



9th October 2025

Dear Parents,

Early Education Funding at Forest Preparatory School

I am writing to inform you of a change regarding how Early Education Funding (EEF) will be applied to the Nursery and Kindergarten as from 1st January 2026 in line with the government's new legislation.

Universal Hours and Working Parent Entitlements

From January 2026 we will continue to offer the **15 free hours** funding for Nursery and Kindergarten. Due to new legislation, where applicable, these hours will be free, rather than deducted from your bill.

Pattern of Delivery

Forest's provision model is that children must attend a minimum of four sessions a week (2 days or 4 mornings) in Nursery until they join Kindergarten where children must attend a minimum of either 3 days or 5 morning sessions a week. This way, children get the most out of the learning and activities we offer. We do not offer standalone afternoon only sessions for Nursery or Kindergarten.

In line with the information above we will be streamlining our daily attendance options, also highlighting where parents are able to access the free funded hours during the school day.

From January, we will no longer be able to offer the morning plus lunch option, instead this will be included in the full day option (option 1). Please also note that morning only sessions will finish at **11:40a.m.**

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Full Day	08:40-11:40 Morning session with core and specialist teaching 11:40-12:10 Lunchtime care 12:10-3:10 Afternoon session (3 hours EEF applied where applicable)	08:40-11:40 Morning session with specialist teaching 11:40-12:10 Lunchtime care 12:10-3:10 Afternoon session (3 hours EEF applied where applicable)	08:40-11:40 Morning session with specialist teaching 11:40-12:10 Lunchtime care 12:10-3:10 Afternoon session (3 hours EEF applied where applicable)	08:40-11:40 Morning session with specialist teaching 11:40-12:10 Lunchtime care 12:10-3:10 Afternoon session (3 hours EEF applied where applicable)	08:40-11:40 Morning session with specialist teaching 11:40-12:10 Lunchtime care 12:10-3:10 Afternoon session (3 hours EEF applied where applicable)



Option 2	Morning Only	08:40-11:40 Morning session with core and specialist teaching. <i>EEF not available for morning sessions.</i>	08:40-11:40 Morning session with core and specialist teaching. <i>EEF not available for morning sessions.</i>	08:40-11:40 Morning session with core and specialist teaching. <i>EEF not available for morning sessions.</i>	08:40-11:40 Morning session with core and specialist teaching. <i>EEF not available for morning sessions.</i>	08:40-11:40 Morning session with core and specialist teaching. <i>EEF not available for morning sessions.</i>
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If your child misses EEF sessions due to illness, holidays or any planned or unplanned absence, these hours will not be available at a later date.

Fees from January 2026

In order to reflect our new provision and to continue providing specialist teachings sessions in the morning, please find fee information below which will come into effect from 1st January 2026:

Morning: £39.30 per morning session.

Full Day: £54.30* per day.

Lunchtime Care (if applicable): £4.00**

*Should parents wish to take advantage of the 15 free hours, these will be allocated to your child's session between 12:10pm - 15:10pm each day.

**For children in receipt of the 2, 3 and 4 year funding a daily £4.00 surcharge for lunchtime care will also be applied to your invoice. Should parents decide not to pay this fee, your child will need to be picked up and returned to school after lunchtime has passed.

Consumables

Whilst EEF funding contributes to basic childcare costs, this **does not** cover the costs of other consumables the school uses in order to ensure the health and safety of your child whilst in our care. For those children who will be accessing the EEF in the afternoons, we will now be applying an optional consumable cost of £1.00 per afternoon (33p per hour) in order to cover the cost of consumables such as disposable aprons, disposable gloves, wipes, baby changing table roll liners, sun cream, calpol/piriton etc.

Please note, families who will NOT be claiming EEF and paying for the full day (£54.30) will not be billed for lunchtime care or the optional consumable as this is included in the full day price.



Please find attached a useful FAQ document which outlines the funding in greater detail and should hopefully answer any questions raised. Please also see attached some mock examples of how the pricing works in terms of full/half day sessions with or without funding applied. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our School Registrar, Mrs Daniels on enquiries@forestschoo.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

G Booth

Graeme Booth
Headmaster



Early Education Funding FAQs

1. What is Early Education Funding (EEF)?

EEF is a government-funded scheme designed to subsidise early education and childcare costs for families with children aged 3-4 years (and some children between 9 months and 2-year-olds, depending on circumstances). Funding starts from the term after a child's birthday.

Key Points About EEF:

Universal Entitlement:

- Parents of 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to 570 funded hours per year, equivalent to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time).

Working Parent Entitlement (15 Hours Funding):

- Some families may be eligible for 2 year old Working Parent Entitlement of up to 570 funded hours per year, equivalent to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time).
- You can apply and check your eligibility via www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. Please note that families must provide an eligibility code directly to the school office, as we cannot apply on your behalf. You must also ensure that you reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months.

2. When can my child access funding?

- A child who turns 9 months, 2 years or 3 years old between 1st January - 31st March is eligible from 1st April.
- A child who turns 9 months, 2 years or 3 years old between 1st April and 31st August is eligible from 1st September.
- A child who turns 9 months, 2 years or 3 years old between 1st September and 31st December is eligible from 1st January.

This [Early Years Alliance](#) parent and carers guide explains more about the government programmes, eligibility criteria, and how families can access these services [here](#).

3. Why do nurseries charge fees for consumables when the government provides funding?

EEF funding covers basic childcare costs but **does not** cover the full cost of delivering high-quality care. Additional fees help ensure we can provide lunchtime care and products to ensure your child's health and safety whilst they attend Forest's Nursery or Kindergarten class.

4. How is EEF funding going to be applied at Forest from January?

- Some parents of 2 year old children are entitled to 570 funded hours per year, equivalent to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time).



- Parents of 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to a universal 570 funded hours per year, equivalent to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time).

From January, the 570 hours of funding hours per year, equivalent to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time) will be applied to our school fees between the hours of 12:10pm - 15:10pm, making an afternoon at Forest completely free.

5. When can I access funded hours at Forest Prep?

Families can only access funded hours during specific set times to align with our specialist and core teaching provision and daily schedule. These sessions are:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.40-11.40	Morning session with core and specialist teaching	Morning session with core and specialist teaching	Morning session with core and specialist teaching	Morning session with core and specialist teaching	Morning session with core and specialist teaching
11.40 - 12.10	Lunchtime care <i>(only available for those accessing a full day)</i>	Lunchtime care <i>(only available for those accessing a full day)</i>	Lunchtime care <i>(only available for those accessing a full day)</i>	Lunchtime care <i>(only available for those accessing a full day)</i>	Lunchtime care <i>(only available for those accessing a full day)</i>
11.40-15.10	Afternoon session <i>(3 hours EEF applied where applicable)</i>	Afternoon session <i>(3 hours EEF applied where applicable)</i>	Afternoon session <i>(3 hours EEF applied where applicable)</i>	Afternoon session <i>(3 hours EEF applied where applicable)</i>	Afternoon session <i>(3 hours EEF applied where applicable)</i>

This structure ensures that children continue to benefit from our core and specialist teaching in the morning and also have access to free childcare in the afternoon. As we pride ourselves on being a 'school nursery setting' the children will continue to have a full enriching timetable. We have made the decision **not** to charge for permitted 'additional non-essential services' like specialist tuition e.g. French, when these take place in the funded afternoon sessions.



6. Why is Forest Prep making these changes?

The Department for Education updated guidance for all Early Years settings this year to come into effect from January 2026. Further information can be found [here](#). The changes ensure we maintain a sustainable funding model that supports the exceptional education and care Forest is known for, while meeting EEF funding requirements. As our nursery serves as a pathway to Forest Preparatory School, this approach also supports families transition into our Reception class.

7. Does Forest have to offer Early Education Funding (EEF)?

No, Forest is not required to provide EEF funding. As an independent school, we voluntarily participate in the scheme to support families. Some independent schools and nurseries choose not to offer EEF at all because government funding does not cover the full cost of delivering high-quality education and care. Our decision to offer EEF reflects our commitment to families while balancing the sustainability of our high standards and facilities.

8. Is Forest claiming 15 hours of funding but not giving it to me?

No, Forest is not claiming any hours you are not receiving or withholding any funding.

9. Can I access EEF hours if my child misses sessions due to illness or holidays?

Unfortunately, missed EEF hours cannot be rescheduled or carried over.

10. Will this effect Forest's non-term time Nursery provision?

No, funding will continue to only be applied to invoices during term time only, our non-term time provision will continue to be flexible and can be booked via the magic booking app.

11. How can I plan for childcare costs?

We recommend reviewing your family's childcare needs for the entire year and considering how EEF funding is applied. We would recommend reviewing our website for current fees in order to understand how this change may affect your family.

12. What support is available for childcare costs?

Tax Free Childcare

Parents in England can use the Tax-Free Childcare scheme alongside the 15 hours funded childcare options. This scheme allows parents to deposit money into an online account, with the government adding £2 for every £8 contributed. The arrangement is available to employed and self-employed parents, although eligibility is subject to certain income and employment conditions. Payments into the scheme are made from post-tax income and after employee National Insurance contributions. To check if you're eligible and find out more, visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Childcare Vouchers

Forest Prep accepts childcare vouchers from providers including Edenred, Computershare, Sodexo, Imagine, Fideliti, and Care4. If you wish to use vouchers from another provider, please contact the Office, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

13. What will term-time school fees now cost in regards to my child?

Please find example guides below:

Guide for Child A

Child A's parents are eligible for the EEF 15 hours of funding.

Child A stays all day (08:40-15:10) - see cost breakdown below:

Morning Session	£39.30
Lunchtime Care	£4.00
Afternoon Session	FREE (EEF Applied)
Consumables	£1.00
Total Cost for full day	£44.30

Guide for Child B

Child B's parents are eligible for the EEF 15 hours of funding.

Child B stays for the morning only session (08:40-11:40) - see cost breakdown below:

Morning Session	£39.30
Lunchtime Care	Not applicable
Afternoon Session	Not applicable
Consumables	Not applicable
Total Cost for full day	£39.30



Guide for Child C

Child C's parents are not eligible for the EEF 15 hours of funding.

Child C stays for the morning only session (08:40-11:40) - see cost breakdown below:

Morning Session	£39.30
Lunchtime Care	Not applicable
Afternoon Session	Not applicable
Consumables	Not applicable
Total Cost for full day	£39.30

Guide for Child D

Child D's parents are not eligible for the EEF 15 hours of funding.

Child D stays all day (08:40-15:10) - see cost breakdown below:

Full Day Cost	£54.30
Lunchtime Care	Not applicable- included in day rate
Afternoon Session	Not applicable- included in day rate
Consumables	Not applicable- included in day rate
Total Cost for full day	£54.30