September 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Re: Implementation of the 30 hours free childcare**

Day Care at St Martin’s has been committed to offering the 30hrs of childcare funding for 3 and 4 year olds since it was first introduced in September 2017.

I believe this funding helps to support working families and many of you will be eligible to receive the extended funding and make a real saving in your monthly childcare costs.

However, Day Care at Saint Martin’s is equally committed to maintaining the quality of childcare we offer together with a wide range of learning and development experiences. The level of funding the government provides for the 30 hours alone does not enable us to sustain our current high standards of care. It is therefore be necessary to charge parents an additional daily rate / half daily rate for additional services. The additional services fee covers the provision of 3 meals per day, along with fresh fruit snacks, and outside providers to enhance the children’s experiences such as Forest Schools, Rugby Tots, Soccer School, Stage Coach, Tennis etc.

The current additional services rates are as follows:

* Full day: £16.00
* School day: £14.00
* Half day: £10.50

In order to demonstrate the huge benefit of 30 hours of grant funding to you I have provided some working examples of the savings qualifying parents make through the scheme.

Please be assured that parents who are not eligible for the 30 hours funding will still receive their 15 hours of funding per week for their 3 and 4 year olds. However, the charges for additional services will also apply.

We reserve the right to adjust the additional services rate to continue to make the proposition sustainable.

Parents should be advised that you may be able to access the 30 hours at alternative settings with no additional charge. However, many schools and settings are choosing not to offer the 30 hours at all, as it is financially not viable for them to do so.

Parents will be required to sign a new contract with Day Care at Saint Martin’s to verify your understanding of our offering.

Those parents with children who attend the setting for less than 30 hours may wish to increase attendance to take full advantage of the funding. Please be aware that we do have a waiting list. Please email us via the EYLog if you would like to extend your child’s place.

**Eligibility:**

It is **your** **responsibility** as parents to check your eligibility for the 30 hours and register online at the following website:

[www.childcareworks.co.uk](http://www.childcareworks.co.uk) or [www.gov.uk/childcare-calculate](http://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculate)

Once you have confirmed your eligibility, and registered you will receive an 11 digit eligibility code. Please provide Day Care at Saint Martin’s with your eligibility code for us to claim your funding and use it towards your childcare costs.

Your eligibility is valid for 3 months, and parents will need to re-confirm that their circumstances have not changed and they remain eligible for the funding every 3 months. You will receive reminder emails from the government department to re-confirm your eligibility.

**You must inform us of any changes to your eligibility.**

Day Care at Saint Martin’s requires parents written permission to check the code with the local authority and claim your 30 hours childcare. You will need to sign the declaration form in order for us to claim.

**The 30 hours funding is available for approximately 39 weeks in line with school term times. Day Care at Saint Martin’s will charge the full daily rate during school holidays.**

The additional sheet explains how your monthly fees will be calculated. If you would like any additional help with calculating your fees, please email Linda Yorke-Biggs:

linda@daycarestmartins.co.uk.

**Tax Free Childcare:**

In addition to more grant funding, the government have also introduced further support for working parents to pay for childcare costs with the Tax Free Childcare scheme. This enables eligible parents to set up a Tax Free Childcare account where for every £8.00 you pay into the account, the government will add £2.00. Parents can pay up to £8,000 per child per annum. You can find out more at the following website:

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

I trust you find the above information useful.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah**

Sarah Beattie

**Director**

**Email:** sarah@daycarestmartins.co.uk