

9 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Netherfield Primary School, we have always worked tirelessly to provide breakfast club, after-school clubs and wraparound care free of charge, in order to not only support working families, but also to expand our children's experiences.

Sadly, this has become increasingly difficult, as budgets have tightened significantly. Just one example of this, is the cost of electricity, which at £16,000 per year has increased by 100% in the last two years, with school receiving no new funding to support this extra cost.

I write this as we need your support so we can try to continue to provide free clubs and a free wraparound service in the next academic year. I am particularly focused on the wrap around provision after school (the big club in the hall) which has proved very popular.

We currently staff that service with colleagues who do not get any extra pay for their time. It was expected that it would be around 20-30 children attending, to support working parents who may struggle to get to school to pick their child/children up at 3:15pm. At present we can have upwards of 70 children signed up, with many other parents ringing up on the day to 'book' their child in, sometimes for very valid reasons and sometimes not so.

From September, our wraparound care provision will be limited to a maximum of 50 children, and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. **Bookings should be made in advance, by emailing [wraparoundcare@netherfieldprimaryschool.com](mailto:wraparoundcare@netherfieldprimaryschool.com).** We currently have a significant number of people booking in their children but then not attending, which means that we have arranged additional staffing, taking a financial hit on the cost to cover. When this happens, we will cancel those bookings to free up places for those who need them.

I also ask that you respect the finish time of 4.30pm, as most of our staff have young families that they also need to collect. **Any parent or carers arriving late to collect their child, will be charged a late fee of £1 per minute.** In order to improve communication, we will be setting up a direct phone line where parents can get through to someone in Wraparound.

All these decisions have been made in discussion with the Governing Body, the majority of whom are parents or past parents of children here at Netherfield. The school will review the wraparound provision at the end of the autumn term. We really are trying our best to keep it as a free provision, but if numbers remain in the 70s, 80s and even 90s, then we will have no option but to impose a

Netherfield Primary School  
Chandos Street  
Netherfield  
Nottingham  
NG4 2LR

T: 0115 961 0580  
E: [office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com](mailto:office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com)  
[www.Netherfieldprimaryschool.com](http://www.Netherfieldprimaryschool.com)  
Head Teacher: Mr J Crone



charge to cover our costs. Please be reassured, we are not trying to make a profit, but equally the school budget cannot underpin this type of service and indeed in other local schools, we believe parents can be charged anything between £5-£15 per child, per session.

**If you only read one paragraph, then please read this one! You must email to book your child into wraparound club, for late collection of a child there will be a charge, and places will be limited to 50 and issued on a first come, first served basis. There is no guarantee that a place will be available, particularly if you do not book in plenty of time, and we may not be able to accommodate your request.**

Yours sincerely



Mr J Crone  
Headteacher

Netherfield Primary School  
Chandos Street  
Netherfield  
Nottingham  
NG4 2LR

T: 0115 961 0580  
E: [office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com](mailto:office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com)  
[www.Netherfieldprimaryschool.com](http://www.Netherfieldprimaryschool.com)  
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