

30 hours free childcare

We are writing to you to inform you about the government's plan to introduce 30 hours of free childcare for eligible families from September 2017. The existing offer of 15 hours of free childcare for all 3 & 4 year old children will continue under the universal offer.

The additional 15 hours will be available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and earns less than £100,000 a year. Working will include employed and self-employed persons. This includes those parents on zero contract hours who meet the criteria.

Families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for these additional hours. However, the government intends to make provision to support families where one parent is in receipt of benefits relating to caring responsibilities or a disability and the other parent is working. Full details will be set out in regulations, but the government intends that the additional entitlement should be available in the following circumstances:

- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity leave;
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on adoption leave;
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay;
- One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring; or
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits

If you are interested in taking up the 30 hours free childcare and you think that you meet the criteria, please click on the link to download the survey. Please fill out the survey and return it to the school office or by email to lorna.mclean@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk