



### Welcome

Welcome to all our new families joining us this month. We look forward to building strong partnerships with you whilst caring for your child(ren). We will share their day with you via the Family App. If you need any support logging on, please have a chat with either Chloe or Shaney.

If you have any queries regarding your invoice, please contact Gail directly on: [manager@smithfieldnursery.co.uk](mailto:manager@smithfieldnursery.co.uk)  
This will ensure you receive a faster response regarding any financial matters.

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that all our families celebrating the festive period had a wonderful time. I can't quite believe that Smithfield House is now into its 13<sup>th</sup> year!

We would like to congratulate Sophie, our Room Leader within the 3–5-year-old group (Ravens) in completing her Level 3 SENDCo course. Smithfield House is very proud to state that it now has two fully qualified staff members in SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities). This is an amazing support for all our children and parents in ensuring that where appropriate, early help can be obtained for any/all children attending the nursery and needing a little more support.

#### Just a reminder:

To all our families whose child(ren) who will qualify for the up-and-coming free entitlement in April. Please remember to make your application in time for us to claim for your child. We are expecting a massive crash on the government website when parents wait until the last minute to make their application. Please don't get caught out and then possibly miss out in this funding, make your application now!

I have carried over the previous information from December's newsletter. Please see the information provided:

Please log on to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) for more information on the new funding available from April 2024.

### Clothes Swap Shop

Thinking of the current cost of living and the fact that the children often grow out of their clothes before they have hardly had the opportunity to wear them out. Additionally, helping to reduce our carbon footprint, we would like your thoughts on having a nursery Clothes Swap Shop. These would be for outer clothing: jumpers, coats/jackets, trousers, wellie boots etc. We are happy to have these available either in your child's room/cloakroom area, in the parent area downstairs or upstairs in the reception area. If the clothes are in good condition, we are happy to sort through them and have them available for you to look through and potentially rehome.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

*Also, please be mindful, (and what the government don't advertise) if your child's 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> birthday is after the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2024, they will not qualify for the funding until September 2024. Funding is only given the term **after** your child's 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
For babies, they will need to be 9 months old **before** the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.*

Remember to make your application sooner rather than later so you don't miss out on any available funding.

**This information has been taken from [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk)**

**From Apr 2024** - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a 2-year-old.

**From Sept 2024** - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a child between 9 and 23 months old.

**From Sept 2025** - Up to 30 hours for eligible working families in England with a child from 9 months old up to school age.

### **Partnerships with local businesses:**

We are always looking to form partnerships with our local businesses. Working together can potentially mean that not only would there be good quality childcare near the workplace but may also allow colleagues who need emergency care (Ad-hoc days) to avoid taking unnecessary time off work. Please speak to your colleagues and HR departments about the benefits of having a childcare facility on their doorstep. This also extends to the local universities and their students. Encourage them to contact us and visit the nursery to see what we have to offer.

### **Buggies:**

As our numbers are growing, the buggy area is becoming a little congested. Please can we ask that you consider other parents when parking your buggy in the reception area.

### **Babysitting:**

This service seems to be becoming more popular amongst our parents. We are having more requests for our staff to care for the children to allow our parents a well-deserved evening out. If you would like to take advantage of the service, please speak to Chloe or Shaney in the office. They will provide you with the necessary forms to complete.

**N.B. The nursery does not gain financially from this service. This is an arrangement between yourselves and the staff. The girls give up their own personal time to care for your child in your home. Please be mindful that this cannot interfere with the operational hours of the nursery and that the nursery's insurance does not cover babysitting.**

We are continually updating our website; you will find more information regarding the Government Funding available from April 2024 through to September 2025.

Please visit us at [www.smithfieldnursery.co.uk](http://www.smithfieldnursery.co.uk). Also, let us know if you have any ideas for it that you would like to see.