

Tuesday, 20 March 2018

Dear Parent

We wanted to raise your awareness of a new government scheme called Tax Free Childcare. Parents with children aged 0-12 years can now get £2 back for every £8 they spend on childcare, including out of school clubs and holiday play schemes. This scheme is for childcare that parents pay for, and sits outside of the funded entitlements available for some two year olds, all three and four year olds and the 30 hour childcare programme. Parents can get back up to £2,000 per year in costs and if you have a child with SEND, this increases to £4,000 and is for children up to the age of 17 years.

The scheme is replacing the existing company voucher schemes (from April 2018) that some of you may be registered with. However, those parents who are already registered with a company scheme, or who do so before 31 March 2018, may be able to continue with their employer's own schemes.

Parents are advised to visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for more information, including details of how to set up an account, and may also wish to contact their employer company voucher scheme for more information on the phase out of these programmes. Parents will find a 'Childcare Calculator' on the childcare choices to help them see what option is best for them.

Parents may also wish to visit Staffordshire County Council's website which includes lots of information on childcare:-

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/childcare/families/homepage.aspx>

Yours faithfully

Early Education Team – Staffordshire County Council