

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School
Crescent Avenue
Over Hulton
Bolton
BL5 1EN



Head Teacher: Mr Simon Charnock

23/09/2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Re: Out of School Provision

As you are by now no doubt aware, the Before and After School Care will no longer be provided by St Bede's Childcare Ltd. who withdrew their offer of provision at the end of their tender agreement stating that it was not financially viable for them any more – they could not sustain a projected loss.

We were unable to find another provider for such provision at such short notice and the governors, therefore, made the decision for our school to take over the Out of School Club (OoSC) ourselves. Since then we have worked very hard with unions, our HR, finance and legal advisors to do so.

The provision by St Bede's Childcare Ltd. for our Out of School Club (OoSC) will cease from Thursday 30th September 2021 at 6pm. The provision by St Andrew's CE Primary School will begin at 7:30am on Friday 1st October 2021.

The process is ongoing but we are pleased to let parents know that Mrs Julie Fisher and Ms Tina Goodram will remain with our OoSC. This will help us keep much of the routines and provision in place and unchanged. Breakfast and Teatime snacks will continue to be included. Parents will be able to choose different sessions on different days as long as places are available. Long term regular bookings can also be made.

However, there will be some differences.

- Charges will now be a flat rate of £6 for Before School provision and at a flat rate of £12 for After School provision. There will not be any variable rates in place yet. The main reasons for this is two-fold. Such a flat rate system is modelled on the successful provision in other schools who provide their own wrap around care. As mentioned earlier, St Bede's withdrew their provision at the end of their tender agreement stating that it was not financially viable for them any more – they could not sustain a projected loss. Neither can our school and, therefore, we have to ensure that costs are met especially in the early days when the resources owned by St Bede's will need to be replaced. Governors will regularly review charges for the OoSC provision.



- Bookings will be made via the school website in a similar way to how Parental Consultation bookings are made via School Spider. Instructions on how to do this have been sent out with this letter and also available via the new Out of School Club Page on our web site.
- Payment will also be made via School Spider.
- Much of the communication will now be via the school office between 9am and 4pm each day. A land line will be set up in the OoSC room should they need to be contacted before 9am and from 4pm to 6pm.
- Initially we will need to limit the number of places to 20 children in any one morning or afternoon session until additional support staff can be put in place to ensure the appropriate adult to pupil ratios are maintained. *If any of our parents and carers know of anyone who would be interested in being employed as a part time Play Worker on days when the demand for places is higher, please contact school for an application form (this historically has been Wednesday and Thursday afternoon). There will also be the need for casual Play Worker support to help cover last minute OoSC staff sickness – this will be less regular, and as the need arises, but may suit some people.*
- Payments will need to be made at the time of booking, in advance, to ensure that a place is confirmed.
- The terms and conditions of the OoSC provision will be provided when parents request a place for their child and are also available via the new Out of School Club Page on our web site.

We hope that parents understand the need for the changes and that the reasons behind them. We too understand that, as the academic year progresses, the governing body will regularly review our booking in system and whether the fees need adjusting in any way so that we can ensure that the OoSC provision meets the needs of the children and families for which it is intended.

If there are any circumstances that need discussing or any questions that have not been covered in the information sent with this letter or on the new Out of School Club Page on our web site, please contact school.

Kind Regards

Simon Charnock
Head teacher
p.p. The Governing body of St Andrew's CE Primary School

