



59 & 25 Denmans Lane Lindfield West Sussex

Important changes to Government Funding and our fee structure

January 2026

Dear Parents

In September, as I expect many of you will have heard, the number of hours for which the Government is offering early years funding, increased for all children between the age of 9 months and three years. There are eligibility criteria which apply to these hours for younger children, so not all parents will be able to access them.

15 hour Government funding for 3 & 4 year olds remains universal.

Please note that the funding is not available as soon as your child has had their birthday, but becomes available from the start of the following term. Please note that if your child receives government funding, the termly funding rate is calculated by the age of your child at the start of term. If your child is under 3 and does not receive government funding, your child's hourly rate for the nursery school hours will be reduced on your child's birthday.. Please check the criteria for funding on the government website and then if you qualify, ask Mrs Sophie Mundy for the funding form.

Your code has to be verified each term: before March 31st before August 31st and before December 31st . No code...no funding!!

The Acorns was born 40 years ago. It was not something that I had ever intended to do, but when the small local nursery that one of my own children attended suddenly announced its closure, all the parents, knowing that I was a qualified teacher, asked me to open a nursery of my own.

Having visited the settings that were available in those days, I decided to find out what I would have to do to provide a nursery in my home. I wanted to give the best possible start to any child who came to The Acorns and for it to provide a wonderful stepping stone for children from their own home to school. I had found that children were very relaxed in my home environment with the private teaching I offered. They couldn't wait to come for their weekly lesson and I thought this might be the case with a nursery school too.

This has indeed proved to be the case as the longevity of The Acorns testifies.

I still run the nursery and forest school true to my core values and this will not change. I would rather close The Acorns than compromise on the outstanding provision that we offer to your children in partnership with you.

We have been asked to detail our enhanced provision which includes enrichment activities.

'A small nursery providing healthy and nutritious snacks and lunches prepared and cooked on the premises. The Acorns offers lots of enrichment activities including forest school activities, pottery, excellent art and craft facilities, yoga, cooking, music. PE, outings, an optional reading scheme, an introduction to early maths, phonics and foreign languages: a nursery where children have lots of fun and where learning and laughter go hand in hand.'

To maintain these high standards and in line with government guidelines, I will be requesting a *voluntary* contribution of £10.50 for the 3 hour session within the 15 hour funding or £12.50 for the 6 hour session within the 30 hour funding. Please note that 6 hours is the maximum funding you can claim in any one day.

Please see the dates and fees document attached for a breakdown of these charges. However, sad to say, without this contribution, the service we offer would have to be compromised and this is not something that I would ever want to have to contemplate.

If you would rather not pay this voluntary contribution, Mrs Franks has prepared a document listing the resources that need to be provided related to the planned activities and food for lunch in line with our menu.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes in early years at the moment and we will have to see how the dust settles. The government is due to review the current funding system this term. We have been required to restructure our fees and the accompanying document is our starting point. We will keep this current system under review and amend in future as and when necessary.

On a personal level, I feel very sad with the changes afoot in early years, as it is such an important stage in every child's life. The environment and the experience of excitement and enthusiasm for learning that we create together, will instill important life skills and engender a curiosity, thirst and excitement for knowledge that will have lifelong benefits and encourage a lifelong learning mentality.

Please ask if you have any questions or queries.

Thank you for your understanding and your support which is so greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Janet

Overview

- **59 Denmans Lane:** Start time 8am or 9am and Pick up from 3pm-6pm
- **Funded hours:** 15 hours: 12noon - 3pm or 30 hours: 12noon - 6pm
- **25 Denmans Lane:** Start time 8.29am or 9am and Pick up at 2.30pm, 3pm or 3.30pm
NB Childcare for children going to 25 is available from 8am and up to 6pm at 59
- **Funded hours:** 15 hours: 12noon - 3pm or 30 hours: 8.29am - 2.29pm
- **A voluntary financial contribution for snacks, lunches and extra-curricular lessons will be requested at both nurseries.**

For 15 funded hours requested voluntary contribution per session
£5.00 for lunch and snack & £5.50 for enhanced provision/extra-curricular lessons

For 30 funded hours requested voluntary contribution per session
£6.50 for snacks & lunch & £6.00 for enhanced provision/extra-curricular lessons