

RE: Increase in childcare fees from 1st April 2024

We write to inform you of the new fee structure on the services we provide, which will take effect from Monday 1st April 2024. We continue to work hard to keep all costs to a minimum, however, this rise is necessary due to the cost-of-living increase, minimum wage increase and the lack of government funding. We realise that any changes in terms and conditions is never welcome but unfortunately these changes are unavoidable.

We are making you aware of the forthcoming changes to fees now, in order for parents/carers to have sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements regarding funding sources such as Universal Credits.

To support parents/carers with childcare costs for children of all ages the government introduced the Tax-Free Childcare scheme which is available to around 2 million households. You can open an online account which you can pay into to cover your cost of childcare, for every 80 pence you pay in the government will top up your account with an extra 20 pence.

To find out more about this scheme please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

15 & 30 hours childcare

For those parents/carers with children aged 2, 3 & 4 years the 15 or 30 hours childcare scheme is available.

To find out more about this scheme please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

For help paying your childcare please go to:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

At Little Stars, our aim is to keep our childcare fees competitive while providing an excellent level of service. Furthermore, we do not charge for registration fees or for nursery closure days, such as Bank Holidays. We will regularly review our daycare and fee structure to ensure we can meet the needs of both our staff and children.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Terms and conditions

The following information outlines the terms and conditions for using Little Stars Childcare services:

- Your child's invoice will be issued before the beginning of each month on the Family app.
- Payments must be received on the first day of your child's care.
- We accept voucher payments from employers and Tax free childcare from the government.
- NEF (nursery education funding) which is currently 15 or 30 hours of funded care for 38 weeks of the year during term time only, between the hours of 9am and 3pm for preschool children and 8.30am until 4pm for all other funded spaces, any additional hours will be charged at the term time only hourly rate. Additional hours will incur charges at the term time hourly rate with no additional consumable costs.
- No fees are charged when the setting is closed on bank holidays.
- The fees are rounded up to the nearest hour.
- Full fees apply for absences, including sickness and holidays.
- Advance booking and payment are required to qualify for package prices.
- Sibling discounts are only available for full-time places and cannot be combined with other offers.
- Late collection of children will result in additional costs. After 6pm the charge is £10.00 per 5 minutes per child.
- Cancellations or changes to spaces require written notice with 4 weeks' notice
- Late or failure to pay your nursery fees will result in the space being cancelled and legal action taken.
- Aggressive and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Please ensure all contact details are always up to date.

<u>0 to 3's Term time only</u>	<u>0 to 3's Not eligible for funding</u>
15 hours funding between 8.30am until 4pm x2 30 hours funding between 7.30am until 5.30pm x3 £8.80 per hour £2.50 per lunch £61.00 per day (Including lunch) £274.50 full week Westlands Primary School term dates used	£8.20 per hour £2.50 per lunch £57.00 per day (Including lunch) £256.50 full week
<u>Preschool</u>	<u>Out of School Club</u>
Funding between 9am until 3pm £7.40 per hour £0 per week (9am until 3pm, claiming 30 NEF hrs.) £97.00 per week (full time, claiming 30 NEF hrs.) £2.50 per lunch	£6.60 per hour Before school package £33.00 (7.30am until school starts) After school package £73.00 (School end until close) Before & After school package £90.00 (7.30am until close) Drop-in sessions: £8.00 per hour (Hours are charged from when school finishes until collection, regardless of if they attend extra activities with school, this is to guarantee a space if clubs are cancelled. No reduction in fees for time off.)

Holiday Club

£30.00 per day
 £27.50 per day (pre-booked and paid before cutoff date)

(Some additional activities will have an extra charge.)



Little Stars Childcare

Giving your Little Stars the opportunity to enjoy and achieve.

OFSTED registered full day care providers.

Directors Mrs Vicky Recine and Mrs Sarah Bradbury

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