



11th January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardians

Nursery / Preschool Fee Increase – April 2023

Please find below details of the fee increase that will take effect from April 2023

We continue to work hard to keep all fee increases to a minimum. However, this rise is necessary to ensure that we both retain and motivate our experienced, qualified and dedicated staff and to ensure that the nursery operates in the manner that offers you the high standards you expect.

We realise that a fee increase is never welcome but unfortunately increases are unavoidable.

We are aware that there are lots of media/news/social media reports around 'childcare costs' of late and parents across the UK are questioning why their 'childcare' is so expensive so please allow me to try and explain how Olivers Lodge operates to try and give you, our lovely parents, an insight into the operational running of our Early Years settings.

The reality is that there are plenty of hidden costs involved in running a nursery which many of us don't think about – and with the cost of living crisis, it's about to get a whole lot worse.

Our nursery is just like a home. We have bills just like we do at home and just like any bricks-and-mortar business, we have to pay all the usual overheads you'd expect like rent/mortgage, buildings insurance, business rates, electricity, water– not to mention staff salaries. However, because Early Years care for children, there are other hidden costs, like legal regulatory expenses. Examples being; DBS checks, annual Ofsted and ICO fees, insurance costs, accountancy costs, annual legal fire safety checks, monthly costs for online access to different systems, costs to provide platforms such as baby days, continued maintenance

Olivers Lodge Tallards, High Street, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3PQ

Telephone 01799 540709 **Email** info@olivers-lodge.co.uk

www.olivers-lodge.co.uk

Registered in England No. 04544711 Registered office as above



costs to ensure our Early Years settings remain a safe place for the staff and children. The list really is endless! We then get to the continued legal training costs in mandatory areas such as first aid, food safety and child safeguarding. Then there's the price of supplying items like, food and drink, wipes, tissues, toilet rolls, soap, paper hand towels, cleaning materials, laundry expenses, first aid supplies, and of course, all those obvious things a parent would expect from a nursery like toys, arts and crafts, outside resources the lists go on.

We are not exempt from the cost of living crisis. We too, like everyone else are concerned at the expected rising cost of our energy bills.

Then there are our staffing costs, which represent almost 80% of our entire outgoings which has been met with a continued rise over the last few years with the estimate of the 2023 NMW and NLW increasing by a whopping 8.6% together with the mandatory pension auto-enrolment.

The National Living Wage has continued along a steadily increasing path along with pension auto enrolment costs, whilst the Early Years Funding we receive for the children aged 3 and above was frozen 5 years ago with no indication from the Department of Education of a rise. The gross under-funding early year's providers across the UK receive from the government for your 3 and 4 year olds impacts massively on the financial operations of an Early Years setting.

Fact:

- 1 hour of early year's education and childcare at Olivers Lodge costs us £7.98 to deliver!
- 1 hour of funding, per child we receive from the government is £4.53
- Yet the government continually advertise to parents 'Free childcare'. It's obviously only free to parents if the government pay the true cost, which they most certainly do not.

I am sure that no one will be overjoyed to receive this fee rise but we have tried to strike an appropriate balance between ensuring that our highly qualified staff continue to receive an appropriate salary for the amazing job that they do and ensuring that our fees remain as affordable as possible compared to other settings in the area.

We have tried to keep our increase to the lowest possible minimum

Olivers Lodge Tallards, High Street, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3PQ

Telephone 01799 540709 **Email** info@olivers-lodge.co.uk

www.olivers-lodge.co.uk

Registered in England No. 04544711 Registered office as above



and as always, it is of the utmost importance to us that we can provide the high quality and level of service that meets and exceeds the needs of your children.

Due to the current underfunding we receive for children in receipt of the 2/ 3 /4 year old funding, the consumable charge fee (having been held down for the past two years) will increase to £12.50 per week for those accessing 15 hours funding and £25.00 per week accessing 30 hours funding. This contributes to the cost of snack and all those special extras we offer including the extra curricular activities such as workshops, yoga, forest schools, baking and more all of which are not covered by the gross underfunding we receive.

If anyone has any questions at all, please do feel free to email myself or Sophie Marks and we will do our utmost to answer any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully
Hannah Gogin

Age Category	Old Price (per hour)	New Price (per hour)
Babies (0-2)	£7.00	£7.77
Toddlers (2-3)	£6.75	£7.49
Pre School (3-4)	£6.50	£7.22

Olivers Lodge Tallards, High Street, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3PQ
Telephone 01799 540709 **Email** info@olivers-lodge.co.uk
www.olivers-lodge.co.uk

Registered in England No. 04544711 Registered office as above