

Kirstys Little Treasures



22 Jul 25

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may or may not be aware, the government are tightening up on how childcare funding is used, the terms and conditions under which nurseries offer and provide the funding and the wording used in policies and procedures surrounding childcare funding.

Without trying to over complicate this letter too much, because there are always exceptions to the rules, as from September all children will be entitled to 15 or 30 hours 'Free' childcare if you are eligible.

KLT'S have previously been audited by the local funding authority under the previous statutory guidance, and although we were compliant and competitive in the way that we do business, under the new statutory guidance we have to better highlight and identify exactly what you pay for and give you the opportunity to opt out of additional costs such as the 'Additional Service Charge' (ASC).

It is widely accepted in the Department of Education, Local Authority and Early Years settings that 'Free Childcare' is rarely free and incurs lots of obvious and not so obvious costs to the childcare provider. In school settings for example, this cost would be accounted for within the school budgets and extras charged for special trips, activities and clubs etc. In private nursery settings there is no budget and these costs have to be met.

The way the 30 hours 'Free' childcare is designed to work is, 30 hours of childcare, term time only. So in a school setting this works out at 6 hours per day during term time, 0900-1500hrs (ish), i.e. school hours. It is this offer that we are mandated to offer you, 30 hours 'free childcare'. At KLT's this will be 0900-1500 term time only.

This will allow your child to be looked after during these hours at no cost to you. Any extra associated costs such as resources (pens, paper, books, paints etc) would have to be paid for by KLT's. As I'm sure you can imagine, this isn't a great business model and isn't sustainable for a private nursery such as ours. Nether the less, for us to comply with the new statutory guidance we have been told by the local funding authority that we now have to formally offer you the allocated free childcare and give you the option to opt out of any further charges. If you choose this offer we will accommodate you where we can. With this offer there will be the option for you to pay for meals, clubs, activities, soft play, visits, extra hours etc but this will be totally optional and would be billed on a monthly basis.

It is really difficult to provide an exhaustive list of what all the additional services, i.e. the clubs, activities and events are or will be, but below is what we have come up with. In brackets after, is the cost that would have to be paid extra if you wanted your child to participate. But please remember this would be totally optional and your decision.

Clubs: (£5 per club per day)

Karate

Football

Dance

Song and Dance

Rugby

Workshops/ Events: (£5 per workshop per day)

Drumming workshop

Animal encounters

Forest School

Graduation

Art Classes

Activities - i.e. anything that incurs a consumable cost: (£3 per activity per day) Cooking

Messy Play

Gardening

Crafting

Soft play

Ovivio: (£1 per child, per day)

NOTE: All scheduled clubs, activities and events may change on a daily, weekly or monthly basis so please contact KLT's on a weekly basis for updates.

Like I said, the list isn't exhaustive but gives you an idea of costs involved with regards to certain things. On a weekly or daily basis, you would have to be asked if you want your child to be involved in these activities, if you decide to opt in, these costs would be added to your bill. If you choose not to opt in, your child won't be able to participate. **We will call this option one.**

In this instance, it is extremely important that your child doesn't feel disadvantaged and every effort will be made to ensure they do something similar to try and emulate the same learning objectives, for example, if the children are cooking, this could try to be replicated in the role play environment, or if the children are experiencing an animal encounter there could be an animal colouring activity highlighting parts of an animal. It is worth noting on most days if everything was opted in for, on average, it would be in excess of £20.

From an administrative point of view this will be extremely difficult to control for both you and us, and not financially the best value for money.

At KLT's we now give you the option to pay a daily 'Additional Service Charge' (ASC) at either £6 or £8 per half day £10 or £15 per full day dependant on age (Younger children participate in less, hence price difference). This cost covers you for everything and there are no additional costs for anything other than food or extra hours, and is kin to a gym or media subscription whereby you are all in for everything regardless of what is going on. For ease, to both you as parents/carers, and us as a business, this fee is averaged over the year and presents to you as a set monthly payment. It is important to highlight that this cost is not attached to the 'free childcare', it is related to the additional services.

It is because of ASC payment that we can operate the way that we do, it allows us to plan for the future with respect to growth, repairs, staffing, equipment provision etc. It is this cost that also allows us to provide specialist HR support to our staff, it allows the staff to attend higher quality training on a more frequent basis, it allows us to provide a specialist SEND provision above and beyond the Early Years requirements, it allows us to provide sanitary items such as flannels, bedding, Calpol, sun lotion, baby wipes among other things. It also allows us to provide the 'Ovivio App platform' for child development and parent communication. It contributes towards the IT, interactive tablets etc. Essentially it is this cost that allows us to be KLT's, operate the way that we do, and be the nursery that you viewed and decided to choose, and trust, for the privileged job of looking after your child. It is this cost that we have to be totally transparent about, and although we already are open and honest about it, as shown, we now have to equate all that it offers individually into a list with an associated cost that you would have to pay extra if you were to opt out of it. This is our optional offer to you. **We will call this option two.**

Note: In accordance with the Department of Education's guidelines, it is at the childcare providers discretion if they decide to offer stretch funding. Stretch funding allows your 6 hours a day term time only to be stretched over the year allowing you to use 20 hours a week all year round, 2 full days, 4 half days etc, again you can pay for extra hours, food and activities on top of this if required. It is here that it gets expensive for private nurseries because of the extra staffing costs amongst other things. Every nursery placement will have to be reviewed on receipt of the attached form and each request of stretch funding will be considered on an individual basis.

Please reply to this letter by 15th August 2025 to select what option you would like to choose for your future at KLT's. This letter will now be presented to all future new enquires. If we do not hear from by the 15th August 2025 it will be assumed that you are happy with your current contract and will automatically be enrolled on option 2. No further action required.

To quickly recap:

Option one – Government offered free childcare* consisting of 30 hours per week term time only. To be used between 0900-1500, Mon-Fri. Extra hours can be paid for subject to availability as can food at your request. Extra charges will apply for all the aforementioned if opted in for.

Option Two – Government offered free childcare* consisting of 30 hours per week term time only. To be used between 0900-1500, Mon-Fri. Extra hours can be paid for subject to availability as can food at your request. This option includes the ASC charge and there would be no further costs with this option.

Below is a list of our current fees as of 01 September 2025:

Half day **Enhanced** (0730-1230/1300-1800) – £47

Half day **Standard** (0800-1230/1300-1730) – £42

Full day **Enhanced** (0730-1800) – £82

Full day **Standard** (0800-1730) – £74

Extra hours – £10

Food – Breakfast – £2

Lunch – £3.25

Dinner – £2.75

Clubs – £5 per child, per club, per day**

Workshops/Events – £5 per child, per workshop, per day**

Activities – £3 per activity, per child, per day**

Ovivo – £1 per day, per child**

Additional Service Charge (ASC)*** – Age 9 months -2 – Half day – £7

Full Day – £11

Age 2-5 – Half Day – £9

Full Day – £16

Be aware that there are no price increases involved with this letter so please don't panic. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the new statutory guidance and to confirm your future childcare requirements with regards to the use of your 'free' government childcare.

If anyone has any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kindest regards,

Kirsty and Kyle Toolan

Directors

***Subject to eligibility. **only payable on option one. ***only payable on option two.**

Note: Our fees are revised annually every March/April and reviewed every September.