

Shirley Schools Weekly Communication

Friday 7th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shirley Junior School now have an email address if you wish to raise any concerns.

raiseaconcern@shirleyschools.co.uk

Please find the links to the letter pages on our websites:

Infant School Letters Link
Junior School Letters Link

Dates for your Diary

Shirley Infant School

JULY

Saturday 8th Summer Fair - FOSIS

Tuesday 11th Year R Celebration Event 2.45pm Wednesday 12th Year 2 Leavers Performance 1.45pm

Friday 14th Reports out

Friday 14th Year 2 JEP Sporting Event off site

Friday 14th Year 2 Leavers Performance 1.45pm

Friday 14th FOSIS Year R Cake Sale

Monday 17th Parent Drop In with Mrs Allen Wednesday 19th Year R Come outside day - on site

(water costume and towel needed)

Thursday 20th Year 2 Party 4-6pm

Friday 21st School closes at 3.10pm for

Summer Holidays

Shirley Junior School

JULY

Saturday 8th Summer Fair - PTA

Monday 10th Year 4 trip to Southampton Common Monday 10th Year 5 children attending Fairthorn

in Sept - Parents Info Evening 5pm

Junior hall

Tuesday 11th Share my learning 8.30am and

3.20pm

Tuesday 11th Year 4 In2Music concert for

parents 2.15pm

Thursday 13th Sports Day Friday 14th Reports out

Friday 14th Sandpiper Class JEP Sporting Event

off site

Monday 17th Parent Drop In with Mrs Allen
Tuesday 18th Whole school - Taskmaster Day
Tuesday 18th Year 6 Performance - Moana 6pm
Wednesday 19th Year 6 Performance - Moana 6pm

Thursday 20th Year 6 Festival

Friday 21st School closes at 3.10pm for

Summer Holidays





Coming soon

Year R

Tuesday 11th July Celebration Event 2.45pm

Wednesday 19th July Come outside day in school

This is a day the children will talk about for a long time.
One this day please send in your child with swimwear and a towel.
Please ensure sun cream is applied before coming in and they can bring in

a water pistal.

If anyone has any spare paddling pools they could loan us that would be great

Plea

Please can we have any crates, short sanded small pieces of wood or old swimming noodles please

Year 1

No information this week

Year 2

Leavers Performance

To celebrate the children's achievements during their time at Shirley Infant School we will be holding a Year 2 Leavers Performance. This will take place on Wednesday 12th July and Friday 14th July for Year 2 parents to attend. This will take place at 1.45pm and you will be able to attend **one** of these performances.

JEP Sporting Event

Fox Class participated on 30th June

Woodpecker Class JEP Sporting Event off site Friday 14th July

Badger Class participated on 20th April

Leavers Party 4-6pm Thursday 20th July

We will be holding a party for the Year 2 children to celebrate their time at our school.

You will be required to pick your child up at usual time after school and drop them back at 4.00pm. The children can come dressed in clothes suitable for party games and they will be fed.

Please collect your child at 6pm

Year 5

SRE lessons will be happening over the next two weeks

Year 5 Fundraising

Children have been working hard to plan fundraising events for the week of July 10th. A range of activities are planned by our passionate group of children - we thank you all for the support you may be (dragged/asked) also giving towards it, the padlet.

On Friday 14th July, children in Year 5 (who are available!) will be running a number of stalls to raise funds. Children who will NOT be there with their adult will need to have been given written permission to be at the fair after school hours.

DT - Thank you for the donations of junk/cardboard boxes. We will be making our rides w.b. 10th July.

Year 3

No information this week

Year 4

JEP Sporting Event

Raven Class participated on 30th June

Sandpiper Class JEP
Sporting Event off site
Friday 14th July

Blue Tit Class participated on 20th April

Year 6

Our **Year 6 Performances** will be held on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th July at 6pm.



Thanks to our fantastic team of parent volunteers, costumes for our Moana production are mostly being provided for many of our characters. Can we please ask that all children bring in a plain pair of black cycling shorts or leggings in a named carrier bag to wear underneath their costumes. Non acting roles, for example lighting and sound will need to bring into school plain black trousers/leggings/shorts and a black T-shirt also in a named carrier bag.

It would be great if costumes could be in school by Tuesday 11th July but are all needed by Friday 14th at the latest.

Tickets for our production will be sold after school on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week.

Tickets will be £3:50 per ticket and each child will be able to buy 2 tickets for ONE of the two performances on Tuesday 18th July and

Wednesday 19th July.

Children can bring money into school to buy these from their class teacher if parents are not able to buy these after school.

Every child will be allocated two tickets and these can be purchased on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday, any tickets left available for both performances will be sold after school only on a first come basis.

The timings for children returning to school before our performances on the 18th and 19th will be finalised and sent out next week.

Shirley Infants

Friday 14th July

School reports will be coming home with your child

School Travel Plan

Rachel Oliver, our Sustainable Transport Officer will be in the playground after our school assembly on Monday to sell reflectors, bike and scooter bits and bobs.

Please come along and support our school, any profits will be used to help us replenish the bike helmets in Year R. Rachel will also be presenting us with the Green Award for our hard work on travelling to school in a considerate way and looking after our environment. Thank you so much for all of your support and hard work helping us to achieve this award... next step is the Bronze Award!

Shirley Juniors

School reports will be coming home with your child on Friday 14th July

After learning about the lasting impact flooding in Bangladesh has, Year 5 are raising money for WaterAid the week beginning 10th July, culminating in a Fundraiser fair on Friday 14th July 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

Please come and support the year group raising money for a fantastic cause. To learn more about what is happening and why, explore the padlet website we have created: https://padlet.com/annebooth1/year-5-water-aid-2023-cw8sb0bkk8x0dd05

Or simply donate straight to our just giving page using the QR code or link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/y5-sjs-16879564281275



YEAR 5 FUNDRAISING FOR WATERAID

After a week of online fundraising we are over halfway to our target of £300 - thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far. Every little bit helps - here is the just giving page if you too would like to support the Year 5's in making a difference:

https://www.justqiving.com/page/y5-sjs-16879564281275

Please feel free to share it with friends and family!

Our week of fundraising activities begins next week: Raffle tickets will be sold all week ready for the draw at our fair!

Monday 10th July (children only) - bring your change and donate at breaktime to be able see a talent show. A different way to spend your break time.

Tuesday 11th July - LOWER SCHOOL (Y3 and Y4) Bake sale - Come to the steps by the hall at breaktime with your money and buy some cakes for snacks. 50p a cake!

Wednesday 12th July - UPPER SCHOOL (Y5 and Y6) Bake sale - Come to the steps by the hall at breaktime with your money and buy some cakes for snacks. 50p a cake!

Thursday 13th July - Parents - Look out for the WaterAid donation buckets at the Junior Sports Day! :) Any loose change could absolutely make a difference.

Friday 14th July - Y5 WaterAid Fair and Charity fundraising football match - 3.20 - 4.20 - Shirley Schools community welcome. Come and buy a cake, get some new jewellery, play some fair games and then cheer on some talented children and teachers as they compete in football. With a superbowl type halftime show, it will be the perfect end to some well planned, hard work put in by Year 5.

See our fundraising page for more details:

https://padlet.com/annebooth1/year-5-water-aid-2023-cw8sb0bkk8x0dd05

We are so proud of Year 5 and the dedication they have put towards making a difference. What an amazing group of children they are!

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIR

Due to Sports Day and Y6 leavers festival we have had our last choir rehearsal of 2023 (it was Thurs 6th July). There will be **no more** after school rehearsals this year.

On **Wednesday 12th July** we are inviting our fabulous choir to celebrate our year with some 'choir-oke' in Malamutes classroom at lunchtime. Get an early lunch pass and then join us in Malamutes class (Year 5) for a sing and dance to finish the year together. This is a totally optional event!

Shirley Juniors

Sports Day

Thursday 13th July at Southampton Sports
Centre.

Please send your child with a water bottle and sun cream already applied if the forecast for the day is hot and sunny.

Can we ask parents to not use the covered stands at the Sports Centre as we will be using these for the children.

Parents can sign their children out and take them home from the Sports Centre after lunch.

Appeal for stewards

Without some extra volunteers the road closure will not be able to run next year.

Calling all parents!

I'm sure you will have noticed what a difference it's made to have Bellemoor Road closed making it quieter, less polluted and more relaxing for adults and children alike.

A key factor in making the "School Streets" scheme work at our school has been the team of volunteer stewards who have been a physical presence wearing hi vis, manning the barriers and letting through permitted vehicles each day.

At the end of the summer term the current team are standing down. Therefore, this term we are looking to recruit a new team of 20 to 30 volunteers to be able to continue as we have been doing and using these yellow barriers. Stewards might be parents or other family members such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other local residents who want to help.

The new stewards can start now with road duty and work alongside the current team to get used to it with those who have been doing it already for a long time. A brief introduction is on the next page.

Don't worry that now and again you will not be able to do it. That's fine. If you feel you might be able to help with a particular slot most weeks during the term, I'd love to hear from you. Thank you,

Alison Baker Shirley Junior's "School Streets" Volunteer Coordinator schoolstreets@shirleyschools.co.uk

The "School Streets" scheme for Shirley Junior School temporarily closes Bellemoor Road between the Wilton Road and St James Road junctions.

During the school run it is illegal for any drivers to use this bit of road as a through road because of the School Streets Scheme. During the school run it is also illegal to park there, for instance to drop off or pick up children from the school because there is a Residents Parking Scheme in place for Bellemoor Road, Morland Road and Shayer Road from 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

We are currently manning just the morning slots but one is not allowed to drive through or park regardless of whether it is manned. When the stewards are there that makes it even more obvious to anyone unfamiliar with the area driving past who has not noticed the big signs on posts.

For example, if you are doing a morning slot you start your duty at 8.25 am. You put out barriers and then man the barriers from 8.30 am until 8.55 am and then put the barriers away in the Junior School yard.

If you are a few minutes late you just start from when you arrive. If you are unable to do it just email me as soon as you realise you cannot do it. If you wake up unwell and you are due to do road duty that day, don't worry, just email me to let me know. Occasionally we are unable to man the closure but sometimes we can still do it as I contact the sub and see if they can do it. We have named "subs" for certain slots.)

The School Street allows access at the St James Road end to residents who live within this closure and exit from Wilton Road end for them. These drivers are to drive at walking pace during the closure so stewards explain this to them. However, the majority, if not all, obviously know this now.

(There are also a few exceptions to this which you can learn.)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me them. We are working on behalf of the school and Jo Tearle is our contact there. We also work alongside Southampton City Council to help with this School Street. We have a named officer there, Stuart Williams, who I am in contact with regularly.

Safeguarding

CLEVER NEVER GOES

TEACH THE CLEVER OPTION AT HOME

CLEVER NEVER GOES is the new, child-friendly lesson that teaches children how to stay safe from abduction when they are outside (e.g. walking to or from school), or online.

It's been created to help parents/guardians talk to their children about staying safe in a simple way.

Instead of creating a fear of people it teaches them to recognise the danger in a situation, regardless of who's involved.

THE RULE:

If **anyone** asks you to go – even someone that you **know** – if it hasn't been **agreed**, remember: CLEVER NEVER GOES



The CLEVER NEVER GOES rule means children shouldn't go anywhere with anyone - even if they know them - if it hasn't been agreed in advance by a parent or guardian.

And please remember, children learn through repetition so make sure you remind them regularly of CLEVER NEVER GOES when they're going outside or online.

For more information, ideas and resources to have that clever conversation go to: clevernevergoes.org

WHY CHANGE?

Since it was introduced in the 1970's, the 'stranger danger' message has been fundamentally flawed.

Most strangers will help rather than harm a child, and many people that do pose a risk to children are not strangers.

Furthermore, it demands that all strangers should be treated with suspicion, which breeds fear in our communities. This has led to children spending less time outdoors, fuelling a rise in obesity and mental health problems.

Add to this, children are spending more time online, increasing their risk of being groomed. Now is the time for a new approach that creates safer, happier and healthier children.

Backed by more than 1,000 schools across the UK, CLEVER NEVER GOES is more practical than stranger danger and gives children the skills and confidence to safely explore their outdoor and online worlds without fear. And gives parents the reassurance to let them.





Serving Hampshire Ide of Wight Portsmouth

This leaflet has been brought to you by the charity Action Against Abduction (registered no. 1081904) with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire.

After School Club

Infants





Shirley Infant School | KS1



ROBOTICS Lunchtime

Club

At Jam Coding, our goal is to help improve children's digital skills. In this workshop, children will work in teams to custom build and code robots. They will complete a range of challenges, including navigating through mazes and competing in a robot wars competition! This workshop will use a variety of coding skills and languages to bring their code to life. At the end of the course, all children will receive a cortificate and one team will receive a trophy!



DATES: 14/9/23, 21/9/23, 28/9/23, 5/10/23, 12/10/23 19/10/23, 2/11/23, 9/11/23, 16/11/23, 23/11/23 30/11/23 . 7/12/23

RUNNING ON THURSDAY AT 11:45 - 12:40 PM

12 WEEKS OF FUN FOR JUST £84



BOOK HERE: https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/1863

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, contact your Area Manager on:

Tel: 0238 0981151 Email: southampton@jamcoding.co.uk

WIN A FREE PLACE! Follow us on social media for the chance to win a free place.







ROBOTICS Afterschool Club

At Jam Coding, our goal is to help improve children's digital skills. In this workshop, children will work in teams to custom build and code robots. They will complete a range of challenges, including navigating through mazes and competing in a robot wars competition! This workshop will use a variety of coding skills and languages to bring their code to life. At the end of the course, all children will receive a certificate and one team will receive a trophy!



DATES: 14/9/23, 21/9/23, 28/9/23, 5/10/23, 12/10/23 19/10/23, 2/11/23, 9/11/23, 16/11/23, 23/11/23 30/11/23 . 7/12/23

RUNNING ON THURSDAY AT 15:15 - 16:15 PM

12 WEEKS OF FUN FOR JUST £84



BOOK HERE: https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/1864

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, contact your Area Manager on

Tel: 0238 0981151

Email: southampton@jamcoding.co.uk

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After School Club

Juniors



Shirley Junior School | KS2

GAMEBUILDING Lunchtime Club

At Jam Coding, our goal is to help improve children's digital skills. This game building workshop will teach children how to code and build their very own 3D computer game. Children will have fun creating interactive animations and games using visual coding. Working in teams, they will learn how to think logically and solve problems. At the end of the course, all children will receive a certificate and one team will receive a trophy!



DATES: 13/9/2023,20/9/2023,27/9/2023,4/10/2023, 11/10/2023, 18/10/2023, 1/11/2023, 8/11/2023, 5/11/2023, 22/11/2023, 29/11/2023, 6/12/2023

TIME:

RUNNING ON WEDNESDAY

AT 12:15 - 13:00 PM

PRICE:

12 WEEKS OF FUN FOR JUST £84



78% of the jobs children will do when they are older will involve coding.

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, contact your Area Manager on: Tel: 0238 0981151

Email: southampton@jamcoding.co.uk

WIN A FREE PLACE! Follow us on social media for the chance to win a free place





Shirley Junior School | KS2



ROBOTICS Afterschool Club

At Jam Coding, our goal is to help improve children's digital skills. In this workshop, children will work in teams to custom build and code robots. They will complete a range of challenges, including navigating through mazes and competing in a robot wars competition! This workshop will use a variety of coding skills and languages to bring their code to life. At the end of the course, all children will receive a certificate and one team will receive a trophy!



DATES: 13/9/23,20/9/23,27/9/23,4/10/23,,11/10/23 18/10/23,1/11/23,8/11/23,15/11/23,22/11/23

TIME:

RUNNING ON WEDNESDAY

AT 15:25 - 16:25 PM

PRICE:

12 WEEKS OF FUN FOR JUST £84



BOOK HERE: https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/1862

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, contact your Area Manager on:

Tel: 0238 0981151

Email: southampton@jamcoding.co.uk

WIN A FREE PLACE! Follow us on social media for the chance to win a free place





CLEANER REQUIRED

Shirley Infant School are looking for a hardworking, enthusiastic and reliable person to join our friendly team to help maintain the high standards of cleanliness in our school. We are looking for someone who understands how important it is that our pupils have a clean and safe place to learn. Experience would be an advantage but it is more important to be someone who takes pride in your work.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 3.00pm - 5.30pm (or 3.30pm - 6.00pm) £10.60 per hour

Please email <u>finance@shirleyschools.co.uk</u> for an application pack or come into the Shirley school office (Wilton Road, Shirley SO15 5LA) to pick one up.



SITE ASSISTANT REQUIRED



Shirley Infant and Junior are seeking a practical and enthusiastic Site Assistant to join our team, supporting our Site Manager in providing a clean, safe and well-maintained learning environment for our pupils and staff. Our ideal candidate will have experience of general maintenance tasks, cleaning and/or ground maintenance, and be enthusiastic in managing the demands of a busy school site. The successful candidate will take pride in the schools, have high standards and be proactive. They will also need to be available for early starts.

6:45am – 2:45pm Monday – Friday

(also working during school holidays but hours/days are negotiable)

Grade 4: £21,575 – £22,113 per year

Please email <u>finance@shirleyschools.co.uk</u> for an application form or come into the Shirley school office (Wilton Road, Shirley SO15 5LA) to pick one up.

FOSIS/PTFA

SUMMER FAIR – TOMORROW!



Come to school from 11-2 and help celebrate our schools together. Grab some lunch, have a bounce, try your luck at a multitude of games and enjoy the performances in the arena.

A reminder to walk to school if at all possible. Please, please park considerately if you have to drive, staying well clear of our direct neighbours.

Don't forget to bring your reusable cup too! Thank you and see you there!

We have loads on offer this year, including...



A fabulous range of **GAMES** – teddy, sweet and bottle tombolas. There'll also be hook a duck, lucky dip and craft!

ACTIVE ZONE! Go to the Astroturf and get active – There'll be Southside Football teaching skills and our toddler fun zone to keep the little ones entertained!

FANCY A BOUNCE? We have an awesome set of inflatables comprising of a large obstacle course, bouncy castle and giant slide.



COME FOR LUNCH!

We have a great range of food options on offer. Our legendary BBQ with burgers, sausages and veggie burgers. Grab a kid's lunch bag, slice of cake and a cup of tea from the café or treat the kids to a cake from the cake stall or candy floss!

Please do bring your refillable cups to the café – keeps your drink hot, helps the environment and means we raise even more funds

for our children. We will also have a water bottle refilling station. Remember to recycle your cans and cups in the labelled bins too. Thank you!

CHECK OUT THE ARENA – we have lots of great performances this year! The choirs will sing their hearts out and we've got performances from many others too.



RAFFLE TICKETS - We'll still be selling raffle tickets at the fair – cards/ cash accepted. Tickets just 50p each or £2.50 a book.



Just come along to the Summer Fair 8 July between 11am & 2pm to enter the draw! Tickets available on the day only!



HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE...

Play Station 5 - Marco Harris

£150 John Lewis voucher - HAV Consult

Bubble swim for 8 people - Red Lodge Swimming Pool

£20 Gift voucher - Make & Brew

Holiday club voucher – Team Spirit

£20 Haircut & style voucher – Sherry

Taster session voucher - M-Fit

Gift voucher - Light Up

Free pizza - What a Pizza!

Cash prize - Soton Tree Care

Gift voucher - SF Football Coaching

Gift voucher - SeaCity Museum

Family Ticket Gift Card - High Score

Gardening voucher - Rockstone Mortgage & Financial Advice

Fitness class vouchers – Be In The Sky

Goody Box – Treats for All

Class voucher – Splat Messy Play Southampton

Family ticket – Upside Down House, Bournemouth

Gift voucher - Shirley Swimming Pool

Coding sessions - Code Ninjas

Free sessions – Phun Phonics

Bath Hamper - Kathryn

Amata Candle – Wayne Nelson (amatacandles.com)

STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED ...

There's lots of info on the PTFA and FOSIS parts of the school website – why not check them out!

PTFA - Shirley Junior School

Friends of Shirley Infant School - Shirley Infant School

Useful Links:

Your committee -

The FOSIS Committee - Shirley Infant School

PTFA - Shirley Junior School

Class reps –

Class Representatives - Shirley Infant School

Class Reps - Shirley Junior School

Event dates -

FOSIS Events - Shirley Infant School

PTFA - Shirley Junior School

School lottery - Your School Lottery - Shirley Junior School

Easy fundraising -

<u>Infants – Friends of Shirley Infants – Southampton</u>

Juniors – Shirley Junior School PTFA – Southampton

Community Information



Headteacher: Mr C Sykes

July 2023

Upper Shirley High School Bellemoor Road Shirley Southampton SO15 7QU

Re: Year 6 Summer Fayre

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to invite you to our Year 6 Summer Fayre event, there will be games, stalls, BBQ, drinks, and ice poles! Both students and parents of those joining us in September are welcome to come to this event on the 17th July, from 3pm – 4:30pm.

The idea of this event is to give students the opportunity to meet some of their future peers, whilst having a bit of fun. The event will be held on the school field, in the event of bad weather we will still go ahead but in an alternative venue. You can come to this event for as long as you wish.

Some of the stalls and the BBQ will require cash for you to be able to purchase, we unfortunately cannot accept payment by card.

We hope to see as many of you as possible and looking forward to an afternoon of fun!

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Way (Head of House)







Summer fun for free

A free, open-to-all community festival in Riverside Park at Bitterne Park will be happening on **22 July 2023** from 12noon until 7pm. <u>Tri Fest</u> will include live music, local traders and even a dog show.

If you live in the Lordshill area and have any ideas on how the neighbourhood could be improved, pop along to the Love Where You Live free event that will be held on **16 July 2023** in the school grounds at Oasis Academy.

Children will love joining in <u>Southampton Play Day</u> at Hoglands Park on **28 July 2023**, when there will be lots of fun activities including messy play, arts and crafts and sports. The free event will take place between 10am and 2pm.

We will be running a Love Where You live event in the field opposite The Saints pub in Millbrook on **5 August 2023** and on the same day the pub will hold their own community fun day.

Enjoy a live music event in Guildhall Square on **19 August 2023** between 1pm and 4pm when <u>Covenant Church</u> stage a free concert.

The <u>Southampton Pride</u> event on **26 August 2023** promises to be a celebration of identity and includes live music performances as well as the iconic march through the city centre. Going into its eighth year the day is the highest attended LGBTI+ event in the region and a highlight of the summer for all involved.

For lots more local events and activities taking place in Southampton just check the What's On pages.

Free events in Southampton Art Gallery

As well as offering free entry, did you know that our city art gallery often runs free events and workshops too? This month you can join in free artist led portrait drawing sessions with Alys Scott Hawkins on Saturday 8 July 2023 and with Pete Codling on Saturday 22 July 2023. And next month there will be several free workshops for children as part of the Creative Connections Art School for 11 to 16 year olds. Sessions will run on 2, 3 and 4 August 2023 between 10am and 2pm. All free events require a refundable £10 deposit to reserve your place.

Did you know that working parents on Universal Credit can now claim more for the cost of childcare from this summer?

And if you're starting a new job or increasing your hours at work, you can get one month's childcare upfront without the need to pay and then apply for reimbursement.

Are you a working parent on Universal Credit?

If you claim Universal Credit and must pay for childcare while you go to work, the amount you can claim each month has just increased from £646 to £951 for one child, and from £1,108 to £1,630 for two or more children. Funding is available for up to 85% of your childcare costs for children aged nine months to school age.

Upfront help if you are entering work or significantly increasing your hours

As well as the extra amount of financial support available, parents who are starting work or significantly increasing their hours can now get upfront help towards childcare costs straight away. Both changes took effect from 28 June 2023.

This should make a big difference to many low-income families who would have previously struggled to find hundreds of pounds to pay for a month of childcare and then claim it back. Now, a portion of childcare costs will be paid upfront to make it much easier for more parents to start work or increase their hours. To start the process of getting your first upfront payment, speak to your work coach or use your online journal.

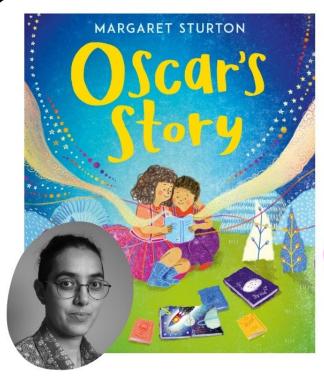
No change for parents receiving Working Tax Credits

There are no changes to the provision of childcare for those who claim Working Tax Credits, which means you can currently get up to £122.50 a week for one child, and £210 a week for two or more children in approved childcare.

Some people may be better off switching to Universal Credit because of the changes, but there are several things you need to consider before applying for Universal Credit. To find out what would be better for you, please get in touch with one of our expert advisors in our Welfare Rights & Money Advice Team to receive personalised advice and support, or read the online guide for more information.

Are you claiming your full benefit entitlement?

It's quick and easy to check if you're eligible for Universal Credit or any other vital support that you may be missing out on, simply take the <u>Money Saving Expert 10-minute benefits check</u>.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE LAUNCH EVENT



Join us on the first day of this year's Summer Reading Challenge at Central Library with special guest and local picture book author and illustrator, Margaret Sturton!

Margaret will share with us her newest picture book, Oscar's Story; a story about siblings, sharing stories, and discovering that all books are magical, with the power of imagination.

Completely free with no booking required, children and families are welcomed to what is sure to be an amazing celebratory event where you can begin your own summer reading journey!

Summer Reading Challenge launch event / Central Library / Saturday 8 July / 11am



Now is the perfect opportunity to learn new skills and progress yourself and your colleagues.

Our 15 course Personal and Professional Development Training Package Includes confidence building techniques, time management, emotional intelligence and is key to taking your performance to the next level. Buy now for £40, that's less than £3 per course.

https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/