

## FEES, NURSERY EDUCATION GRANT AND CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

### Payment Details

For years Barnes Montessori Nursery, in common with most private, voluntary and independent nurseries, accommodated parents in receipt of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG). Sadly, under the slogan 'free nursery education', we are now barred by law from charging any additional costs ("top-up fees") on the notional hours we offer.

This acts, in effect, as a price cap on nursery school fees for the 'free entitlement' hours. We lobbied against this in the Save Our Nurseries campaign.

As the sum allowed to us to cover costs of the 15 hour 'free entitlement' period is considerably below the cost of providing high quality education we have had no option but to become a fully private nursery. We would never compromise standards, as the child is at the heart of everything we do. The Barnes Montessori Nursery could not (for those hours) continue to offer the facilities and high standards of education and care for the price of the NEG, and to remain sustainable we *have* to be able to charge above the Government's maximum price level.

The formal effect of this is as follows:

#### **Nursery Education Grant (NEG)**

The Barnes Montessori Nursery believes in being totally transparent in all our dealings. So, unfortunately owing to this policy as from September 2010 we will no longer be able to offer the NEG. The full cost of fees will therefore apply.

#### **Childcare Vouchers**

We will continue to accept childcare vouchers. Some employers offer the option of childcare vouchers as part of their salary, as these vouchers have various tax advantages. There are several different schemes. If the school is not registered with the scheme of your choice this can usually be arranged. Should you intend to use vouchers as payment or part payment they must be in place before your child starts. Childcare voucher payments must

have the child's name as a reference when payment transfers are made through the BACS system.

***For further payment details please contact the Principal.***