

Little Munchkins



September
2023

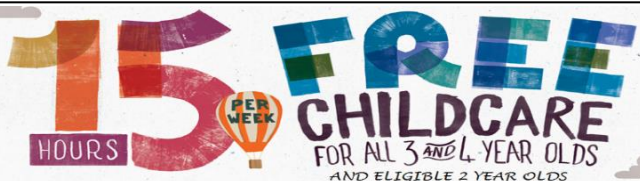
little things matter!



Welcome! A very big welcome back to our previous term-time "Munchkins" - it's great to see you all and we hope you had an amazing Summer break and for those of you with siblings who left us to start school, we hope they are having an amazing time!



A very warm welcome also to our new "Munchkins" and families. We hope your time with us is a really enjoyable experience & if ever there's anything you're not sure of, or if you have any points to raise or query, please do feel free to chat with one of us at drop-off/hand-over or to email or call – we're always happy to help !



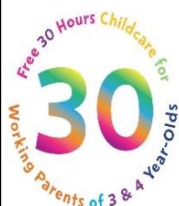
Funding For those of you who have researched nursery funding – it can feel very confusing and a bit of a "minefield" so here's some information that you may find helpful.

For parents of our 2-year olds, were you aware that you may qualify for 15 hours a week free childcare funding? You can find out more and apply at the following link - or if you wanted us to check, just email in your full name, date of birth and NI number and we can run the check for you. [2-Year Old Funding](#)

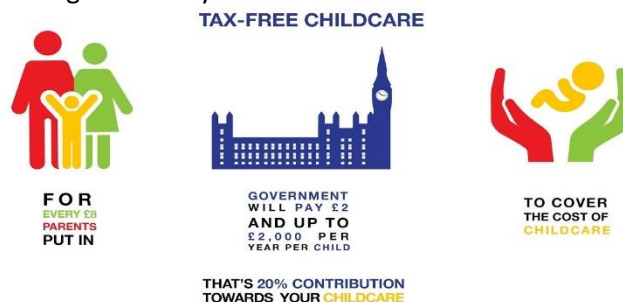
In addition, all 3 to 4-year-olds in England can get 570 free hours per year from the term after the third birthday. It's usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year, but you can choose to take fewer hours over more weeks if your child comes in full-time. Some 3 to 4-year-olds are eligible for 30 hours free childcare a week – you can find out if you are eligible and how to apply at this link: [30-Hours Childcare](#)

For those of you who have not yet completed the Government Funding Form, we'll be sending these home shortly (also attached) & would appreciate it if they can come back in as soon as possible

Don't forget – if you qualify for additional funding, you must reconfirm eligibility every 3 months from the date of receiving your code. You will receive email reminders from the Government & we will endeavour to send them too, but it is a parent's responsibility to ensure all codes are valid and kept up to date



Tax-Free Childcare In this tough economic climate that has seen all of our household bills skyrocketing, we thought it was worth mentioning that many of our families are currently missing out on **saving up to £2000 per child per year** by taking advantage of the **Government-backed Tax-Free Childcare scheme**. This is designed so that for every 80p you put into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the state will add 20p. It essentially gives you basic-rate tax back on your bill – hence **saving 20% of your childcare costs**. Application is made online through the Childcare Choices site www.childcarechoices.gov.uk and can be made for all eligible children at the same time! If you are interested but not sure where to start, why not pop us an email and we can help to see if you can be saving in this way!



Languages



If your child's first Language isn't English, please do let us know – you could even email in some of the common words & phrases that we could use here to support their learning. We do have members of staff fluent in Polish & Spanish and even a little bit of German & Italian in the mix!

Meet the Little Munchkins Team

As many of you are aware, Kayleigh Shallish from the management team is still on maternity leave with the gorgeous baby Troy, but we do look forward to welcoming her back in the not-too-distant future! Meanwhile, for those of you who are new to the Little Munchkins family, here are the names & faces of our current staff!



Nick Gregory
Owner/Manager
Level 5



Tabitha Folkard
Deputy Manager
BA (Hons) in EYE



Emma Gunning
Deputy Manager
Level 3



Vicky Savage
SENCo
Level 3



Kayleigh Shallish
Maternity Leave
Level 3



Sabrina Davis
Practitioner
Level 3



Kirstie Dear
Practitioner
Level 3



Paulina Polak
Practitioner
Level 3



Taz Branson
Practitioner
Level 2



Alex Howell
Practitioner
Level 2



Molly Dyson
Apprentice



Kira Morby
Apprentice



Zi-Zi Smith
Apprentice



Alyson Brown
Chef



Sharon Hughes
Administrator

Farewells



It's with great sadness that both Tabitha Folkard, Deputy Manager and Sabrina Davis, Level 3 Practitioner, will be leaving us in the next month to move on to pastures new. They've both been a tremendous asset to Little Munchkins & we're sure you'll join us in wishing them every success in their new vocations. They will both be greatly missed but a huge asset to their new employers who are very lucky to have them!

Horrid Hands!



On 12/9/23 we've arranged for the local nursing team to come in to help our pre-schoolers become **Germ-Busters!** This fun healthcare awareness session will help our children understand how germs spread & how to stay healthy! We're also looking to find a dental practice to come in & run a session on good dental hygiene so if anyone has any contacts in this field please let us know

Service Children

If you or your partner are, or have been, active members of one of the armed services in the past 6 years, you may be aware that schools receive a pupil premium fund which is currently worth £335 per Service child to support the potential disruption to education and everyday life that can come hand in hand. Nurseries and pre-schools don't receive this funding sadly, but, at Little Munchkins, we do like to acknowledge and support the difficulties these families face due to loved ones being posted away for long periods or having to get used to the upheaval of moving far away from family and friends due to postings.

We are very pro-active here and have reached out to several groups and charities that support the children and families of military personnel to ensure that we have lots of resources to help support our Service Munchkins, and their families through the emotional and difficult times that can be associated with this. In addition, one of our staff is a mum of 4 who has been a military wife for many years and has personal experience of all of this so, if we aren't already aware, please do get in touch if you come under this sector.



Tapestry

If you haven't already activated your child's Tapestry account, please do check for the email you will have received (this sometimes goes to the Junk/Spam folder if you can't find it). Tapestry is the online journal system that allows us to keep you informed of your child's learning and progress! If we don't yet have a photo displayed on your little one's profile, please email one to use at littlemunchkinsfareham@gmail.com



Did you know that we can give several relatives access to each child's account with your permission so that loved ones who may be overseas, or grandparents can share the joy of seeing what they've been up to? Again, if this is something you'd like – just pop us an email and we will get it sorted!

And finally.....

We do still have spaces for both full and term time children, so if you are pleased with your experience at Little Munchkins and know someone who may be looking for childcare, please do pass on our phone number **01329 230681**, email address littlemunchkinsfareham@gmail.com and/or website <https://www.little-munchkins.online/>

As much as we love to hear good feedback, we also welcome suggestions for improvements - we will be sending out another parent survey again soon but, in the meantime, please let us know if there is anything we can do to improve! Many thanks!



School Bag Essentials!

Ideally, we like our "Little Munchkins" to have at least **2 changes** of clothes if at all possible as do we like to get them out in the garden! Also, a named sun hat, sun cream and water bottle.



It would also be really helpful if you are able to apply suncream on your child before they arrive while the sun's shining!



Please can we make sure we do not send our children to nursery in their best clothes as we do like to get messy at Little Munchkins!



Colouring Competition



Thanks to all of our Munchkins who submitted their colouring pictures for the NursePlus competition. We didn't win but were runners up! WELL DONE!