



Headteacher: Mrs Lindsay Robertson BA (Hons) NPQH

25th March 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

In recent years, Willow Fields Community Primary School has been able to offer all children in nursery 30 hours of education in the summer term if they were transferring to Reception class in September. This offer was a decision that previous head teachers had made due to numbers transferring to Reception being low and therefore, staffing in the nursery being able to cope with and sustain the increase in hours for those children. This was a provision that was at increased cost to school as no additional funding was in place for the additional hours that the children attended.

However, after reviewing our numbers and ratios for summer term 2019, we are no longer able to offer the 30 hours (full days) for children who will be coming into Reception in September 2019. The exception being those children who are eligible for 30 hours funding and have a code (e.g. those parents who work more than 16 hours and earn less than £100,000 per year).

The decision not to offer full time education to those 3 year olds coming to reception has been made due to the high number of applications for children who wish to come to our nursery and who will be three years old on or before 5th April 2019. We delayed the decision until we were able to confirm how many children were coming to nursery in the summer entry. These numbers are higher than we have ever had due to the increased popularity of our nursery. Therefore, we have had to reconsider the offer for this year as these children have a legal right to a nursery place and this has an impact on our staffing ratios.

Please be aware that the previous 30 hours offer is not a right for nursery children and is not something offered by all schools as children are only entitled to the free 30 hours if parents/carers have a 30 hour code. Three year olds are only able to access a place in the term after they are 3 and this year we have an increased number who fulfill the criteria and need to be admitted in the summer term. As always, we welcome all new children to our school and can't wait to meet them!

We always try our best to support our children and families and know that many of you will be disappointed by our inability to provide the additional hours for you this year. This is something that will be reviewed on an annual basis as numbers fluctuate year by year. However, please be reassured that due to the investment in resources within the nursery environment and a much higher standard of education offered to your children by Mrs Beavis and her team, the children are making great progress and are demonstrating skills in reading, writing, maths etc that have been highlighted as highly effective practice. I am very proud of the nursery staff and children and know that they will start reception with the correct skills and attitudes to enable them to continue to make great progress.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Beavis.

With very best wishes,

Lindsay Robertson
Headteacher

Sarah Beavis
EYFS Leader

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