



Atherton House School

Alexandra Road Blundellsands Liverpool L23 7TF

Telephone: 0151-924 5578

26th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Schedule of fees for the year 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Each year we carefully review our prices to ensure the future sustainability of our nursery. It will come as no surprise for you to hear that 2020 has been the most challenging year we as a nursery have ever experienced, both from an operational perspective but also on the business side.

Our main operating costs are staffing costs. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a fundamental change to how we rotate practitioners throughout the nursery and through forming bubbles we have lost a great deal of staffing flexibility. To cope with this, as we anticipate this continuing well into the future, we have taken on additional qualified practitioners and welfare assistants. Coupled with these operational changes, we must also continuously look to accommodate into our fee review the anticipated rise in the National Minimum Wage. Last year we saw the minimum wage increase by 6.4%.

This year we felt it might be useful to provide you with some evidence of the impact COVID-19 has had on the childcare sector as a whole. Our hope being that you'll appreciate why as a business we must continue to be financially prudent and why providing small, incremental and predictable changes to our rates is the best policy.

According to a [Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers](#), commissioned in October 2020 by Ofsted;

- Only 45% of Group Based Nurseries believed they would be financially stable and able to run for another year.
- From Parent-Paid Fees (approximately 50% of total income) the COVID-19 caused a 65% fall in revenue.

This year we are particularly conscious that price increases may come as unwelcome news. We are very mindful we must also ensure that our team members are paid competitively and trained to the high level you expect so they can in turn, support your children throughout their crucial early years. We hope that by remaining open to children of key workers and vulnerable children throughout the first COVID-19 national lockdown, a decision many other nurseries in the area chose not to do, you consider Atherton House to be a dependable and trustworthy family run nursery, proud to care and support our local community. I'm sure you will also agree that our staff team have been amazing throughout this difficult period as they worked tirelessly to play their part towards the national effort.

Given the significant and unavoidable costs to our business, we must now adjust our fee schedule from January 2021. Please be assured we have only increased by the absolute minimum to ensure we meet our dependable standards of care and so that we can operate through this period of uncertainty and in the future.

These increases are reflected in the schedule of fees attached, showing an increase of £2.80 per day and £1.75 per half day including all nappies, wipes and formula.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

I would like to thank you for your support during 2020.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Seddon
Nursery Manager



FEE SCHEDULE

1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021

Monthly Fees	5 days	4 days	3 days	2 days
All day	£1072	£980	£735	£490
Morning	£765	£613	£459	£306
Afternoon	£765	£613	£459	£306

All above figures are rounded to nearest £. Actual invoices will vary slightly.

Subject to change with 1 month's written notice

Follow this link to our [2021 Online Fee Calculator](#).

This enables you to see the cost for other variants of attendance and also any funding deductions.

Our full-time rate is £257.25 per week, £51.45 per day. A 12.5% discount has been applied for a full-time place.

Full day care is available 50 weeks per year:

We are closed on Christmas Eve, and we re-open on the first working day after New Year.
We are closed on Bank Holidays.

Session times:

Morning: 7:30am – 12:45pm
Afternoon: 1.00pm – 5:45pm

10% discount is available for siblings and will be deducted from the youngest child.

Nursery vouchers can be used in part or full payment.

Government grant for 2, 3 and 4 year olds will be deducted from fees.

All fees are due on the 1st of each month in advance.

Payment MUST be by Childcare Vouchers, Tax Free Childcare, Government Grant or Direct Debit, or a combination thereof.

If fees remain unpaid by the 7th working day following the 1st of the month, an administration late payment charge of £25 will be charged to cover the cost of the time involved in processing late payments.

Any payments that fall into an unauthorized overdue situation of two months, may become subject to transfer to Hek Jones Solicitors with additional charges in relation to their fees being added to the amount owed.

