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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: 30 Hours Free Childcare Entitlement from September 2017-Useful and Essential Information

All 3 and 4 year olds and some 2 year olds in England are currently entitled to free, part-time early years learning, care and development with a recognised provider. Children can currently attend on a part-time basis for 15 hours per week, for 38 weeks of the year. From September 2017, working parents of 3 and 4 year olds will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week, depending on their circumstances and now that we have moved in to our new school we will be offering this provision from January 2018.

What will Albion Offer?

We will offer 30 hours free childcare to those families who successfully complete the registration process, obtain the relevant codes and provide this to the school. It will be the parent or carers responsibility to ensure that they update their registration every three months and provide their new code to the school to maintain their 30 hour place. We will not be able to offer 'shared' places which means that you will not be able to split the 30 hours between two different settings.

There are specific eligibility criteria which are to be applied uniformly across the country, however we appreciate that you may not know:

- Whether you will qualify
- How to go about applying
- Where you can access the 30 hours of childcare
- Our plans and arrangements for supporting this important initiative

Do you qualify for 30 hours free childcare?

Parents of 3 and 4 year olds will need to meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours free childcare:

- They earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum of Living Wage over the coming 3 months
- This equates to £120 per week (or c. £6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week (or £5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on a zero hours contract
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work

- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months
- If a non-EEA national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

Who will not qualify?

A parent will not qualify or meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000 per year
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and is subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds)

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

Everyone appreciates that the unexpected can sometimes happen and personal circumstances can change. If a parent loses eligibility:

- They will receive a "grace period", which means that even if they no longer qualify they will be able to keep their childcare for a short period
- Once the "grace period" has come to an end, the parent may well still be entitled to the universal 15 hours entitlement of free child care

Where can you access the 30 hours of childcare?

- Any nursery
- Pre-school playgroups
- Registered childminders
- The 30 hours childcare can be taken with up to 2 recognised providers.

Working parents are able to apply for the extended childcare entitlement and tax-free childcare at the same time by submitting an application through the GOV.UK website.

The Government is very clear that the 30 hours entitlement is about supporting parents in and into work, but that it must not impact negatively upon the 15 hours universal entitlement for all children. Priority will be given to 15 hours for all children. Information can be found on our school website within the parent section which can be accessed from the home page, as well as links to useful information websites.

If you have any queries please arrange to speak with Natasha Wood in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Penny White
Headteacher

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