



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an important change to the way we offer the government-funded 30-hour childcare entitlement at [Nursery/School Name]. This change is in response to updated statutory guidance from the Department for Education, which all providers must now follow from **April 2025** onwards.

◆ What's changing?

Under the new guidance, **funded nursery hours must be offered as a continuous block**, with **no mandatory charges during the core funded time** (including during lunchtime). This means we are no longer allowed to create a break in the middle of the day that requires payment, as we previously did with the lunch period. We have carefully reviewed our current nursery schedule and considered the impact on children, staff, and families. To ensure we remain fully compliant and continue to offer a high-quality, consistent experience for all children, we will be adjusting our funded session times from **September 2025**.

◆ New Funded Session Times (from September 2025)

From the start of the autumn term, the **30-hour funded places** will be delivered as follows:
Monday to Friday:

🕒 **8:45am – 2:45pm** (6 hours of funded childcare per day)

This structure delivers the full 30 hours over five days, with no interruptions or chargeable breaks.

◆ Optional Add-On (Voluntary)

We understand that some families may need care until the end of the school day. For this reason, we will be offering an optional 30-minute **extended session** from:

🕒 **2:45pm – 3:15pm**

📖 This short session will be **chargeable** as it is **outside of the funded entitlement** and entirely optional. The cost will be £3.00 per day/£15 per week.

Children attending the full funded day (8:45–2:45) can either:

- Bring a **packed lunch from home**, or
- Opt into a **voluntary paid lunch**, which we will continue to offer for your convenience.

Why the change?

These changes are not something we have chosen to do, but rather a requirement set by national government policy. The new guidance is designed to make sure all families can access their funded hours fairly and without additional compulsory costs.

We appreciate that this is a change from what we previously offered and want to reassure you that our priority remains providing a calm, consistent, and nurturing environment for your child. We have carefully planned this timetable to **minimise disruption** and maintain the structure and flow of our daily routine.

What do I need to do?

If your child will be accessing a 30-hour funded place, we just need to know which option you would like. We have attached a booking form so you can indicate whether you would like to:

- Use the **optional paid 2:45–3:15 session**
- Collect at 2:45 at the end of the **funded session**

If you have any questions about these changes or how they may affect your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're more than happy to talk it through with you. Thank you as always for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

Headteacher
Mrs J. M. Myerscough

St. Joseph & St. Bede R.C.
Danesmoor Drive, Bury.
Lancs. BL9 6ER

0161 764 3781
www.sjsb.stoccat.org.uk
office@sjsb.stoccat.org.uk

Dream Believe Achieve

I confirm my child _____
will attend Nursery until 3.15pm, a charge of £15 per week will be applicable.

Signed:

Date:

I confirm my child _____
will attend Nursery until 2.45pm.

Signed: Date:

Date: