

Welcome to the Spring Term!

As you are all aware we received 'Outstanding' from Ofsted just before Christmas, obviously we are delighted and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to continuing to care for your children throughout the coming year and have lots of interesting and fun activities planned.



Sickness

We recognise all our parents have various commitments whilst their children are at nursery and please be assured we would only contact you if we felt your child was not well enough to be here.

The nursery is a very busy environment and as such, if your child is unwell they may find it difficult to cope with the routines of the day. We would ask you to also consider other children and the possibility of passing on bugs and germs, as these can spread very quickly.

When a child becomes unwell in nursery or displays signs of discomfort as a result of being unwell, we would normally contact a parent/carer so that the child can be taken home.

Calpol may be administered if a child displays a high temperature, however we would in most cases expect parents to collect their child after the medicine has been given.

If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea they must be kept away from nursery for at least 48 hours after the last occurrence.

Thank you for your help in this matter.



Important Dates 2017

Wednesday 8th February

REAL Drop in Workshop 9:30-2:30

Monday 13th February

Closed for staff training

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February - Half Term

Wednesday 1st March

Somerset Smiles Fluoride Varnishing Clinic

9:45am



Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day – Come in dressed up as a book character (no superheroes!)

Friday 3rd March

School Readiness Drop in Workshop 9:30-2:30
for all school leavers

Tuesday 14th March

Babies Stay & Play 10:00-11:00

Wednesday 15th March

School Readiness Drop in Workshop 9:30-2:30
for all school leavers

Monday 20th – Friday 24th March

Parent Consultation week – book your slot at
reception from Monday 6th March.

Friday 24th March

Red Nose Day – Cake Sale & Come
to Nursery wearing something **RED!**



Thursday 30th March

Easter Extravaganza Stay & Play 9:30-10:30

Friday 31st March

REAL Drop in Workshop 9.30-2.30

Tuesday 4th April

Closed for staff training

Tuesday 16th May

Forest School Den Building Stay & Play 9:30-11:30

Tuesday 23rd May

School Leavers Photos

Personal Information

If there are any changes in your circumstance;

- Home address / your mobile phone number
- Your child's health / diet
- Emergency contact numbers

Please notify Reception as soon as possible, as we have had incidents where we have been unable to get hold of some parents due to incorrect phone numbers.

Bridgwater Traffic

We understand the issues with the traffic that will be ongoing for the next few months but appreciate the efforts made by you all dropping off and picking up on time. Please continue to ensure you allow enough time for your journeys.

Baby Massage

If you know anyone with a baby under 8 months old who would be interested in a Baby Massage course our next course is running for 3 weeks from Monday 6th March at 9:30am to 10:30am. Please ask at reception if you are interested or pass on our contact details.

Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers...

Please help us to collect as many as possible!

Our collection box can be found in the reception area or please hand them in to a member of staff.



Children's Registers & Accident Forms

Please ensure that you sign your child in and out each day, it is an Ofsted and fire safety requirement.

Check the accident board as you walk through reception for your child's name; if your child has had an accident please do not forget to sign and collect the accident form.

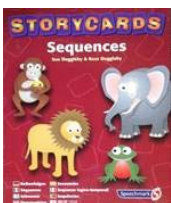
Clothing & Essentials

Wellies, raincoats and hats. Please ensure all clothes are named. Children need to come to nursery with a spare set of clothes, enough nappies and baby wipes (if needed) or spare underwear in case of accidents!

Lending Library

If you missed the **Lending Library Launch Day** and would like to see how it works, please feel free to pop in during *any* of the workshops that are being run by the Childcare Centre as there will be an area set up for you to see what is available.

For further information, please contact Amanda who will book some time with you and your child so that you can sign up to the library and have a look through the books to see if there is anything you would like to borrow. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda either at reception, by phone - 01278 441270 or e-mail – childcare@bridgwater.ac.uk



We are delighted to announce that in summer 2017 we are redecorating the nursery. To enable this to happen we will be closed from **Tuesday 25th July – Friday 28th July 2017**. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, however, we are looking forward to refreshing the learning environment for all children that attend.

It is everyone's responsibility to care for children if you ever have any concerns about a child who you know you can speak to Caren Safeguarding Lead or telephone NSPCC **0808 800 5000**



Contact us: Tel: 01278 441270 (Open 8am -5.30pm Mon-Fri)

E-mail: Childcare@Bridgwater.ac.uk

Funding Information

Funding for 2 year olds

What is funding for 2 year olds?

Families with 2 year old children who meet the criteria below can apply for funding. The government will pay for a place for up to 570 hours over the year at a registered childcare provider. A maximum of 15 hours per week is available. Children become eligible in the funding period after their 2nd birthday.

Am I entitled?

Families who receive any of the following are entitled to funding for 2 year olds:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support (IS)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) - not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) - not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) of less than £16,190

Children are entitled if any of the following apply to them:

- Children who are 2 and receive Disability Living Allowance
- Children who are 2 and have been adopted, or who have left care through special guardianship or child arrangement orders
- Children who are 2 and have a Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care Plan
- Children who are 2 and are looked after by the local authority

How do I apply?

The easiest way is to apply online on the Somerset County Council website (search for 2 year funding) or use the following link: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/childcare/funding-for-2-year-olds/>

If you do not have access to the internet you can request an application from by calling 0300 123 2224.

What happens next?

If you are successful, you will be notified in writing by Somerset County Council. This will show the date 2 year funding has been awarded from. You will need bring in the letter you receive.

Early Years Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds

What is my child's Early Years Entitlement?

- All children become eligible in the funding period after their 3rd birthday.
- You do not need to apply for the funding, we will claim on your behalf.
- A maximum of 570 hours each year.
- The maximum entitlement that can be claimed is 15 hours per week.
- The maximum that can be claimed per day is 10 hours. The minimum is 2.5 hours.
- If your child attends 'term time only e.g. 38 weeks per year' you can use 15 hours per week. If your child attends all year round the funding can be 'stretched' over the year at 11 or 12 hours per week.
- For children who are 4 years of age in the autumn or spring funding period, the hours will be limited. This means that if your child turns 4 in the autumn funding period, from the following spring funding period they will receive 8/12ths (380hours) of their 570 hours allocation to use until the end of August. If your child turns 4 in the spring funding period they will receive 5/12ths (237.5 hours) of their 570 hours allocation to use in the summer funding period.

30 hours funded childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds & Tax free childcare

At the moment all three and four year olds are entitled to up to 15 hours of funded early education and childcare a week for up to 38 weeks a year, or 570 hours a year if “stretched”.

The government is doubling this entitlement to 30 hours a week (for up to 38 weeks a year) from September 2017.

In Somerset, families can 'stretch' this entitlement to a maximum of 1140 hours a year. The additional hours will be available to working families that meet the criteria set out below.

Who is eligible?

Families will be eligible where:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and each parent earns less than £100,000 a year.
- Parents' earnings must reflect the equivalent value of at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, which is £107 a week at the current NMW rate. This includes those parents on zero-hour contracts who meet the criteria.
- The minimum amount will always be judged against the lowest hourly rate that a person of the parent's age could legally be paid, as minimum wage rates vary by age.
- Working will include the employed and self-employed and people on zero-hour contracts, and people away from work on statutory sick pay, maternity, paternity or adoption leave, and where one parent is working and the other is in receipt of benefits because of a caring responsibility or disability.

How can parents apply?

HMRC are creating a joint online application for 30 hours and tax-free childcare (which will replace the childcare voucher schemes) where parents can enter their information and find out if they are eligible. Eligible parents will receive a voucher code that they can take to a childcare provider. This will be on gov.uk.

The 30 hours funded childcare entitlement is being introduced alongside a new scheme to help working families with the cost of childcare called Tax-Free Childcare.

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-free childcare is a new Government scheme to help working families with their childcare costs.

Parents will be able to apply for tax-free childcare and 30 hours funded childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds (which launches from 1 September 2017) through one joint application.

What is Tax-Free Childcare?

Parents will be able to open an online childcare account, which they will use to pay for their childcare directly.

For every £8 a parent pays in, the government will pay in an extra £2. Parents can receive up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs, or £4,000 for disabled children – separate from funded entitlements. The offer will be available for children up to the age of 12, or 17 for children who are disabled.

To qualify, both parents will have to be in work, and each expecting to earn at least £115 a week – and not more than £100,000 each year.

Parents can't claim Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as claiming tax credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers.