December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

**The Early Years Pupil Premium for Three and Four Year Olds**

As your child’s early years provider we are able to claim extra funding through the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) to support children’s development, learning and care. This letter is to explain what EYPP is, who is eligible and to ask you to complete the **EYFE Parental Declaration Form** with the required information so that your child’s eligibility for EYPP can be checked.

National research tells us that children from lower income families tend to do less well in school. For example, in 2017 51 per cent of children in families in receipt of certain welfare benefits achieved the expected level at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, compared with 72 per cent of other children. The EYPP will provide us with extra funding to help close this gap.

The EYPP is up to an extra £300 a year for each eligible child and this additional money will make a significant difference to us.

Eligible children are those whose families are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Universal Credit
* Support from the National Asylum Support Service under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
* Working Tax Credit run-on

Wewill use the EYPP to improve the quality of the early years education we provide for your child. This could be additional training for our staff in early language, supporting our staff in working on specialised areas such as speech and language, or purchasing additional resources such as books.

Please turn over

High quality early education can influence how well a child does at both primary and secondary school and so we want to make the most of this additional funding. You may be aware that school-age children also get pupil premium which has given a boost to their learning; we want to do the same for our children entitled to this funding.

To check whether your child is eligible for EYPP we need your surname, date of birth and National Insurance number (or National Asylum Support Service number). Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) has added a section to the **EYFE Parental Declaration Forms** so that we can collect this information from you.

The information you provide will be used by BHCC to confirm receipt of one of the listed welfare benefits. They will do this by checking benefit data provided by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions. Please note that you are not required to complete this section of the form and whether or not you do so, and whether or not we receive EYPP for your child, will not affect any of the benefits to which you may be entitled.

In addition, children are also eligible for EYPP if:

* they have been in local authority care for one day or more in England or Wales
* they have been adopted from care in England or Wales
* they have left care under a special guardianship/residence order in England or Wales

Please talk to us in confidence if your child falls into one of these categories so that we can claim EYPP for them.

If your child is looked after by the local authority we will automatically receive EYPP for them through the head of the Virtual School.

Yours sincerely