

St. Margaret's Nursery
Sea Street, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent. CT15 6SS
Tel: 01304 853352

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an upcoming increase in our nursery fees, which is necessary to ensure the continued sustainability and quality of our provision.

From April 2025, the government will be increasing the National Minimum Wage from £11.44 to £12.21 per hour, a rise of 6.7%. As Trustees, we have a legal obligation to raise staff wages accordingly. More importantly, we deeply value our dedicated team and recognise that fair pay is essential in retaining qualified and committed staff. Providing a high standard of care and early years education is our priority, and we are committed to maintaining the best possible environment for your children.

We appreciate that any fee increase can be challenging, and we want to reassure you that we have not raised our fees since April 2023. However, in order to meet this wage increase and continue delivering high-quality care, we must adjust our nursery fees. As a setting with limited capacity and no direct government funding, we rely solely on fees to cover our running costs. Additionally, past government cuts have resulted in the removal of financial support from Kent County Council, making this fee adjustment unavoidable.

Effective from 22nd April 2025, Term 5, the fees will be as follows.

Nursery: Open 8.45am – 3.00pm

Ages 2 - until they start school

	<i>Existing Price</i>	<i>New Price</i>
<i>Non-Vouchered Hours</i>	£6.00	£ 6.50

<i>Session</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>Morning</i>	<i>8.45-11.30</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>11.30-12.15</i>
<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>12.15-15.00</i>

For children receiving government-funded hours, the funding rate for 3- and 4-year-olds is set at £5.64 per hour. This funding covers the Early Years Foundation Stage provision but does not account for additional necessities such as snacks, trips, sun cream, nappies, and other consumables. Furthermore, the government rate does not cover the recent increase in staff wages.

Like many nurseries in our area, we are introducing a voluntary contribution of £2 per full day or £1 per half day to help bridge this shortfall. This contribution will be itemised separately on your invoice, and while it is entirely voluntary, we would be extremely grateful to those who can contribute. These additional funds will play a crucial role in maintaining the high standards of care and resources we provide for your children.

We understand that these are financially challenging times for many families, and we assure you that we remain committed to keeping fees as affordable as possible while ensuring the nursery remains viable for the future.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,
The Trustees of St. Margaret's Nursery