Sunnyfields Bromley - Issue 2019/3

Dear Parents and Carers,

Time is going so fast and I can’t believe we’re in May already. Well at least the weather seems to be improving and we can all get outside a lot more.

Firstly, thank you everyone for supporting Comic Relief in March. We raised £150.00 between both nurseries which will be forwarded to this good cause soon.

Secondly, thank you to those parents who attended our annual parent and staff social, especially the new parents as we know this can be quite daunting. We all enjoyed a lovely ‘competitive’ evening and would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa, Sharon and team for all their hard work on the night.

‘Horizon Photography’ have been and taken ‘enchanted’ photos of your children, which is different from our portrait studio photos in October. The day went well and we got some lovely shots.

In addition, we attach our ‘additional services’ brochure for your consideration covering our ‘out of hours’ baby-sitting, our ‘ad hoc’ extra full and half days, our cost price nappies and our delivery address. To book any of these services, please speak to Lisa or Sharon.

Next, for those parents claiming the universal 3&4 year old ‘free early education’ (FEE) through Sunnyfields, we have been advised that the associated FEE funding from the summer term will remain the same at £4.70 per hour for the maximum 15 hours per week x 38 weeks of the year. As a result, our ‘wraparound’ fees to the FEE will also remain the same from your May invoices.

We also remind you that the Government are offering a further 15 hours of free childcare for the same 3&4 year olds (over 38 weeks) to eligible ‘working’ families, making a total of 30 free hours x 38 weeks a year. For your information, Sunnyfields do offer the full ‘30 hours of free childcare’ to eligible families at the nursery, but parents need to apply direct to the HMRC to get their 30 hour code (to be forwarded to us for validation). However, please be aware that Sunnyfields ‘stretch’ the 30 hours x 38 weeks over the full 52 week year, equating to 22 free hours a week. I’m afraid you cannot choose which hours are free as they are subject to limited availability, but I can confirm that you will be able to claim the full 30 hours over a minimum of three full days for a monthly ‘wraparound fee’ covering the extra hours all year round, your child’s daily food and your guaranteed place.

I remind you also that the Government has phased out the current employer childcare vouchers in favour of their own ‘tax free childcare’ available through your HMRC Government Gateway Account. Regardless of your child’s age, you are able to set up a  ‘tax free childcare account’ per child through the HMRC allowing you (or any person) to pay in a maximum of £8000 per annum which the Government top up to £10,000 (adding back 20% tax paid). You then instruct this account to pay your childcare fees in respect of that child direct to us as a Registered Childcare Provider listed under the Scheme.

On a separate note, please be aware that the Government continues to be a lot stricter on children who do not turn up for their free sessions. You are now only allowed a maximum of three weeks of no shows in a ‘traditional school term’ (excluding sickness which has a further allowance) which must be supported by a signed absence form. If you have any queries with this, please do not hesitate to speak to Anne in the nursery or email Jacqui in Head Office.

Whilst writing about the FEE, this is a reminder that the Government introduced the ‘Early Years Pupil Premium’ in 2015 which is additional funding to support the most disadvantaged children. As your childcare provider, we would then receive this extra funding direct to be spent specifically on your ‘eligible’ children. The local authority determine if your child is eligible to receive this funding based on certain criteria (see link below), so if you think you qualify please ask to complete a new FEE parent declaration form and ‘opt in’ by giving you National Insurance number. Rest assured, all data is protected by us and the Local Authority.

EYPP criteria link – <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/64762/Parental-Guide-to-the-Early-Years-Pupil-Premium_Updated09112016.pdf>

Finally, we remind you of our Summer Fun Day and Barbeque coming up on Sunday 23rd June 2019 between 12 noon and 4pm to be held in the grounds of our Orpington nursery as usual. We have begun preparations already and know this will be a good day out for you and your ‘early years’ children (programme of events to follow next month). As a result, please please keep this date free to come along and join in all the fun.

Warm regards,

Anna Bailey

Sunnyfields Head Office