Ashbridge Nursery at Hutton

Lindle Lane

Hutton

PR4 4AQ

01772 619900

Monday 7th July 2025

To our Valued Ashbridge Families,

We hope this message finds you and your family well. We are writing to inform you of an update to our nursery fees, which will take effect from **1st September 2025**. Each year, we carefully review our fee structure to ensure it reflects the increasing costs of providing the highest standard of early years education and care.

For all of us, **Ashbridge Nursery at Hutton** continues to be a unique and special place for our children to grow and learn. We are incredibly proud of the progress and developments that have taken place over the past year. Although it has been a time of exciting change and achievement, our core values still underpin all that we do.

A key development this year has been the **major renovation** of our indoor environments for our youngest children, including our **baby and toddler classrooms**. These thoughtfully designed, inspiring spaces enable our practitioners to fully deliver the Ashbridge curriculum, supporting learning across all areas of development. We are now also progressing with enhancements to our **Preschool classrooms** to ensure the same high-quality learning environments for our older children.

We also continue to champion the importance of outdoor learning, and this year saw the continued growth of our **Forest School programme**. We have been delighted to welcome **Elle**, our new Forest Leader. These sessions allow children to explore, take risks, and build confidence whilst connecting with nature. They've learnt about the safe use of tools, fire safety, as well as risk assessment skills- building a foundation for learning across the curriculum. Our Woodworking programme has been another huge success. Using real tools helps children feel **respected and trusted**, while also strengthening their **fine motor skills**-key for later writing development.

Many of you will have admired our vibrant and abundant **kitchen garden**, a much-loved feature of nursery life. Children take part in regular gardening sessions with our horticultural team, learning to plant, water, nurture, and harvest a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. These

hands-on experiences help children understand where food comes from and foster a lifelong appreciation for healthy eating. The garden offers them the freedom to touch, taste, and explore fresh produce in a meaningful, sensory-rich way. We were especially proud to be awarded 'Best School' in the North West category at last year's **Britain in Bloom awards**- recognising both the beauty and educational value of our growing spaces.

A particularly exciting addition this year has been our **Barn**, now home to a growing community of animals. The Barn offers unique, hands-on learning experiences that help children develop empathy, responsibility, and curiosity through daily care routines and animal interactions.

Another major site improvement, we have created a **new car park**, which means there are now **40 additional car parking spaces** for parents and carers- making drop-off and pick-up smoother and more accessible for families.

Indoors, our **Parent Hub and Library**, continues to grow. We're thrilled by the increasing use and popularity of these spaces. The library plays a vital role in supporting children's development. Books underpin every area of learning- building language, imagination, curiosity, and early literacy skills that form the foundation for future success.

Our **sports programme** continues to thrive thanks to our multi-use hall and extensive outdoor space. Thank to Coach Lloyd and his energy and expertise, the children have explored a full range of **Fundamental Movement Skills**- including ball skills, skipping, throwing, and balancing- as well as trying out new sports and activities. These sessions promote **confidence**, **self-esteem**, and **teamwork**.

Meanwhile, our **Atelier sessions**, led by **Sehrish**, give children rich opportunities for **artistic exploration** and creative expression in a dedicated studio environment. She creates a fully immersive learning environment where children collaborate on inspiring projects, study pioneering artists, and engage in creative experiences that provoke **curiosity, awe, and wonder**.

We support our children to make links with our **local and wider communities**, because we believe these unique learning opportunities enrich our children's nursery experience and **broaden their horizons**- setting them up for future success. Over the past year, the children have had many inspiring visitors including a Police Officer, a team of Firefighters in a fire engine, a Postman, an Author, as well as a lollipop person teaching the children road safety.

We have also continued to **invest in our staff**, with ongoing professional development, including **Mental Health training**, **First Aid Training**, **Leadership and quality practice** as well as an in house training day for our entire team led by **Dr. Gemma Goldberg** on **neuroscience in the early years**.

We understand that the first five years of a child's life are a vital period of development. During these early years, positive experiences and nurturing relationships lay the foundations for lifelong learning, wellbeing, and success.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing an **exceptional early years' experience**- one that supports every child's growth. Thank you, as always, for your continued trust, support, and commitment. We look forward to what we anticipate will be another fantastic year at

Ashbridge. We have lots of exciting plans, and we will work hard to ensure that our nursery experience and standards are not only maintained but improved further, so that your children continue to receive the very best care and education, both now and in the future.

As part of our annual review process, we wish to inform you that nursery fees will be updated effective from **1 September 2025**.

Like many businesses across the sector, we continue to face significant increases in operational costs that are beyond our control. These include:

- Increases to the National Minimum Wage
- Higher National Insurance contributions
- A lower National Insurance earnings threshold
- Rising insurance premiums
- Ongoing increases in utilities, food costs, and interest rates

In response to these financial pressures, and to ensure we can continue to provide the highest standard of care and education, our **all-inclusive full-day rate** will increase to **£78.30 per day**, applicable from **1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026**.

This daily rate includes care from 7:00am to 6:00pm, and covers:

- Three freshly prepared, nutritious meals each day
- Nappies, wipes, and other consumables
- Full access of our outstanding facilities, including Forest School, P.E., and Atelier sessions.
- Care and education delivered by our exceptional team, including qualified teaching professionals.

Early Years Funding

From the 1 September 2025, **eligible working families** of children aged 9 months onwards will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare. All 3 to 4 year olds continue to be entitled to 15 hours funded childcare, if they do not meet the eligibility criteria for the 30 hours funded childcare.

As Lancashire County Council offer the funding term-time only, and Ashbridge provide care all year round, the 30 hours per week is stretched across 52 weeks resulting in 22 hours of funding per week and the 15 hours per week results in 11 hours per week.

Under updated guidelines from the Department for Education and Lancashire County Council, the **same model** must be offered across **all age groups and funding types**.

Funded hours at Ashbridge can be accessed as shown below, please note that **all places are subject to availability:**

- 7.3 hours per day (10:40am-6pm)
- 5.5 hours per day (12:30pm-6pm)

For families requiring care beyond the funded entitlement (for a full day 7am-6pm) we offer the following all-inclusive day rate packages:

- £37 per day for a 7.3 hour funded day
- £55 per day for a 5.5 hour funded day

These rates apply to all age groups and include all meals, consumables and full access to our facilities. As an example, the weekly costs for full day attendance are shown below:

	30 hours eligibility	15 hours eligibility
2 days attendance	£74.00	£110.00
3 days attendance	£111.00	£188.30
4 days attendance	£189.30	£266.60
5 days attendance	£267.60	£344.90

Funded hours can be used flexibly to suit families' needs, for example a child who is eligible for 30 hours of funding could attend:

- 3 days at 7.3 hours per day (10:40am-6pm)
- 4 days at 5.5 hours per day (12:30pm-6pm)

We have been advised that the funding rates the business receives from Lancashire County Council are due to be revised from 1st April 2026; our fee structure will therefore be reviewed accordingly, and an update will be provided in due course.

What do I need to do?

- Visit the Childcare Choices website for a full breakdown of all funding available and information for eligibility (childcarechoices.co.uk)

- Apply for your 'Working Families' code

- Add your code to the Parental Agreement Form that will be emailed to you from the Bursar team in due course

- Reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months to keep the code valid.

You may also be eligible for Tax Free Childcare in addition to funded hours, which can help reduce the cost of nursery fees. Please visit Childcare Choices as shown above.

If you wish to amend your contract or make changes to your child's booking, please contact your Nursery Manager, who will be happy to assist you.

Please note:

- Requests to increase/decrease attendance sessions may only be made in writing with four weeks' notice and are subject to availability.
- Changes to booking contracts must remain in place for a minimum of 8 weeks before another change can be made and are subject to availability.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Bursar Team for any support and advice.

Telephone: 01772 505094

Email: bursar@ashbridgeschool.co.uk

Warm regards,

Ashbridge Senior Leadership Team