
Thursday, 21 January 2021

Dear Parent

Updated information on Free Entitlement funding for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children - spring term 2021

Further to recent communications which you should have received from your childcare provider, we are pleased to announce that, due to a change in government guidance, your free childcare place will now be funded for the **whole of spring term 2021**. This is subject to eligible children having a signed Parent Declaration already being in place (on or before 21 January) even if you are currently choosing to keep your child at home. If you chose to move your child to another provider then funding will follow the child with no notice period. These funded hours claimed will contribute to your overall annual entitlement, which means these hours cannot be carried forward to later in the year.

This funding will support your childcare provider with their ongoing sustainability and enable them to provide home learning experiences, whilst children are not attending, due to parental decisions to keep children at home as a result of the ongoing pandemic. This means that you should be able to access your child's place when you are ready to send them back to your childcare provider.

We know that the early years is a crucial phase in a child's development and the support offered by early years and childcare providers has a long-term impact on children's learning. That is why we are funding providers so they can continue to offer support to your child during this challenging time.

Should you have any queries or concerns please speak to your childcare provider in the first instance who will be able to support you.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Butler

Executive Director for Children, Young People and Learning