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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHILDCARE FUNDING

Dear parents,

We would like to keep you informed of the latest development regarding the financial assistance and funding of school fees.

#### 15 hour universal offer for three and four-year-old children

- All three and four year old children registered at l'Ecole du parc are eligible to receive some funding from the Council, up to a maximum of 15 hours per week. Eligibility starts the term following their third birthday (for this purpose, terms start on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> April)
- Funding is paid directly by Wandsworth Council to us at the current rate of £5.20 per hour (rate to be updated mid 2020), for a maximum of 15 hours per week, and over 35 weeks. The child's annual entitlement is divided into three equal termly instalments.
- Each term, we will ask you to sign a declaration from the parent (attached with your invoice) to declare that you have received the equivalent to a Free Early Years Provision place for the current term and that you are not claiming further funding from other Borough Councils.
- Please note that this funding does not cover all the cost related to your child's education at l'Ecole du Parc. The additional cost is covered by the parents and is itemised in your invoice as **"agreed package of service"**. It includes services such as daily snacks and lunch, outings, highly trained French and British teachers, drama, music lessons and an embroidered smock.

#### 30 hour extended offer for three and four-year children

- As of September 2017, some children are eligible for up to 30 hours of Education and Childcare Place (15 hours extended on top of the universal offer). We have worked hard with Wandsworth Council and are very pleased that children attending our school are able to access this extended offer. The Government's current criteria requires all parents in the household to be working more than 16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage, and up to a maximum salary of £100,000 a year per parent.
- Eligibility can be checked online on <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> and application must be made before the 31<sup>st</sup> August for the Autumn term (children must be three by the 31st August to be eligible in the Autumn term). Wandsworth Council will notify us automatically when the parent's application has been approved, and the funding will appear on your invoice accordingly.
- The current rate of £5.20 per hour (rate to be updated mid 2020), for a maximum of 15 hours per week, and over 35 weeks. The child's annual entitlement is divided into three equal termly instalments.

- Each term, we will ask you to sign a declaration from the parent (attached with your invoice) to declare that you have received the equivalent to a Free Early Years Provision place for the current term and that you are not claiming further funding from other Borough Councils.
- Please note that this funding does not cover all the cost related to your child's education at l'Ecole du Parc. The additional cost is covered by the parents and is itemised in your invoice as **"agreed package of service"**. It includes services such as daily snacks and lunch, outings, highly trained French and British teachers, drama, music lessons and an embroidered smock.

### Funding for two-year-old children

- Since 2013, some two-year old children can also receive some funding, based on the following criteria, as established by Wandsworth Council:
  - Parent qualify for Benefits
  - Children Looked After (CLA), such as adopted and fostered children
  - Children who have a finalised Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for special needs or qualify for Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Funding for two-year old children is not automatic and will require that parents apply online <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- The number of place is limited, so please call us for more information.

### Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for three and four-year-old children

- We can claim up to a maximum of £300 per academic year to enhance your child's specific needs in our school if they meet the following eligibility criteria;
  - Parent qualify for Benefits
  - Children Looked After (CLA), such as adopted and fostered children
- We can, for instance, buy equipment to support children's learning and development or employ specialist staff to help children develop their speech and language skills  
For more information about the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for 3 and 4-year olds in Wandsworth, visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/eypp](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/eypp)

### Tax Free Childcare for Families

- The new Tax Free Childcare scheme is for **working parents** not in receipt of Universal Credit or Tax Credits.
- Both parents must be working (one in a lone parent household) and must be earning more than £115 per week and less than £100,000 per year per person.
- HM Government will contribute 20% to the parent's 80% in the tax-free account.
- **This scheme will completely replace the voucher scheme from October 2018** and payment will be made directly from the parents' account to the provider.

## Universal Credit

It replaces six means tested benefits and includes a childcare element.

- Households can receive **up to 85% towards their childcare costs**,
  - up to a maximum of **£646.35** for one child per month, and
  - up to a maximum of **£1,108.04** for two or more children per month.

There is a very handy **calculator** on [www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk](http://www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk) where parents can enter their details and decide whether Tax Free Childcare or Tax Credits is the best option for them.

## Childcare vouchers

- If you have already enrolled in the Childcare Vouchers scheme, you can use them to pay the school fees.
- There are many companies offering this service and we at l'Ecole du Parc accept vouchers from all relevant companies.
- The government has unfortunately closed the scheme to new entrance.

Other Useful sites:

[www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/universal-credit-an-introduction](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/universal-credit-an-introduction)

[www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know)

<http://fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/kb5/wandsworth/fsd/family.page?familychannel=2047>).

[www.wandsworth2yearold.org.uk](http://www.wandsworth2yearold.org.uk)

**HMRC dedicated helpline for 30-hour Childcare Offer: 03001234097**