



FEES & FUNDING HANDBOOK

effective from 1st May 2026

This handbook has been created to explain our fees in relation to the government funding options available to families and how you can access funding at Bluebell Children's Nurseries.

You can find out more information and check your entitlement by visiting: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Bluebell's all-inclusive package

At our nurseries your child benefits from an all-inclusive package which includes:

- *Nappies, nappy cream and wipes*
- *Organic purees*
- *Baby formula (and bottles!)*
- *Nutritionist-developed, top quality, two course lunches and teas*
- *Delicious snacks from our approved healthy eating snack menu, and fresh fruit available all day*
- *Suncream*
- *Teething gels, Calpol, Piriton (when required)*
- *Enrichment & activities such as yoga, forest school, outings, music, Zoolab, duckling hatchery, music & movement, French & Spanish lessons...and many more.*

Also, our all-inclusive package enables you to:

- *Book extra sessions, sell sessions when on holiday, book early starts or late finishes, receive a sibling discount (if applicable).*
- *Receive a holiday allowance of one calendar week per year if your child attends 4 or 5 full days per week*
- *Receive a free Bluebell t-shirt for your child.*

OUR ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE UNDER THREE OPTIONS, DESCRIBED IN THIS HANDBOOK

OPTION 1: FUNDED CHILDCARE

OPTION 2: CHILDCARE FOR 2 YEAROLD CHILDREN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FORMS OF SUPPORT

OPTION 3: NON-FUNDED CHILDCARE



OPTION 1: FUNDED CHILDCARE

What is available to you?

From September 2025, eligible working families of children from 9 months until they reach school age, can claim up to 30 hours of funding per week.

- Funding is applied the term after the child reaches 9 months old, 2 years old or 3 years old.
- Term dates begin on 1st September, 1st January and 1st April
- Children aged 2 years receiving additional support are eligible for up to 15 hours of funding per week
- All children aged 3-4 years old are eligible for up to 15 hours of funding per week

You can choose to use the funding flexibly between two providers.

For example, you could use some funding with our nursery and some with a childminder or other nursery. You will need to ensure that you make both providers aware if you are doing this.

It is your responsibility to ensure details are kept up to date on your government account and that you reconfirm your code. Failure to do so will affect your funding claim.

To find out if you are eligible please go to the government website: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Funding at Bluebell

Government funding is intended to cover 38 weeks a year (ie. 3 school terms) but the total hours can be “*stretched*” over a longer period of up to 52 weeks a year.

As an all-year-round nursery, Bluebell provides stretched funding to parents, with the total hours spread over the 51 weeks that the nursery is open. This enables families to plan their outgoings and not have to face increased fees during school holidays.

As a result, you’ll receive either 11 or 22 hours of funding per week all year (corresponding to 15 or 30 hours per week for 38 weeks)

As described on page 2, our Bluebell all-inclusive package for funded childcare includes the following

- *Nappies, nappy cream and wipes*
- *Organic purees*
- *Baby formula (and bottles!)*
- *Nutritionist-developed, top quality, two course lunches and teas*
- *Delicious snacks from our approved healthy eating snack menu, and fresh fruit available all day*
- *Suncream*
- *Teething gels, Calpol, Piriton (when required)*
- *Enrichment & activities such as yoga, forest school, outings, music, Zoolab, duckling hatchery, music & movement, French & Spanish lessons...and many more.*

Also, our all-inclusive package enables you to:

- *Book extra sessions, sell sessions when on holiday, book early starts or late finishes, receive a sibling discount (if applicable).*
- *Receive a holiday allowance of one calendar week per year if your child attends 4 or 5 full days per week*
- *Receive a free Bluebell t-shirt for your child.*



What will I pay for funded childcare?

To cover the cost of consumables, food and the wide range of enrichment and activities at Bluebell nurseries which go a very long way beyond EYFS basic requirements for funded childcare, we charge a Service Fee for our all-inclusive package of £2.20 per funded hour.

At Bluebell, you can claim up to 10 hours of funding per day and up to 5 hours per morning or afternoon session

Government guidance requires us to state the individual cost of each item within our all-inclusive package although obviously the items are not for purchase individually. However, the list does emphasise the superb value provided by our all-inclusive package:

Consumables, food, enrichment and activities provided within Bluebell all-inclusive package:

Price list of individual items provided as per Government guidance

Nappies, disposal, gloves, wipes, cream	<i>per session / day</i>	£2.10 / £4.15
Baby purees/formula and bottles/dairy allergy alternatives	<i>per session / day</i>	£2.10 / £4.15
Breakfast	<i>each</i>	£1.55
Hot lunch (Zebedees)	<i>each</i>	£4.95
High tea (Zebedees)	<i>each</i>	£3.40
Healthy snacks	<i>per session / day</i>	£1.55 / £3.10
Enrichment and activities	<i>per session / day</i>	£7.25 / £14.50
Suncream, teething gel, Piriton, Calpol (with consent)	<i>as needed</i>	incl. within Enrichment

All these items are included within Bluebell's all-inclusive package Service Fee as follows:

- per hour £2.20**
- per session £11.00**
- per day £22.00**

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What will I pay for funded childcare? (continued)

The nursery's normal hours of opening are 8.00am to 6.00pm.

Parents can book their child in to attend from 7:30am and up to 6:30pm. This additional time is charged at £8.00 per half hour or part half hour.

Terms of Payment (please see our Terms and Conditions, available to download on our website)

An £80 refundable deposit is required for securing a place.

Fees are payable monthly in advance, by standing order or BACS by the last day of the preceding month or by cheque by the 24th of the preceding month. The nursery closes at 1pm on Christmas Eve for the period between Christmas and New Year, and on all bank holidays. No charge is made during scheduled nursery closures.



Non-mandatory Service Fee

In line with government guidance, our Service Fee is a non-mandatory one.

Government funding is not intended to cover the cost of meals, snacks, consumables or the enriching activities within our all-inclusive package which go far beyond the EYFS basic requirements for government funded childcare.

Our Service Fee covers all the things not provided by government funding (see page 5). Without payment of the Service Fee we regret that we cannot provide your child with Zebedees' two course, hot lunch and high tea, or the many consumables your child might need during the day, or participation in our full range of enriching activities.

If you feel you would not be in a position to pay the Service Fee then please talk to your nursery manager who will explain the alternative arrangements that would be made for your child while in the nursery including our necessarily strict requirements in connection with parent-supplied consumables and the alternative to your child receiving Zebedees' meals.

For the avoidance of doubt, please be aware that due to the many allergies suffered by an increasing number of children today, it is part of our strict safeguarding policy that we do NOT permit parents to supply their own food for their child while in the nursery. This is for the protection of all the children in our care.



OPTION 2: CHILDCARE FOR 2 YEAR OLD CHILDREN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FORMS OF SUPPORT

Children aged 2 years receiving additional forms of support are eligible for up to 15 hours of funding per week. This is also known as '**Disadvantaged two year old funding**'.

In order to support any families receiving this special funding (NOT the same as eligible working families' funding in our Option 2) Bluebell offers term time only, fully-funded, all-inclusive places.

Under this arrangement, Bluebell will cover the cost of all consumables (such as nappies, cream, wipes, suncream etc), snacks from our healthy eating snack menu, enrichment and activities. ie. there will be no charge to the parent.

To avoid any doubt, we stress that under this Option 2 (2 year old children receiving additional forms of support):

- A deposit is not required
- Places are allocated on a term-by-term basis
- Places are term time only
- Additional hours cannot be booked through this option
- The allocated sessions are either 8:30am to 11:30am or 1pm to 4pm. A child cannot attend both sessions in one day.
- Sessions fall outside usual meal times. Snacks from our healthy eating snack menu will be provided.



OPTION 3: NON-FUNDED CHILDCARE

If you are not eligible for Government funding then our full fees for our all-inclusive package (see page 2) are as follows:

Bluebell Hill & Bluebell Barn		Bluebell Wood	
Full Week	£354	Full Week	£375
Full Day	£79	Full Day	£84
Session	£51	Session	£53

The nursery's normal hours of opening are 8.00am to 6.00pm.

Parents can book their child in to attend from 7:30am and up to 6:30pm. This additional time is charged at £8.00 per half hour or part half hour.

Terms of Payment (please see our Terms and Conditions, available to download on our website)

A non-refundable fee of £25 is payable on registration, along with an £80 refundable deposit for securing a place.

Fees are payable monthly in advance, by standing order or BACS by the last day of the preceding month or by cheque by the 24th of the preceding month. The nursery closes at 1pm on Christmas Eve for the period between Christmas and New Year, and on all bank holidays. No charge is made during scheduled nursery closures.



FINALLY...

Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook and we hope it explains how the finances work at our nurseries.

If you have any further questions at all then please don't hesitate to ask your nursery manager, who will be very happy to help guide you through what can seem like a funding jungle (or even a minefield...) at times.

