



**Kirk Smeaton Church of England  
Primary School**  
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Headteacher: Mrs H Cuddy

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### **Starfish Explorers Important Funding Information**

Dear Parent,

We are very much looking forward to your child joining Starfish Explorers in September 2017. You may already be aware that previously children were and still are entitled to 15 hours' free childcare under the universal funding. From September 2017 the Government have rolled out nationally to offer an additional 15 hours extended entitlement. This is an incentive to help families back into work and may mean you are entitled 30 hours' free childcare at a provider of your choice.

It maybe that you wish to use some hours with Went Valley Pre School (or another provider) who offer mornings and Starfish Explorers in the afternoons 1-3.30pm. Even if you are not sure how much childcare you need at the moment it's still recommended that you apply.

The universal funding is automatic but the extended entitlement must be applied for online by visiting <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> – this website is also used to apply for tax free childcare. Once completing the online process, should you be eligible you will be issued with an 11 digit 'eligibility code'. This code must be given to us along with you name, national insurance number and your child's date of birth.

Parents need to reconfirm their eligibility every three months and you will be prompted via a text or an email four weeks before the reconfirmation deadline.

We must receive your 11-digit code before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 to offer free childcare otherwise we would have to charge for the sessions for the first term. As we close for the Summer in July I would recommend and be very grateful if everyone could apply online as soon as possible and bring in the requested information before Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July.

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

Kind Regards,  
Mrs A Marner  
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