups across nursery, as they become eligible for funding. Please note, our offer is dependent upon how the funding impacts our overall income and we therefore may need to revise our funding offer in the future.

**Please note eligibility for the funding is determined by the HMRC, not nursery. For more information about eligibility, and how to apply for the entitlement, please see the link below.**

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

### Eligibility

From September 2024 some children will become eligible for 570 hours funding per year the term after they turn nine months of age. The entitlement is for those families who meet the criteria set by the DfE, and who have been approved by the HMRC, and are in receipt of a valid code.

**Please note, the nursery is unable to offer the entitlement to any family without a valid code.**

According to the Council the deadline dates for application to Childcare Choices are as follows:

**'Autumn funding period** (1 Sep – 31 Dec) – application deadline 31 August  
**'Spring funding period** (1 Jan – 31 Mar) – application deadline 31 December  
**'Summer funding period** (1 Apr – 31 Aug) – application deadline 31 March'

The Council strongly advises 'parents to apply **well in advance of deadlines** as some applications can take up to 14 days to be resolved. If a code is not issued by HMRC **before the start of a funding period**, the entitlement **will not be accessible** in that funding period.'

This means that any delay into the new term will result in families missing out on the funding for that term.

Funding can only be approved by HMRC, which the parent must take all responsibility for claiming eligibility using the HMRC website. If eligible, the website will provide the parent with an eligibility code, which must then be given to the provider. This code will then be checked by the provider with the Council before confirmation of the funding can be given to the family.

Eligibility must be reconfirmed at dates specified by HMRC or the funding will be withdrawn. Please note, this is completely beyond our control.

### **Fees model**

Although the offer is headlined from the DfE as 15 hours per week, this is **term time only. The total offer equates to a maximum of 570 hours per year**. Settings are required to create their own offers around the entitlement and to inform parents of what they will be offering. **Therefore, as a nursery offering full day care, all year round, we offer a stretched, 51-week offer only**. The 570 hours equates to 11.175 hours per week. We have found that families find this approach easier to plan for, with funding and charged sessions being consistent for across the year.

### **Fee structure**

Our fees from September 2024 will be structured in the same way we offer our 2, 3 & 4 year old funding. This means that funded sessions will be fixed to afternoon sessions, totalling 4.47 hours per day, for a maximum of 2 and a half afternoons per week, 51 weeks of the year. Mornings are not part of our funding offer and remain separate chargeable hours. Whilst we realise that children will need to attend two and a half afternoons to access their full entitlement, it is still also possible to share the funding across other settings. By structuring sessions in this way we are being fair to all parents, an alternative option would be to limit the number of places we offer, or to limit the funding to certain days each week.

According to the DfE the funding is to deliver high quality childcare, 'It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services' (DfE, January 2024). However, we have decided to operate a fully inclusive funding model and not charge for additional services such as meals during the funded periods (or a large variety of other things that are sometimes deemed as a 'consumables charge'), instead aiming to make the fee structure as easy and as clear as possible for all.

### **Parental Contract**

The term before your child becomes eligible for early years funding and each September you will receive a Parental Contract form from Cambridgeshire County Council. This will be given to you by Nursery. **Please complete and return this form to Babraham Nursery.**

Kind regards,

**Alison Bishop**

On behalf of the Babraham Institute