Lantern Academy

Nursery Information for Parents
January 2026

This document sets out our nursery offer and guides you through the funding available, our sessions, timings and payments.

Nursery Offer:

Lantern Academy's Nursery can accommodate up to 10 places, per session and accepts children the term **after** their 3rd birthday and those that are 4 years old. Our admissions policy considers age, catchment area and siblings when allocating places.

Opening Hours

We are open 38 weeks of the year during following the school's term-time calendar. The Nursery provides morning sessions 8:50 – 11:50am and full days 8:50-3.20pm if your child is familiar with the routines of the school and key workers.

Children can ONLY attend full time nursery with a 3O hour code (additional charges apply).

Please see the offer options in the table below:

Timings	Charges	Duration
Full Day **8:50am-3.20pm**	**£2.50 per day - 1 hour Lunchtime supervisor cover** **£2.90 additional school dinner cost, subject to annual increases.** **Lunchboxes from home are welcome.**	**6 hours 25 minutes**
Morning session **8:50- 11:50am**	**n/a**	**3 hours**

Additional Wrapround Care

In addition, you will be able to apply for the wraparound service for additional hours that may be required for working parents. This will be a wraparound service that runs from our site but is a separate business to the school.

Wraparound service TBC

Government Funded Childcare

15 hours funding (Universal Funding)

All children are entitled to 15 funded hours per week of nursery entitlement for 38 weeks of the year. This is automatically granted; parents DO NOT need to apply for this. This funding is automatically received after the child's third birthday and so the free hours start at this point.

30 hours funding for working parents (Extended Funding)

Some children may receive 30 hours entitlement instead of 15 hours. This extended provision is also for 38 weeks per year and is eligible for working parents.

The following criteria applies for working families:

• Both parents must be working - or the sole parent is working in a lone-parent family

• You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £152 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage).

• Each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000

• Parents who are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or are unable to work because of disability or due to caring responsibilities, may still be eligible.

What if one parent in a couple isn't working?

This is basically a scheme to help working parents, so families where one parent doesn't work, or both parents don't work, will usually not be eligible for these additional 15 hours. However, if one parent isn't working because they're an official carer (e.g. receiving benefits relating to being a carer) or they are receiving disability benefits, and the other parent is working, then the Government has stated it "intends to make provision" to support these families.

There is also additional entitlement if the parent normally works but is temporarily away from the workplace, for example on statutory sick pay.

What if you are self-employed or on a zero-hours contract?

You will be eligible if you (or both of you in a couple) earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the National Minimum Wage.

You can check your entitlement here:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Applying for 30 hours funded nursery entitlement

Parents must apply for the 30 hours nursery entitlement via an online application form. Applications should be made at:

https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Parents will receive confirmation that their application has been successful and be given a code which should be presented to school.

Please ensure you apply early so that you receive your code in time for your child to start. You must have a valid code before your child starts nursery.

Important: You must also reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months to keep your code valid.

The funding starts the term after the child's third birthday and so the funded hours start at this point. You can apply from when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old.

Please see the table below of dates, these are subject to place availability:

When your child turns 3	When they can get 30 hours Childcare from	Recommended time to apply for 30 hours Funding
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	15 October to 30 November
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	15 January to 28 February
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	15 June to 31 July

Start dates for Lantern Academy

Children are welcome to join Academy the term after they are 3 years old, this is subject to place availability which is variable. Usually, a larger number of vacancies are available in the Autumn term following the transition of 4-year-olds to Primary School.

We accept 3-year-olds the term after they are three provided we have available space. Therefore, the intake for these children is in September (after the summer holiday) and

January (after the Autumn term holiday).

See the start dates below:

Child turns 3	Free funding starts	School term
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	Spring Term
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 September	Autumn Term
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	Autumn Term

Charges (these prices are subject to change)

When lunch is provided, food will be at an additional cost to the childcare provision.

Lunchtime supervisor cover for the hour of lunch.

Parents may also require longer hours and wish to purchase the Wrap-around sessions.

We accept Government Tax Free Childcare Scheme vouchers for paid nursery sessions and the school wraparound care also accepts these.
Please see the Charges below:

Lantern Academy Nursery Charges		
Description	**Price**	**Duration**
School Lunch provided	Approximately £2.90	
Lunchtime Supervisor Cover	£2.50	1 hour
Nursery Trips	When applicable	

Payment is collected in advance via the school's payment system.

Requesting a Nursery Place

Parents can request a place by completing an online enquiry form available on the school website.

Your child will be placed on a waiting list for the next available intake.

Children awaiting places are allocated according to our school's admissions criteria:

1. Those children who are or were previously looked after by Telford & Wrekin or any other local authority, children previously in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted and then:

2. Children who live in the school's defined attendance area. If places are unavailable for all of these local children, then places will be given first to:

a) prioritised according to age.

b) those children who will have on the day of admission a brother(s), sister(s), stepbrother(s), stepsister(s), half-brother(s) or half-sister(s) living as a family at the same address and who attend the school;

c) pupils in receipt of early years premium or pupil premium at the point of submitting the application request.

d) other children living in the school's attendance area.

3. Children of staff

4. Any places which remain available will then be allocated to applicants from outside the school's defined attendance area in the priority order a) to c)

Allocation of Places

Places will be allocated, and parents contacted the half term before they are due to start:

Start Date	Parents contacted to be informed of placement offer
September (Autumn Term)	May half term
January (Spring Term)	October half term

Nursery Registration

When your child has been allocated a nursery place, we will ask parents to complete a Nursery Registration form to collect important child and family information for our school records.

Nursery Induction

Building relationships with parents is important to us and we want to provide the best possible start for your child. We will conduct a home visit and ask you to complete a questionnaire about the child so we can get to know your child and will liaise with you over Nursery Induction and starting arrangements. If your child has been at a previous childcare setting, we will also contact them to arrange transfer of your child's records and ensure a thorough transition, potentially including a visit to the provision, where appropriate.

As part of the transition process to nursery we will offer transitional opportunities to help your child get to know practitioners and nursery routines. Options for this will be given when you are contacted about your placement offer.

Toileting

We require your child to be toilet trained prior to starting nursery, however, we understand that it with some children this is not possible, for example if they have a specific SEND or medical need. We will work with you to establish a toilet routine and to meet their care needs if this is the case.

Special Educational Needs

If you have any concerns regarding Special Educational Needs, we can discuss these with you prior to your child staring with us to ensure we can meet your child's need.