



2024/2025 Funding Offer

In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare for parents, children, the economy, and women. By 2027 to 2028, this government will expect to be spending in excess of £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs. This represents the single biggest investment in childcare in England ever.

This new offer will empower parents, allowing them to progress their careers and support their families. The new entitlements will be introduced in phases:

- from April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week

All hours stated above are based on 38 weeks per year. From April 2024, Moorwell Miracles will only offer a stretched funding offer of 51 weeks per year as below.

	What 3- & 4-year-olds get	What 2-year-olds get	What children aged 9-23 months get
From January 2024 (52 weeks per year)	All get 11.25 hours OR 22.5 hours if eligible	None	None
From April 2024 (51 weeks per year)	All get 11.5 hours OR 23 hours if eligible	11.5 hours	None
From September 2024 (51 weeks per year)	All get 11.5 hours OR 23 hours if eligible	11.5 hours	11.5 hours
From September 2025 (51 weeks per year)	23 hours	23 hours	23 hours

Funded childcare hours [eligibility](#)*

(Both) parents must work and earn the equivalent of £166 per week, each with a taxable income of no more than £100,000.

Children are eligible for the funding from the term **AFTER** their birthday – this could be their 9-month, 2-year or 3-year birthday.

Child's 9-month, 2-year, or 3-year birthday	Funding commencement date
1 st September to 31 st December	January
1 st January to 31 st March	April
1 st April to 31 st August	September

How can you use your funded hours?

	Full Day	AM	PM
11.5 hours	7:15 – 18:45 11.5 hours	7:15 – 13:00 5.75 hours	13:00 – 18:45 5.75 hours
23 hours	7:15 – 18:45 11.5 hours	7:15 – 13:00 5.75 hours	13:00 – 18:45 5.75 hours

- Funded hours will be booked as a combination of the above sessions, for example, 4 x AM sessions for a 23-hour entitlement, or 1 x Full Day session for a 11.5-hour entitlement.
- If parents require a 7am or 7pm drop-off or pick-up, this will be charged for additionally to the funded sessions.
- The funding will be applied automatically by the Nursery Manager, in the most cost-effective way, to your child's current booked sessions.
- Additional sessions to what your child currently attends can be added at our standard fee-paying rate from September 2024. This will allow us one full term to establish the new funding offer and assess availability accurately. All requests for additional sessions from September 2024 will be accepted after the 1st April 2024 and they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

How to apply for your eligibility code

If you are eligible for funded hours, you will need to apply online using the link below and you will receive a code by email, or through your Government Gateway account if you are already registered for tax free childcare. You cannot apply for your code until the term your child is eligible, if you already use the tax-free childcare service, your code may automatically show on your Gateway Account without further application.

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

When you have applied and received your code, you will need to complete a Parent Agreement Form (PAF). These will be available with the Nursery Administrator or Nursery Manager who will be happy to assist with completing the form.

Nursery will require a copy of your child's birth certificate along with the completed PAF.

The opening date for applications is 2nd January 2024, however it is worth noting that you will have to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months so the Government are recommending you apply towards the end of January/beginning of February to ensure you can actually start your funded place before the re-confirmation date.

Tax Free Childcare and Universal Credit

Tax free childcare and universal credit can still be claimed alongside the Government childcare funding.

Meal and consumable charges

In addition to the Government funding there are some small meal and consumable costs which are applied to all funded sessions.

The Government guidance states

“Government funding is intended to deliver 15 to 30 hours a week of free, high quality flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of food, other consumables, additional hours, or additional activities. Parents can therefore expect to pay for any food offered by the provider. Parents can also expect to pay for other consumables or additional activities.”

Our consumables charge covers all snacks and meals, prepared from fresh ingredients daily by our in-house nursery cook. It also covers items such as hand towels, soap, disposable gloves and aprons, cleaning materials, ingredients for baking, sensory play, craft resources, and training for our Educators such as Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding – this list is not exhaustive!

We appreciate this is an additional cost to you, and we have kept this to a minimum and we do very much thank you for your cooperation. This will help us towards being able to give your child the best quality experience they can have during their time with us.

Meals and Consumables for Funded Places

Session	Times	Price	-20% Tax Free	Included Meals
Full Day	7:30am – 7:00pm	£10.00	£8.00	Breakfast, AM Snack, Lunch, PM Snack, Tea
Morning	7:15am – 1:00pm	£5.00	£4.00	Breakfast, AM Snack, Lunch
Afternoon	1:00pm – 6:45pm	£5.00	£4.00	PM Snack, Tea
7am Drop Off / 7pm Pick Up	Per hour	£7.00	£5.60	N/A

Breakfast will not be available past 9am.
This is to ensure that learning can swiftly take place and mirror what would happen in a school environment.

New Key Terms from April 2024

- Apart from those children leaving for school as of 31st August 2024, all children currently receiving funding will need to transfer over to the new offer as outlined above.
- The flexible hours funding offer (where you can currently specify drop off and pick up times) will be withdrawn from 1st April 2024 and set funded sessions will be allocated.
- The 9am – 3pm session will be withdrawn as of 31st March 2024 for all children, unless your child is leaving for school as of 31st August 2023, meaning a 7-7, 7-1 or 1-7 are the only bookable sessions. This is due to the limited uptake of this session and staffing accordingly.
- All requests for swapped sessions will be declined due to monitoring the funded hours and maintaining staffing ratios. This includes swapping missed sessions due to holiday, sickness, or other absence.
- If you expect to be early dropping off, or late collecting your child, please notify the nursery as soon as possible. If notified, the additional time will be charged at the standard hourly rate. Unexplained early drop offs or late pick-ups, of more than 5 minutes, will be monitored and charged for at £15 per 15 minutes. If you collect your child after 7:00pm a late fee of £25.00 per 15 minutes will be charged to cover emergency, out of hours, staffing costs.
- From 2024, nursery will close for 1 week between Christmas Day and New Years Day – funding will be offered over 51 weeks per year and there will be no charges for this week. Nursery will remain open until 7pm on Christmas Eve and re-open at 7am on the day following New Years Day (or the substitute bank holiday if it falls on a weekend).
- There will be no annual holiday allowance for children – instead, fees will not be chargeable for Christmas week closure in addition to all Bank Holidays.
- Moorwell Miracles does not have a term time only place offer – all places must be stretched over the 51 weeks per year.
- From September 2024, when all children aged over 9 months receive Government funding, all children must attend a minimum of 2 sessions per week. This could be 2 half day sessions and does not need to be 2 full days. This is due for continuity of care and to support quicker settling of new starters. If your child requires a second session to be added to their current plan, this can be requested after 1st April 2024.
- There will be a £100 fee to be charged upon registration – this will remain on your child's account to be used against their first invoice. Deposits are non-refundable and will be forfeit if the start date is delayed for over 30 days' or the place is cancelled.
- Fees are payable in full for all absences, including holidays and sickness, unless agreed at the discretion of the Nursery Manager.
- There will be a £30 late payment fee/administrative charge for all payments not received into the nursery by midnight on the 1st of the month – parents are responsible for ensuring the tax-free account has cleared to make the payment date.
- To terminate a place, notice is required until the end of the following month. For example, if notice is given on 16th October, the notice period will run until 30th November.
- There will be an annual fee increase on 1st April every year for both fee-paying parents and meal/consumable charges. We aim going forward to keep this to one increase per year along with the NMW increase.
- Funding dates will commence on the 2nd January (or after New Years' Day), 1st April and 1st September and not in line with the school term dates.