



FEES & FUNDING HANDBOOK

effective from 1st July 2026

This handbook explains Bluebell's fee structure and how you can use government funded hours at our nurseries.

To find out more about your entitlement to funded hours visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Version 1.8 dated 01/07/2026

CONTENTS

SECTION 1: NON-FUNDED CHILDCARE

SECTION 2: FUNDED CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS and UNIVERSAL FUNDED CHILDCARE FOR 3-4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

2.0 WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU?

2.1 HOW IS FUNDING DELIVERED? WHAT DOES FUNDING PAY FOR?

2.2 HOW CAN MY CHILD RECEIVE THE EXTRAS THAT FUNDING DOESN'T PAY FOR?

2.3 DO I HAVE TO PAY THE ALL-INCLUSIVE EXTRAS & ENRICHMENT FEE?

SECTION 3: FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF 'EARLY LEARNING FOR 2 YEAR OLDS' FUNDING



SECTION 1

NON-FUNDED CHILDCARE

If you are not eligible for Government funding then our full fees will apply, as set out here:

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.

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.



SECTION 1 **NON-FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont).**

We take care of it all so you don't need to worry!

Many of us at Bluebell are parents ourselves. We know how busy families are, how stressed your day might be, and how much you might worry about your child being at nursery.

We provide everything your child will need for their time in the nursery....

.....so literally all you have to do is drop them off! 😊

Our non-funded childcare fees cover provision of:

- *Nappies, nappy cream and wipes*
- *Organic purees*
- *Baby formula (and bottles!)*
- *Nutritionist-developed, allergy approved, top quality, two course lunches & high teas by Zebedees*
- *Delicious snacks from our approved healthy eating snack menu, and fresh fruit available all day*
- *Suncream and sunhats*
- *Teething gels, Calpol, Piriton (when required)*
- *All extra activities and enrichment such as yoga, woodworking, beach and forest school, outings, music, Zoolab, duckling hatchery, music & movement, French & Spanish lessons...and many more. Have a look at our activities schedule on the next page to see how they will fill your child with wonder and enhance their childhood experience every day they spend in our nursery.*

And families are also able 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*



SECTION 1 NON-FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont).

Bluebell Extra Activities & Enrichment

We have an extraordinary schedule of extra activities & enrichment at our nurseries and we're always seeking additions to the list for new ways to delight, stimulate and educate your child. There are also ad-hoc extra activities such as duckling hatching, baby signing (Makaton), reptile visits and Zebedees pizza masterclass. Our weekly scheduled visits change termly.

BLUEBELL BARN									
WEEK 1					WEEK 2				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Forest School (once/term). Speech/lang. communication	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Baby ballet	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Hartbeeps Speech/lang. communication	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Yoga	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Carehome visit Football Speech/lang. communication	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Care home visit. Speech/lang. communication	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Baby ballet	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity. Speech/lang. communication	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Yoga	Woodworking Baby massage Allotment Daily seasonal activity Hartbeeps Football Speech/lang. communication
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****Daily seasonal activities** above include trips to local park, seasonal discovery walks, cooking, baking, caring for nursery pets, visits from fire fighters, police, dentist etc...all organised to fit around baby and children routines.



SECTION 2

FUNDED CHILDCARE

2.0 What is available to you?

- **Eligible working families of children from 9 months until school age, can claim up to 30 hours of funding per week.**

To see if you are eligible for this, please visit the government website: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

- **All children aged 3-4 years old are eligible for up to 15 hours of funding per week**

Funding is applied the term after the child reaches 9 months old or 3 years old.

Term dates begin on 1st September, 1st January and 1st April

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.

We charge a refundable deposit of £80 on registration for a funded place. This is returned to you once your child starts at the nursery.

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.

Please speak to the nursery manager if you are unsure about any aspect of funding and they will happily help you.



SECTION 2

FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

2.1 How is funding delivered? What does funding pay for?

The government refers to its funded hours as 15 or 30 “free” hours per week. However, it is important to understand two things in order to ensure your child receives care in the way you want:

- Government funding is paid up to 15 or 30 hours per week only for 38 weeks a year (ie. 3 school terms). However, we are permitted to “stretch” the total annual hours over the 51 weeks per year during which our nurseries are open.
- Funding is designed to pay only for a nursery place and childcare which meets Early Years Foundation Course standards. This is the “free” element.
Funding does NOT cover food, consumables or additional activities & enrichment

Let’s look at these more closely:

How is funding delivered?

We are permitted to “stretch” the total hours over a full year, Our nurseries are open for 51 weeks of the year, so we stretch over those 51 weeks. As a result you receive 11 or 22 hours per week all year round (corresponding to 15 or 30 hours per week for 38 weeks)

This enables families to plan their outgoings and not face increased fees during school holidays.

At Bluebell, you can claim up to 10 hours of funding per day and up to 5 hours per morning or afternoon session – that’s your whole day or session covered!



SECTION 2 **FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)**

What does funding pay for?

Here are the government DfE rules for funded childcare: [[early education and childcare - GOV.UK](#)]

"A1.31 Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high-quality, flexible childcare. The 15 or 30 hours must be able to be accessed free of charge to parents. There must not be any mandatory charges for parents in relation to the free hours. Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services.

A1.32 Local authorities should ensure that providers are aware that they can charge parents for the following extras in connection with the free hours. However, these charges must be voluntary for the parent:

- consumables to be used by the child, such as nappies or sun cream*
- meals and snacks consumed by the child*
- extra optional activities such as events, celebrations, specialist tuition (for example music classes or foreign languages) or other activities that are not directly related or necessary for the effective delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework*

Providers can also charge parents for any additional, private paid hours according to their usual terms and conditions provided taking up private paid hours is not a condition of accessing a free place."

As can be seen from this, funding pays for a place in the nursery and childcare which meets the standards of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

Funding does NOT pay for extras such as food, consumables or extra activities & enrichment.



SECTION 2
FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

2.2 How can my child receive the extras that funding doesn't pay for?

Many of us at Bluebell are parents ourselves. We know how busy families are, how stressed your day might be, and how much you might worry about your child being at nursery.

If you are receiving funded hours, we can help to take some of that stress and worry away. So, two questions.....

Q. Would you like us to take care of everything your child needs at nursery?

Q. Would you like your child to take part in an amazing range of extra activities & enrichments?

If your answer is "yes" to both questions then, on payment by you of a simple, fixed "all-inclusive" extras & enrichment fee (£11.00 per session or £22.00 per day):-

- We will provide everything your child needs for their time in the nursery...
....so, literally, all you have to do is drop them off 😊 and
- your child will take part in the huge range of extra activities, which go way beyond EYFS standards, which will fill your child with wonder and enhance their childhood experience every day they are in our nursery and
- you will have flexibility to change sessions, sell unused sessions, receive a holiday allowance and more.



SECTION 2 **FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)**

Payment of our all-inclusive service & enrichment fee allows us to provide everything your child needs for their time at nursery, enables your child to take part in a huge range of extra activities and gives you flexibility in booking:-

Everything your child needs will provided by us

- *Nappies, nappy cream and wipes*
- *Organic purees*
- *Baby formula (and bottles!)*
- *Nutritionist-developed, allergy approved, top quality, two course lunches & high teas by Zebedees.*
- *Delicious snacks from our approved healthy eating snack menu, and fresh fruit available all day*
- *Suncream and sunhats*
- *Teething gels, Calpol, Piriton (when required), emergency medications*
- *...and a free Bluebell tee-shirt!*

Extra activities and enrichment

Your child will be able to take part in an extraordinary range of extra activities and enrichment such as yoga, woodworking, beach and forest school, outings, music, Zoolab, duckling hatchery, music & movement, French & Spanish lessons...and many many more.

Have a look at our extra activities and enrichment schedule on Page 12 for more detail.

Flexibility

- *You can book extra sessions, sell sessions during holiday, book early starts/late finishes, receive a sibling discount (if applicable).*
- *You receive a holiday allowance of one calendar week per year (if your child attends 4 or 5 full days per week*



SECTION 2
FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

Bluebell Extra Activities & Enrichment

On the next page is the extraordinary schedule of extra activities & enrichment provided at our nurseries.

These extra activities & enrichment go a long, long way beyond the government's Early Years Foundation Standards and we are always seeking additions to the list for new ways to delight, stimulate and educate your child.

Outside the schedule we also provide ad hoc extra activities such as duckling hatching, baby signing (Makaton), reptile visits and Zebedees pizza masterclass.

Our weekly scheduled visits change termly.



SECTION 2 FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

Bluebell Extra Activities & Enrichment

BLUEBELL BARN									
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****Daily seasonal activities above include trips to local park, seasonal discovery walks, cooking, baking, caring for nursery pets, visits from fire fighters, police, dentist etc...all organised to fit around baby and children routines.**



SECTION 2

FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

How much is the all-inclusive extras & enrichment fee?

For all the extras (categorised by the government as *food, non-food consumables and extra activities*) set out on the previous pages we charge a simple, affordable all-inclusive extras & enrichment fee as follows:

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

Can I pay for additional hours, sessions or days, over and above my child's funded hours?

Absolutely, and the government refers to these as "private paid hours".

Extra sessions or days will be charged at the rate set out in Section 1.

These additional private, paid-for hours are supplied on our fantastic all-inclusive basis.



SECTION 2
FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

2.3 Do I have to pay the all-inclusive extras & enrichment fee?

As you can see from the government DfE guidance, you are not mandated to pay our all-inclusive extras & enrichment fee if you wish to opt out of your child receiving the benefits of our all-inclusive package, or for your child not to take part in our extra activities & enrichments.

The government (see page 8) divides extras into three categories:

- (a) 'Food'
- (b) 'Non-food consumables'
- (c) 'Extra activities'

You can opt out of your child receiving the benefits of these three categories of extras if you wish, or opt out of just one or two of them.

Before deciding, please read on the next pages the nursery's requirements for parents who wish to opt out of the nursery supplying food and consumables, the alternative arrangements which will be made in respect of food for your child while in the nursery and the alternative arrangements in respect of your child not taking part in extra activities & enrichment.

Funding is allocated by the local authority three times per year (ie. termly) so should you choose to opt out you will need to let us know, in writing, at least one calendar month before the start of the term in which you wish your opt-out to take place. Your opt-out will continue for the whole of that term, and thereafter, until we receive written notice to stop the opt-out at least one calendar month in advance of a subsequent term start date.

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SECTION 2

FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

Requirements for parents and carers if opting out

The safety and well-being of your child, and all the children in our nurseries, is absolutely paramount to us so please be aware that we have strict requirements which must be met in the case of opting out of any of the categories.

A. Opting out: Category food

Due to our strict safeguarding policy for all our children in relation to allergens, food hygiene and nutrition, we do not allow food to be brought into the nursery (other than prepackaged organic baby purees and formula powder milk).

We regret that, if you are opting out of our food category, we cannot provide your child with breakfast, or Zebedees' two course hot lunch, or high tea.

Instead:

- Your child will be provided with a cold lunch and tea, comprising a sandwich, yoghurt, fruit.
- Breakfast will need to be given at home before your child arrives at the nursery each morning
- Outside meal times your child will have access to our snacks of pieces of fruit or vegetable.

For babies: clean bottles and formula.

You must supply the correct number of bottles that your baby needs for their full session or day. Powder formula must not be made up in advance of your child's arrival. A staff member will check the packet at every session to ensure in date, and no nuts. All must be clearly labelled.

Baby purees (if applicable) must be by the reputable organic brand 'Ella's Kitchen', these must arrive at the nursery sealed and be checked by staff to ensure no nuts are present.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the lack of storage facilities in the nurseries, bottles, formula and purees must be taken home at the end of each session.



SECTION 2

FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

B. Opting out: Category Non-food consumables

You will need to bring into the nursery each time, all clearly labelled:

- Nappies - 6 for babies, 5 for toddlers, 3 for pre-schoolers who wear nappies.
- Wipes – one in-use packet and one spare, unopened packet
- Nappy sacks – at least 6
- Nappy cream – one in-use tube and one spare tube
- Piriton – to be handed to office staff
- Calpol – to be handed to office staff
- Suncream – must be factor 50 and not contain nuts
- Sun hat (when relevant)
- Teething gels (if applicable)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the lack of storage facilities in the nurseries, these must all be taken home at the end of each session or day.

C. Opting out: Category Extra activities

Our extraordinary range of extra activities is listed on page 12 of this handbook.

Government guidance states that you can decide whether you wish your child to take part in all Bluebell's extra activities & enrichment, or whether you wish your child not to take part at all.

If you choose to opt out then, during the time other children are engaged in extra activities & enrichment, alternative arrangements will be made for your child which will satisfy the requirements '*for the effective delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework*'



SECTION 2

FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

What will I pay if I do decide to opt out of any category?

Government guidance requires us to show the individual cost of items making up the three categories of extras. Items cannot be purchased individually but you can choose whether to opt in or opt out of each of the three categories. You can decide whether to:-

- pay our all-inclusive fee, let the nursery provide all the extras and your child engage in our extra activities & enrichment or
- opt out of all extras, your child not engage in extra activities & enrichment and pay nothing or
- opt out of one or two categories of extras and/or activities & enrichment and pay for the rest

	BABIES			TODDLERS & PRE-SCHOOL		
	per Session		per Day	per Session		per Day
	AM	PM		AM	PM	
<u>FOOD</u>						
Baby purees/formula and bottles/dairy allergy alt.	£2.00	£2.00	£4.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Breakfast	n/a	n/a	n/a	£1.50	n/a	£1.50
Hot lunch (Zebedees)	n/a	n/a	n/a	£4.75	n/a	£4.75
High tea (Zebedees)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£3.25	£3.25
Healthy snacks	n/a	n/a	n/a	£1.50	£1.50	£3.00
Total	£2.00	£2.00	£4.00	£7.75	£4.75	£12.50
<u>NON FOOD CONSUMABLES</u>						
Nappies, sacks, wipes, gloves, cream	£2.00	£2.00	£4.00			
Suncream, teething gel, Piriton, Calpol, em. meds	£1.50	£1.50	£3.00	£1.50	£1.50	£3.00
Total	£3.50	£3.50	£7.00	£1.50	£1.50	£3.00
<u>EXTRA ACTIVITIES & ENRICHMENT</u>	£7.00	£7.00	£14.00	£7.00	£7.00	£14.00
For comparison:						
Our all-inclusive provision (all three categories):	£11.00	£11.00	£22.00	£11.00	£11.00	£22.00



SECTION 2 FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

Choose an Option below to see how much you will pay per session or per day.
Once booked, a breakdown of your chosen Option will be shown on your monthly invoice

BABIES						
	FOOD	CONSUMABLES	ACTIVITIES			
	Nursery provides all baby formula, bottles and organic purees	Nursery provides all non-food consumables	Child participates in full range of extra activities & enrichment as set out in handbook	BABIES		
OPTION NO.				Total price per Option session		
				AM	PM	DAY
1 (all inclusive)	YES	YES	YES	£11.00	£11.00	£22.00
2	No	No	Yes	£7.00	£7.00	£14.00
3	No	Yes	No	£3.50	£3.50	£7.00
4	No	Yes	Yes	£10.50	£10.50	£21.00
5	Yes	No	No	£2.00	£2.00	£4.00
6	Yes	No	Yes	£9.00	£9.00	£18.00
7	Yes	Yes	No	£5.50	£5.50	£11.00
8	No	No	No	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TODDLERS AND PRE-SCHOOL						
	FOOD	CONSUMABLES	ACTIVITIES			
	Nursery provides Zebedees 2 course hot lunch & high tea breakfast & healthy snacks	Nursery provides all non-food consumables	Child participates in full range of extra activities & enrichment as set out in handbook	Total price per Option session		
OPTION NO.				session		
				AM	PM	DAY
1 (all inclusive)	YES	YES	YES	£11.00	£11.00	£22.00
2	No	No	Yes	£7.00	£7.00	£14.00
3	No	Yes	No	£3.50	£3.50	£7.00
4	No	Yes	Yes	£10.50	£10.50	£21.00
5	Yes	No	No	£2.00	£2.00	£4.00
6	Yes	No	Yes	£9.00	£9.00	£18.00
7	Yes	Yes	No	£5.50	£5.50	£11.00
8	No	No	No	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00



SECTION 2 FUNDED CHILDCARE (cont)

Finally, on the subject of funding...

Funding can seem complicated and a jungle to work your way through, especially as things have changed so much over the last year or two.

In this handbook we have tried to be as open and as transparent as we can be about funding (not always the case with some other nurseries) in the hope that it will help you determine the best way for your child to benefit from the amazing experiences and opportunities provided to them at Bluebell 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.



SECTION 3

FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF 'EARLY LEARNING FOR 2 YEAR OLDS' FUNDING

Children aged 2 years receiving additional forms of support are eligible for up to 15 hours of funding per week. Funding is allocated the term after your child's 2nd birthday.

In order to support any families receiving this special funding (NOT the same as eligible working families' funding in Section 2 of this handbook) 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 Section 3 (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.

