

Elton Primary School & Nursery

School Lane
Elton
Chester
CH2 4LT

Telephone: 01244 667750

Email: admin@elton.cheshire.sch.uk

Website: www.elton.cheshire.sch.uk

Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning

PARL: 1182

23rd January 2024

Nursery update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm just writing about the recent changes to nursery payments.

New Payment Method

As I mentioned in November, Cheshire West and Chester finance team have requested that we move away from the Wise Owl account and use Parent Pay for all payments. From the start of January, this is the method we are asking parents to use to pay their nursery fees.

If you have any problems or questions about this change then please contact school straight away so we can help solve any issues.

Charges

Can I just make it clear that if you have booked a slot for your child then you are charged for the session whether your child attends or not. This is because we have to stick to strict legal staffing ratios and so would have staffed the session on the assumption that all children are attending. Please note that this includes absences for illness or holidays.

We currently charge £12 for a 3 hour session which is the lowest amount of any local school that I have cross checked with – the average for other schools/nurseries is between £14-£18. We are also one of only a few schools that don't charge for dinner time supervision –most schools charge all parents for the 30mins of dinner time supervision as this isn't covered by funded hours. To keep costs down for parents we don't do this even though we need to have 4 staff involved during dinner hour. While I understand that childcare costs are expensive, we believe we offer one of the most affordable options of any local provider.

Funded Hours

Please note it is the responsibility of parents to claim their code for funded hours before the deadlines. These deadlines are created by Central Government, not school, and if you miss them then you won't be eligible for funded hours. These codes need to be reconfirmed by parents every three months and this must be done by the end of the month before a new term starts. When needing to reconfirm codes, you will receive emails from HMRC 1 month before the deadline and again 2 weeks before the deadline. If you miss the deadline you will not get funded hours. To make clear: **You must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts.** School will then collect these codes from parents by sending out our forms which we then send to the Local Authority. This again has to be done within a certain window of time otherwise you won't be eligible for the funded hours. It is vital that parents stick to these deadlines as there is nothing school can do once



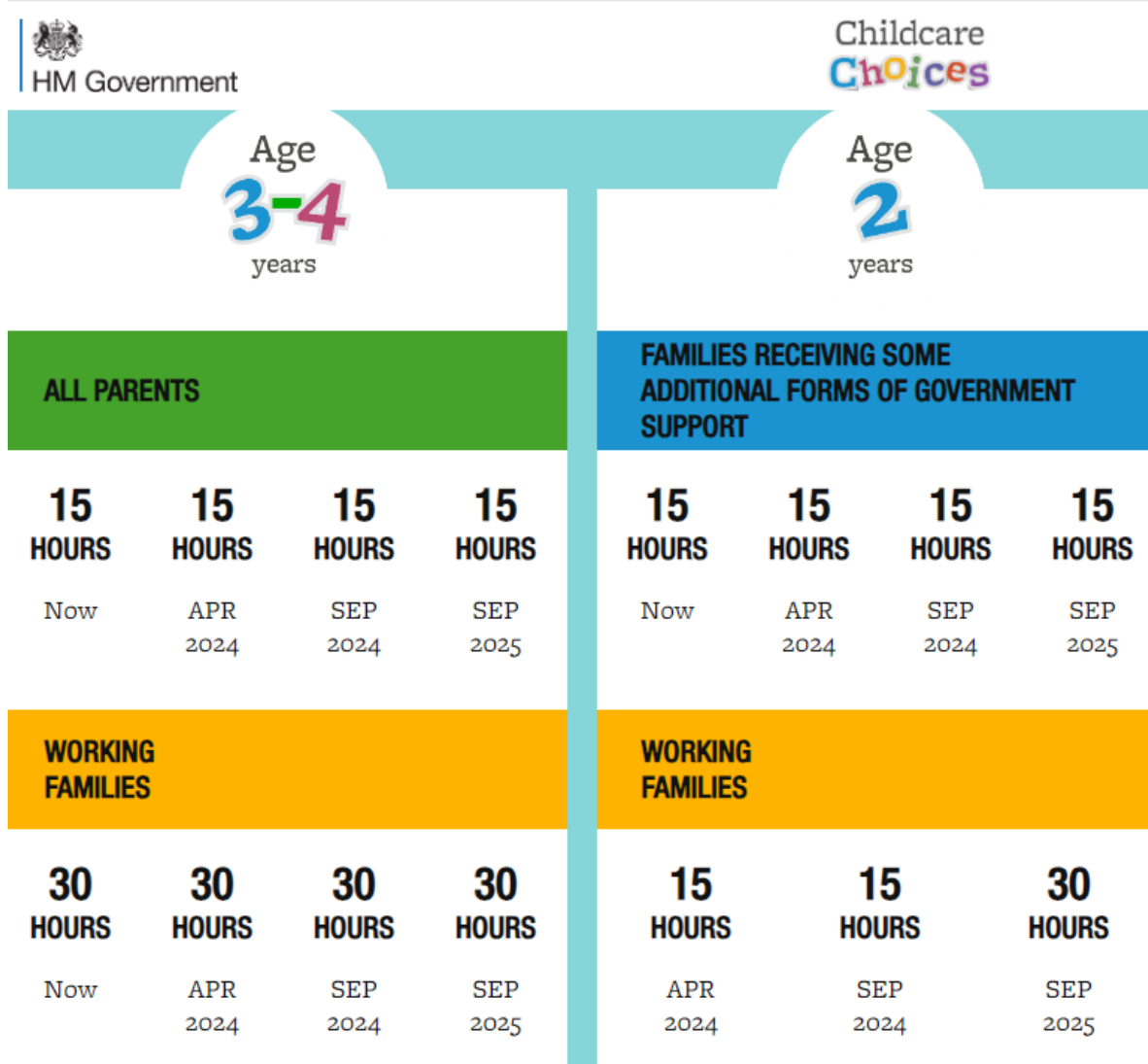
the deadlines have been missed. For more details see: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

Changes to Funded Hours

You may be aware that the government are changing the rules to allow more families to access more funded hours for 2 year olds. The first of these changes starts soon. School has to work on a ratio of 5:1 for 2 year olds and 13:1 for 3/4 year olds if a teacher is present. Our maximum capacity in nursery is 30 – with a maximum of five 2 year olds at any time.

Below is the government infographic about the changes and the link to the site is:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/upcoming-changes-to-childcare-support/>



School Dinners

School dinners provided to nursery children by school are not included in the cost of nursery fees and must be paid by parents. If you would like your child to have a school dinner in nursery, the current cost of a school dinner is £2.73 and should be paid for promptly via Parent Pay. If you haven't received a Parent Pay activation letter, please contact the school office.

Yours Sincerely

K Manning

Mr K Manning
Headteacher

