



Dear Parent

15 hours funded childcare per week for children aged 2 for the Michaelmas Term 2024

This letter is to provide you with the information you need regarding how 15 hours of funded childcare per week for 2 year olds works at Little Amesbury. We are sending this letter to all Baby Room and Pre-Nursery parents for awareness and information, whilst conscious that it does not apply to everyone.

If you have already informed us of your eligibility code for 15 hours, the only action required is to renew your code every 3 months and/or inform us on finance@amesburyschool.co.uk if you are told you are no longer eligible.

How it works

From the date of its introduction in April 2024 we are delighted to offer all eligible 2 year olds up to 15 hours of funded childcare*, at Amesbury during term time, i.e., it does not apply to holiday club bookings.

Subject to confirmation of eligibility, the funding starts from the term after your child turns 2 years old. The cut off dates for each term, as set out by the government's Early Years funding entitlement programme, are:

- If your child turns 2 years old between **1 September and 31 December**, they will be eligible for 2 year old funding from the beginning of the Spring Term
- If your child turns 2 years old between **1 January and 31 March**, they will be eligible for 2 year old funding from the beginning of the Summer Term
- If your child turns 2 years old between **1 April and 31 August**, they will be eligible for 2 year old funding from the beginning of the Autumn Term

At Amesbury you can apply 3 hours of funded hours to each session your child attends. To claim the full 15 hours your child must attend the setting for two and a half days. See table below for illustration:

	15 hours funding
Session 1	1 session with funding
Session 2	2 sessions with funding
Session 3	3 sessions with funding
Session 4	4 sessions with funding
Session 5	5 sessions with funding

Session 6	5 sessions with funding + 1 full price
Session 7	5 sessions with funding + 2 full price
Session 8	5 sessions with funding + 3 full price
Session 9	5 sessions with funding + 4 full price
Session 10	5 sessions with funding + 5 full price

*see final page addendum on eligibility criteria.

Attendance at other Nurseries

Please note that if you are eligible for funding, you may claim the funding from several settings (up to the overall maximum of 15 hours per week). When you complete the Surrey County Council Declaration form each term you are eligible, you will be required to list all providers (other than Amesbury, if applicable) where your child is claiming funding and give details of the number of hours you are claiming per week. ***We only claim for the hours your child is at Amesbury.***

To claim

You will need to generate a code initially through the government's childcare choices, **and can apply for the code [here](#). To start benefiting from this funding in September 2024 you must apply for your code and send it to finance@amesburyschool.co.uk by 5 July 2024.** Amesbury will then claim the funding on your behalf and the remaining fees will then be applied to your bill.

Please note that, after having received your code, it is then necessary to renew your code every three months to continue to claim funding. This is applicable even if you haven't yet started to use your code to make a claim, e.g., if you receive your code before 1 June you will need to renew your code before it becomes valid in September. Please note that this is the parents' responsibility. If you are informed by HMRC that you are no longer eligible please let us know by emailing finance@amesburyschool.co.uk.

What happens to the funding when my child turns 3 years old?

The good news is that from the term following your child's third birthday 15 hours of Universal funding will be available, for which a code is not required. The cut off dates for each term, as set out by the government's Early Years funding entitlement programme, are:

- If your child turns 3 years old between **1 September and 31 December**, they will be eligible for 3 & 4 year old funding from the beginning of the Spring Term
- If your child turns 3 years old between **1 January and 31 March**, they will be eligible for 3 & 4 year old funding from the beginning of the Summer Term
- If your child turns 3 years old between **1 April and 31 August**, they will be eligible for 3 & 4 year old funding from the beginning of the Autumn Term

An additional 15 hours of Extended funding can be claimed for eligible 3 & 4 year olds. It is necessary to apply for a code to claim these additional hours. Please see the 3 & 4 year old Funding letter for further information.

How does this differ from the process for claiming for 3 & 4 year olds?

In order to claim up to 15 hours of funded childcare for 2 year olds, it is necessary to apply for an eligibility code. For 3 & 4 year olds a code is not required to claim up to 15 hours of funded childcare as this is offered by Surrey County Council as a Universal entitlement. A code is only required for 3 & 4 year olds if you wish to claim a further 15 hours of funded childcare (ie a 30 hour eligibility code).

Please do not hesitate to contact us at finance@amesburyschool.co.uk, if you have any queries relating to this letter.

Kindest regards

Sarah Jones Bursar, Amesbury School

Eligibility Criteria

Firstly, you must meet the criteria, you can check here: [Check you're eligible for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-youre-eligible-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

Eligibility rules for 15 hours funded childcare an overview:

- Your child must be aged 2
- Both parents must be working - or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum wage or the National Living Wage
- Each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000
- Parents on zero hour contracts or self-employed are eligible
- One or both parents may be on parental or maternity leave
- One or both parents are on statutory sick pay
- You must live in England

Useful – Surrey County Council website: [Working parents entitlement - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/working-parents-entitlement)